

ROOTS

Taking a Look at the Underbelly of What Sources Our Faith

IT'S A SPIRITUAL WAR!

I. THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A TWO-FRONT WAR FOR US WHILE WE ARE IN THIS BODY

- A. Overcoming the “*Carnal*” Side of Life (Our Fallen Nature) that Keeps Fighting for Supremacy through a Soul’s Un-Surrendered Side
1. We learn to “renew our minds” and strengthen disciplines that help us in our pursuit of Christlikeness. (*Still more on that later*)
- B. Yet – Even Jesus Prepped His Disciples for More than Just a Battle Against Self. ***In Fact, He Sent Help!***
1. **John 14:1,16,17** ¹ “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me”... ¹⁶ “**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;** ¹⁷ **{that is} the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, {but} you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.” (NAS)
- C. **Ephesians 6:11-17** ¹¹ “Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² **For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.** ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (NLT)
1. It is evident that the taskmaster who owned us is not content to leave his former “property” alone – even when Christ satisfied the claims for your life and mine!
 2. Our advantage is His Presence – but Satan and his minions will have full access to the world system at their disposal.
 3. That is our two-front war! Our old nature and warring against God’s very own – archenemy!

II. THE NATURE OF THE BATTLE(S) IS ALWAYS _____ – THEREFORE WE ARE WAGING SPRITUAL WARFARE!

- A. **Revelation 12:17** *“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”* (NIV)
1. **We have an enemy!** Satan is actively seeking his prey. The battle began in the Garden of Eden and continues today. The purpose – was to separate Adam and Eve from God **and** his active Presence in their life, and the same goes for us.
 - a. **1 Peter 5:8** *“Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.”* (AMP)
 - b. **Matthew 26:41** *“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”* (NLT)

III. _____ IS A PART OF LIFE

- A. Jesus Led the Way in Helping Us both Face and Overcome the Temptations that Assault Us
1. It is important to note that temptation finds its avenues into our soul when we are _____ (through victory or tragedy) or most vulnerable through cracks in areas that are not submitted to His Lordship.
 - a. **Matthew 4:1-11** ¹ *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.* ² *After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.* ³ *The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”* ⁴ *Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* ⁵ *Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.* ⁶ *“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.””* ⁷ *Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.””* ⁸ *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.* ⁹ *“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”*

b. (Cont.) ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (NIV)

c. **How much are you aware of your weakness?** Can you identify the areas or scenarios that the enemy has used successfully to disengage you from His purpose?

d. It is a good chance that success can be found since the enemy will not change his tactics when they are so successful already!

i. **NOTE:** The different scenarios presented to Christ in His vulnerability to make Him surrender.

2. We are admonished to pray against falling to temptation.

a. **Matthew 6:13** 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.]' (NAS)

3. We are admonished to persevere over temptation. Since the testing of your faith produces endurance and endurance formulates

_____.

a. **James 1:2-4, 12** ² "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything...¹² Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." (NIV)

B. The Reason Demonic Forces (Satan) Tempt Us

1. Forces of darkness understand that sin brings about death. Going against God's Word also contributes to death – which is really _____ from God.

- a. **Genesis 2:16-17** ¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **for when you eat of it you will surely die.**"* (NIV)
2. Three ways our soul is tempted: **I John 2:16** *"For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world."* (NIV)
 - a. **The cravings of sinful man** (*lust of the flesh -- touch, taste and smell*) – overindulgences that bring satisfaction to the body
 - b. **The lust of his eyes** – (*sight*) **coveting** that which does not belong to you (visual or fantasy; e.g. sexual fulfillment, material wealth or objects, etc.)
 - c. **The boasting of what he has and does** (*pride of life – hearing*) – fame, honor and applause

IV. **GOD GIVES US _____ TO OVERCOME ALL TEMPTATION**

- A. **1 Corinthians 10:13** *"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."* (NLT)
- B. Through Relating with the Lord and Experiencing His Grace in Such Circumstances – We Learn to Depend on His Rescue Rather than Merely on Our Strength
 1. **2 Peter 2:9** *"So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment."* (NLT)
 2. **Hebrews 2:18** *"For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."* (NAS)