

WE HAVE AN ENEMY

The Bible says in many places that there are two invisible kingdoms on planet earth; Satan's kingdom, and God's kingdom. These two are not equal, one being bad and one being good. Satan is a created being that turned bad, and one day, God is going to put him away for good. But that's another study. Here are a few verses that tell about the two kingdoms.

I John 5:19, "We are children of God, and all the rest of the world around us is under the power and control of the evil one (Satan or the devil)."

Col.1:13, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

Phil.2:14-15, "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and innocent, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

WE HAVE WEAPONS

II Cor.10:3-4, "Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down imaginations and everything that exalts

itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Eph.6:10-13 "Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against... spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places (our atmosphere). Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

And verses 16-17: "Above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one, and take the ... **sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.**"

Now that is what this study is about, the issue of how to use those two pieces of invisible armor, and win! As in I John 5:4, faith is our victory!

JESUS SHOWED US HOW

Matt.4:1-11 is the account of the temptation of Jesus and how he won. If you read this, you will notice that Jesus replied to every temptation with the words, "It is written, ..." and then He would quote a verse from the Old Testament, for that's all the Bible that was available then. Think about it! Jesus could have called

angels, and he could have called down fire from heaven, but He used the most powerful weapon there is, the Word of God!

SATAN'S DARTS

The shield is used in much the same way. Briefly, **you bombard every negative thought with the Word of God.** You speak a verse to ward off Satan's darts. These are thoughts that come into your head to make you afraid, tense, angry, offended, resentful, suspicious; and on and on it goes with negative thoughts to get you upset and steal your peace and joy! With those, he is winning!

HOW TO USE IT

Faith is the Shield, and the Word of God is the Sword; so when **you speak the Word of God**, you are activating your weapons and giving Satan a beating!

Here are some verses that make it clear that faith must speak:

II Cor.4:13, "And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, I believed and therefore I spoke. We also believe and therefore speak."

Rom.10:8-10 and Mark 11:23 are two more verses that make it plain that faith has to be in two places, in our hearts **and in our mouths.**

SPIRITUAL AMMO

Let's say you are traveling, and fear of an accident is stealing your peace and joy. You say, "No evil shall befall me!" (Psa.91:10) Other good verses are Prov.1:33 and II Tim.1:7. Praising God is good ammo too.

This isn't just a mind thing! Faith in God's word is what makes it work. Nothing can hurt you if you say this verse often enough to believe it. For proof of this, read brochure: *If it's God's will, then why doesn't it always happen?*

If somebody makes you mad, you choose to be quiet and leave, if possible. Say, "No Devil, I will not get angry. I choose to forgive them so God can forgive me." (Matt.6:12) You can learn to be quick with this so the anger doesn't get a hold on you. Once it does, it is harder to get rid of it! After you have chosen to forgive, pray good things for the person until the anger or offense leaves. This may take years, depending on the offense.

Are you worried about something, or are you trying to change someone? You need to memorize I Pet.5:7. You cast the care of it on God by giving it to Him, and then refusing to think about it any more, like this: **Every time the thoughts return, you praise God that He is taking care of it, and say a verse!** Satan will get tired of this, and will quit reminding you!

Do you doubt your ability to do things? Learn Phil.4:13. Also, according to Josh.1:8, Psa.1:2-3, and James 1:25, you can boldly say, "Everything I do prospers!"

Are you afraid? Psa.23:4, 56:3 and II Tim.1:7 are the ammo you need.

Are you worried about money? You need to read my brochure, *Who qualifies for prosperity?* (God's way) For right now, learn Psa.35:27 and Psa.23:1.

Do you believe you are slow, dumb or stupid? Learn Psa.119:98-100 and I Cor.2:16.

Do you think you are getting old and falling apart? Psa.103:5, Isa.40:28-31, and Rom.8:11 can change that!

Are you often upset and tense? Then Psa.34:1. Isa.26:3-4, Rom.8:5-6, and Phil. 4:6-8 will help you gain peace.

THIS PRACTICE IS --

Using sword and shield, Eph.6:17-18
Taking thoughts captive, II Cor.10:4-5
Casting your cares on God, I Pet.5:7
Keeping your heart at peace, John 14:1, 27
Fixing thoughts on good things,
Phil.4:8 and Col.3:1-2
Fighting the fight of faith, I Tim.6:12
Walking by faith; not sight, II Cor.5:7

How to use your Sword and Shield

Or Spiritual warfare I



A mini Bible Study
By Cheryl Boone