

## The Victory over Satan (Ephesians 6:10-19)

### Introduction

Joe Lewis was the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. He fought, if I recall correctly, 71 times professionally; he lost only once. During the decade and a half he held his title, he defended it 25 times. Bill Stern, the voice of American sports on radio, decided toward the end of the Brown Bomber's career that he would interview him and find out the technique or the secret that Lewis employed in fighting his opponents and how he could win over people who were at times much larger than he. His answer was very simple "I study my opponent, I plan my fight very carefully. The results are always the same. 1) I'm never surprised and 2) I stay on the offensive".

That's pretty good counsel for dealing with the devil. Satan wins many of his attacks and victories because he surprises us. We continually live shocked. The believer has no reason to be shocked, intimidated or surprised by the attack of the enemy -- none whatsoever.

Small review of what we have learned.

1. Satan wants to be like God, not unlike Him.
2. He walks about seeking whom he may devour.
3. He tempts our minds in the following areas:
  - " He tempts us with independence
  - " He tempts us with doubt/worry
  - " He tempts us with an unforgiving spirit
  - " He tempts us with lying
  - " He tempts us with discouragement
  - " He tempts us with pride
  - " He tempts us with fear

! Some thoughts: whether in football or police work we wear protective gear. You just never know when you will need it. Example of Morry Wills arresting the felon. It was his life vest that saved him.

I. Our Source of Power, Ephesians 6:10-11

A. Be strong in the Lord

1. This implies that you are Spirit-filled before you put on the armor. No closets not unconfessed sin.
2. We must have the correct attitude to go into this battle. **James 4:6**, But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
  - a. Humility is recognizing our dependence and God=s sufficiency.
  - b. Submit means to put ourselves at God=s disposal, so He can give us what He wants to give us.
  - c. Resist the devil, not just submission, and not just resisting, but both. Notice that it does not say that prayer causes the devil to flee.
  - d. Word resist= to make a military expedition against. This is a military term which includes putting on the armor. It is an aorist/imperative.
  - e. Word flee= to turn and run. It has the idea of to vanish, disappear.

B. Use God=s Armor

1. Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 13, Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

- a. Most verbs in this section are middle voice and imperatives.
- b. Putting it on one time does not provide permanent armor.
- c. Satan is not always attacking, we are to put on the armor when he is attacking or begins to attack.
- d. **Putting on the armor is a mental exercise. Satan=s attack is mental. He tries to turn our thoughts away from where they should be. Putting on the armor brings the mind back to where it would be if we were not under temptation.**

II. Purpose of Weapons, 6:11

- A. Ephesians 6:11, Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
- B. To stand against the schemes of the devil. Notice it is the FULL armor.
- C. To stand=to have feet firmly planted, to establish. It is an aorist infinitive.

III. Our Enemy

- A. Not flesh and blood (only)

- B. Principalities, Powers , Rulers, and spiritual wickedness in high places. Our enemies our not material beings only, but spirit. Their residence is not the earth, but the heavenlies or the 2nd heaven.

IV. Our Dress, 6:13

- A. Take God=s armor, the full armor
- B. In the evil day or day of attack, not just in the morning.

V. The Specific Dress and Weapons, 6:14-19

- A. **Truth**, Ephesians 6:14, Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,

1. There was a girdle that allowed the soldier to take his dress between his legs and pull it over to get the dress out of the way.
2. Truth here is not truth as opposed to a lie. It is not truth as a philosophical statement (anarthirus). Rather, **it is seeing things as they really are**. It is seeing the temptation as coming from Satan. It is being sober and vigilant. THIS THOUGHT ORIGINATES FROM SATAN. Remember that Satan puts thoughts in your mind that you think. Putting on truth, starts the process of thinking as God would have us think.

- B. **Righteousness**, Ephesians 6:14, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

1. This is not practical righteousness. If it were, just act right, there would be no problem for there would be no temptation.
2. This is a mental attitude to have a volition to do what is right. I WILL DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN THIS SITUATION.
3. In some cases, there is a truth to the power of positive thinking. This takes away the mystism of defeating Satan. It requires some action, right action on your part.

C. **Peace**, Ephesians 6:15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

1. This is the "good news" that we can have peace. Peace with respect to the mind, where the attack is taking place, always has to do with an unruffled mind. A singleness of mind. I don't have to be like "Te-eh" on Fiddler on the roof. I don't have to battle two opposing thoughts as truth. I can trust God's word to be always the truth.
  - a. James 1:8 *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.  
4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
  - b. Peace is being content with what God has said and promises.

D. **Faith**, Ephesians 6:16, in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil *one*.

1. The shield of **the** faith. This always refers to the teaching or doctrine of

the Word of God. It is the attitude of faith that embraces the totality of what God has said in reference to the temptation, like Christ.

2. It is comprehending what God has said, and leaving it there.
3. It does not allow circumstances or experiences to altar the truth of the Word of God.
4. The shield renders ineffective the fiery darts. When Satan sees that one temptation is not working, he tries to use others. We come under a frequent and varied attack. Faith makes the temptation ineffective.

E. Salvation, Ephesians 6:17, And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION,

1. Salvation has various meanings. Its basic meaning is to make whole. It can mean to escape from danger or **to be victorious**. I believe this is the intended meaning. That as we face this battle, the victory is ours. It is going in with a positive mental attitude.
2. The lamb has overcome. It will not always be this way and the victory over this temptation is mine for the taking.
3. 1 John 4:4, You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

F. Word of God, Ephesians 6:17, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1. This is the only offensive weapon which the Holy Spirit uses.

2. It is not A □ □ □ □ □ but > □ □ □ □ @. This means the individual utterances from within the Word that the Spirit uses. You just can=t appeal to the Word of God in general but to a specific utterance.
3. Note that Christ quoted Scripture taken from contexts dealing with temptations to Israel similar to His temptation.
4. We are to think over the individual utterances of God and to apply the appropriate ones to our own situation. AS A RESULT, YOU MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE WORD OF GOD. NO HEDGE OR IN THE NAME OF JESUS GET OUT OF HERE.

## VI. Things to Remember

- A. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to defeat Satan.
- B. The believer is not a soldier every moment of his Christian life.
- C. Putting on the armor is not a one - time thing.
- D. The armor is to be put on each time Satan tempts.
- E. The believer must be filled with the Holy Spirit to put it.
- F. Each time we put it on, we resist and the evil one will flee.

## VII. The Prayer

- A. Ephesians 6:18, With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

1. This is the prayer for the victor. The one has overcome.
2. At all times in context, is following each victory.
3. The prayer is that other saints be on the alert and persevere in each attack.

## Conclusion

An example: Eve - Genesis 3:1-7, Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" {2} And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; {3} but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'" {4} And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! {5}" For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." {6} When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. {7} Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

M.O. = Satan's method was and deceiving. Came as a serpent. Lied and used partial truth.

Temptation = doubt, Did God really say.

Possible Resistance of Eve = Most certainly God did say, you shall not eat for in that day you will surely die.

An example of a temptation independency. (Mat 4:3-4) And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." {4}But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'@

An example of discouragement. Romans 8:28, And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. 1 Thessalonians 5:18, in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.