

## Resist the Devil

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.*(JAM4:7-8a) Bible exhorts believers to resist the devil in order to cause him to flee or “run away” from us. To resist means to stand firm against and oppose the enemy at every point. Resistance can be defensive tactic on our part such as resisting the temptation to sin. It can be an action we take to use offensive weapon in whole Armor of God. (EPH6:13-18) Defeat results when you act independently of God. First submit. It is the humble who overcome the enemy

In these years we have seen Satan make a decisive move in the world. A move from secret place of subtle power to a much more evident display of uncivilized, barbaric, rude, wickedness etc. On the contrary we are renewing, here and our dedication to the command and the promise of the Lord Jesus: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you!" We have not been given a spirit of timidity but of power and love and of a sound mind.(2TI1:7) We dedicate ourselves to fight back, defend the spiritual ground we have gained and go on the offensive and to take new ground for Christ from strongholds of the devil. We say it in the name of Jesus Christ—the one who has sent us into world under this banner: *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me; go therefore. and I will be with you to the end of the age.* (MAT28:18) We dedicate ourselves of prayer to strengthening our hands for spiritual war and for strength to resist evil. We pray for wisdom in the conflict, and pray for all believers. If the rise of Satanism is another sign of the end times—that Lord's coming is near. In 1Pet4:7 warns us, *But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.* As the close of this age(end times) draws near, Satan furies, Satan has even intensified his attacks against a church. *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*(2TI3:1) Jesus calls us to wartime prayer: *Watch therefore, and pray always.*(LUK21:36) Prayer is surrounded by a sense of urgency, alertness, warning. It is a war-time instrument, made for battle. We need to know the tactics of Satan and how to focus our prayer against Satanic strategies. *lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*(2CO2:11) These are some of his devices: Satan lies, and is the father of lies: When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.(JOH8:44) in Genesis 3, the first words are suspicious of the truth (Did God say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?) second words were a subtle lie (You will not die) He has dealing with essence of falsehood, deception. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers: The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers.(2CO4:4) So he not only speaks what is false. He hides what is true. Satan masquerades in costumes of light and righteousness: for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.(2CO11:13-15) Satan has servants who profess doctrines of demons. They will be like wolves in sheep's clothing. They will not spare the Christ's flock, but will draw people away to destruction.

Satan does signs and wonders: The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with signs, wonders of the lie.(2TH2:9) Satan tempts people to sin: This is what he did to Jesus in the wilderness—he wanted him to abandon the path of suffering and obedience.(MAT4:1-11) Jesus said to him, Away from me, Satan! Then the devil left him. But he did successfully to Judas.(LUK22:3-6) In 2 Cor11:3 warns against this for all believers, "I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. Satan plucks the word of God out of people's hearts and chokes faith: In the parable of the four soils in Mark 4:1-15, Satan immediately comes, takes away the word which was sown in them. Satan's design is to choke off faith of people who have heard word of God. Satan causes some sickness and disease: Jesus healed a woman, whom Satan bound for eighteen years. Jesus saw Satan as the one who had caused this disease.(ACT10:38) Satan brings sickness, pain and death. Satan is a murderer. Jesus said to those who were planning to kill him, "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning,"(JOH8:44) Satan comes that he might make life wretched, destroy it wherever he can. The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy.(JOH10:10) Satan fights against the plans of missionaries: Paul tells of how his missionary plans were frustrated "I, Paul, and time again—but Satan hindered us.(1TH2:17-18) Satan battles against us because we are God's witnesses to the world. Satan hates evangelism and discipleship and will throw every obstacle he can in the way of missionaries and God's people. Satan accuses Christians before the throne of God. "for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.(REV12:10) This is what he was doing against Job. Bible says he is our great adversary. You must recognize that all battles of life, whether physical, spiritual, mental, financial are only outward manifestation of a spiritual cause. We are called to be intelligent, understanding of spiritual warfare. Be alert, sober-minded. Jesus said: *I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*(MAT16:18) Hades or hell is represented as a mighty evil city with its gates defined its power. Jesus declaring that death has no power to hold God's people captive. Let's look to the victory of Christ over Satan. *The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.*(1JO3:8) Jesus delivered the deadly blow to the devil on the cross.(COL1:13-15) Satan was defeated, when Christ died at the cross and rose again. *God disarmed principalities and powers, and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in him.* (COL2:15) The decisive blow was struck at Calvary. *through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil.*(HEB2:14) Satan is crafty and subtle may operate within limits God has granted to him, when it is over devil will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone and will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.(REV20:10)

Soldiers of Christ, Arise!

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*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No soldier when in service gets entangled in the civilian pursuits; his aim is to satisfy and please his commanding officer.* (2TI2:3-4) A soldier of the cross takes Christ at His command. Soldier prepares himself by protecting, arming himself for the battle. The army of the Lord engaged in military service. We are to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Satan's attacks were called fiery darts. Faith was the good fight and believers were told to war a good warfare. Soldiers are called to counter evil with overpowering good. They must put faith in Jesus, the Commander of the Lord's Army, Captain of our salvation. Almighty God is sovereign over Satan and we have nothing to fear if we are on the Lord's side! There are number of angels that are in God's army. They are willing, able, ready to fight on your behalf. There is no need to be worried about who is coming against you when you are a Kingdom of Gods' citizen. The battle is not yours, it's the God's. His army will fight for you. (PSA 34:7)

The story of battle at Dothan is similar to present spiritual conditions in the Church. (2KI6:8-23) There are some, like Elisha, who see clearly into realm of the spirit. They know there is a conflict occurring, have identified the enemy, recognize greater forces of God that assure victory. There are others like Gehazi, who with little encouragement, will be able to open their spiritual eyes and no longer be fearful of and defeated by the enemy. But there are many people who like those in city of Dothan, are spiritually sleeping. They do not even know the enemy has surrounded them and is poised for attack. God's people are being defeated due to lack of knowledge in spiritual warfare. Devil operates in the atmosphere around us. He battles to defeat faith thru doubt, fear, unbelief. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Many soldiers in Lord's army are unfit for battle. This is the instruction of Deut. 20:1-10, who are disqualified for spiritual warfare because they are not fit to fight. Notice the expression which is repeated "Let him go home". How fighting under a great captain who is depending on them to move forward in the battle-lines - but they are not fit to do so. So what are the qualifications for fighting? 1. Those who are not wholly dedicated to the Lord are unfit for battle. (v5) We are all houses or 'temples' of God. Are all our members, our heart, will, mind, ears, eyes, hands, feet, lips dedicated to Him and to His service? Incomplete dedication disqualifies us for warfare and for fighting in the Lord's army. Let this truth search your heart. 2. Those who have not tasted the Fruit of the Spirit are unfit for battle. (v6) We must be producing and enjoying the fruit of the Spirit in our lives before we are qualified to fight in Lord's battles. Ask yourself how many of nine fruits you have. (GAL5:22-23) 3. Those who have failed to fulfil obligation are unfit for battle. (v7) If a man had promised to marry a woman, he was to marry her before being free to fight. There are obligations to God: We must fulfil our vows; put Him first; make Him known. There are obligations to others: We must be reconciled to them; honest in all our dealings with people; bear their burdens. 4. Those who are fearful and faint-hearted are unfit for battle. (v8) Courage is required for fighting. Faint-heartedness not only dishonor God but they discourage and upset the morale of our fellow-believers. Look up in Isaiah 41:10; *Fear not, for I am with you.*

Though we are enlisted in Lord's army, training is required to be a mighty warrior, requires sacrifice, discipline, faith. Like David's mighty men, warriors are raised up to battle. Get ready church, because the Lord is about to restore great numbers of those ones! A true warrior has already given his or her life to the Lord. You are to fight battle intelligently with purpose. (1CO 9:26) Goal of warfare is to pull and cast down the strongholds of the enemy. (2CO10:4-5) To cast off the works of darkness and cast out demon powers. We are more than conquerors through Christ who greatly loved us.

Just as the anointing of God has been displayed in Christ's ministry of healing sick, cast out demons, so disciples seen the Spirit at work in making the demons subject to them. (LUK10:17-18) *In my name they will cast out demons.* (MAR16:15-17) They were operating in the power and authority of the Lord, by the Spirit. The kingdom of God has been on the march, when it moves, the forces of hell are shaken to the core. Demonic thrones are overturned, the Light of the world dispels the darkness of sin and evil and Satan and his demons lose authority they have to hold people in bondage.

We are received Christ's power to utilize it as well. *Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command, according to the prophecies once made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.* (1TI1:18) We must train as soldiers, sacrifice as soldiers, live and die as soldiers. We should use courage to defend the truth of the gospel message, endure suffering for the Lord Jesus. Our motivation for pursuing the unentangled life should be to please Him, by doing His will whole-heartedly. Hardships come in a variety of ways and we should not be taken by surprise. Jesus warns: In this world you will have trouble. (JOH16:33) *But take heart! I have overcome the world.* We can endure by His grace. We could rejoice because suffering in the flesh for the sake of the church is a privilege of sharing in sufferings of Christ.

Jesus is ultimate example who endured hardship, in spite of suffering, never turned back, even from the cross. (HEB12:2-4) Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him. His anticipated joy enabled Him to keep going; He knew what the rewards would be—redemption of mankind and a seat at the right hand of God. In the same way, we can find hope to endure when we consider rewards God has promised us. *But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who draws back.* But we do belong to those who have faith and are saved. (HEB10:35) *let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* (ROM13:12) Having light is evidence that Jesus Christ is part of our life. His light—His spirit, truth, power! May he "train your hands for war and your fingers for battle" (PSA 144:1)

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.* (1PE5:8) There is a great invisible war that is in progress in the spirit world between Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God. The evil forces you face are spiritual hosts of wickedness. That your spiritual enemy, a powerful force of evil known as Satan. In warfare, a soldier must first identify the enemy, understand his nature, recognize his strategies.

When Satan was originally created, he was an angel of God. Satan was perfect when he was created by God, but was given a free will to choose good or evil. *You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.* (EZE28:15) Bible describes the original position of Satan in Ezekiel 28:12-17. Satan as having been created a cherub, apparently the highest created angel, holy, wise, beautiful and perfect. He was the leader among the cherubs. Satan was originally called the "anointed cherub" and "Lucifer" which means light bearer. (ISA14:12-14) He was adorned with precious stones set in gold. He was given a position on God's holy mountain and apparently led in worship. But Satan did not retain this glorious position. He became arrogant in his beauty and status and decided he wanted to sit on a throne above that of God. (1TI3:6) Bible describes his rebellion and fall: (ISA14:12-15) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your brightness" Satan's fall from his angelic position occurred because of pride and rebellion demonstrated in five wrong attitudes. Notice the "I will" statements. *I will be like the Most High:* He desired to occupy the abode of God-Heaven--desiring equal recognition. He coveted His rule over the angelic hosts. He also desired to rule the earth as well as the angels. Satan wanted God's glory for himself. Satan's pride led to his fall. Because of his rebellion, God removed Satan from his exalted position and role. And was cast out of Heaven by God: *Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God;..I cast you to the ground,* (v16-17) Lucifer, once created for God's glory, became Satan with a character that opposed all God is and does. He is turned to disruptive and destructive purposes. Satan not only opposes God and His nature, but he also opposes God's program. He denies the existence of God, promotes lies. (EPH2:2; 2TH2:8-11); and is behind false religions, the occult, and cults with their false doctrines and practices. Satan's religious system results in false christ, teachers, prophets. When Satan fell from Heaven he did not fall alone. He took with him a portion of the angelic host of Heaven who participated in his rebellion against God. This group of angels are now part of evil force of demons.

Demons were originally like the other angels of God. God cast them out of Heaven, along with Satan. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth and his angels were cast out with him. (REV12:9) They became evil spiritual beings (demons) There are two groups of these fallen angels. One group is actively opposing God and His people on earth. Another is confined in chains: (JUD6) Demons are called evil spirits and unclean spirits. They are responsible for immoral acts, unclean thoughts, oppression, possession, depression. They afflict the mind and the soulful nature of man. (MAT10:1) Spirits of infirmity: These spirits afflict the physical body. (LUK13:11) Seducing spirits afflict the mind, soul, and spirit of man, influencing him to believe false doctrines, the great apostasy as indicated in I Timothy 4:1. These spirits seduce people to believe a lie and be damned to eternal punishment. They are spirits of false doctrine, cults, false Christs, and false teachers.

Demons follow orders given by their prince, Satan. they are always directed against God, His plan, and His people. Satan uses his demons to accomplish this strategy throughout the world. Demons extend Satan's power by promoting deception and wickedness. They affect individuals, governments, nations, the world system. They promote rebellion, idolatry, false doctrines, and blind men to the truth of the Gospel. These demons attack unbelievers driving them to commit terrible evil acts, to murder, injure, commit suicide, etc. They affect the mind with emotional problems and the body with physical infirmities. Demons attack believers by temptation, deception, depression, oppression. They try to keep you in bondage to habits and fear. They accuse and slander you and create division among people of God. Satan uses his demons to influence and deceive the nations, leading the leaders and people astray from God.

When Satan rebelled, sin entered the universe. God created man in His image, male and female. Adam and Eve were in a state of innocence. The trial on earth began. Satan's attack on the first man and woman, was really an attack on the character and control of God (GEN3:1-5) When Adam and Eve were in the Eden of garden, they were given dominion over the world. They had control over the world, to guide its systems and inhabitants according to plan of God. Satan caused Adam and Eve to sin. This resulted in inheriting basic sin nature and committing individual acts of sin in all men. When they sinned against God, they lost that dominion. Sin is the reason for the present condition of the world.

Jesus made a way of salvation. He defeated death and the principalities and powers of the enemy. He restored to man dominion over all things. Satan still is at work in the world with his evil powers, the battle is still in progress on earth. That is what spiritual warfare is all about. Satan still seeking power, position, worship. But he is already a defeated foe. Jesus died to free us from our bondage to sin and death. Jesus defeated the power of Satan through His death and resurrection. In Gen 3, God pronounced a curse upon old serpent (Satan) The work of the cross of Jesus Christ in freeing us from the poison of sin. *I (Jesus) hold the keys of hell and of death.* (REV1:18) Jesus pronounced judgment on the god of this world: *Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world (Satan) will be cast out.* (JOH12:3)

First two temptations Satan said "If you are the Son of God," do these things. The final temptation was an appeal by Satan for worship. In return, Satan would deliver to Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. *Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'* (MAT 4:8-11) In these three situations of temptation, evil forces of the world, the flesh, the Devil fighting against Jesus. Jesus met the temptations of Satan with the Word of God. Jesus simply refused in submitting to Satan's way of obtaining the rule. Thus, Jesus triumphs over Satan. Jesus' victory over Satan proves that He is the righteous Son of God, mighty to save all who call upon Him. If we trust in Him as Savior and walk in His strength each day, we can overcome temptation of devil. This is good news for us indeed. In staring down temptation, Jesus experienced suffering, thus He is able to help us when we are tempted. (HEB2:18) Jesus has continually defeat Satan through the lives of those who have believed in Him who have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and transformed into the kingdom of light. Bible is the appeal to man to move from this evil Kingdom to the Kingdom of God. Men are born into the Kingdom of Satan thru natural birth. They must be reborn into the Kingdom of God through spiritual birth. Born again experience as in John 3 Have you repented and been converted? If not, do the following: Repent of your sins. Ask Jesus to forgive you. Accept Him as your Lord and Savior. Turn from your sinful ways (be converted) As a believer, when you sin, you must repent.

Adam failed this test. Instead of submitting to the Creator God, he embraced godless autonomy. He ate the forbidden fruit instead of looking to the Almighty to define right and wrong. Fame, power, authority are so enticing that many people embrace wickedness in their drive to be known and followed. The glory of the world is the most temptation by which men are most deceived. The pride of life is the most dangerous snare. In all temptations let us consider not what he offers, but what we shall lose. Jesus' life of obedience and faithfulness is an example to us when we face temptation.

How can we overcome the Satan? Rev 12:11 is giving us of effective spiritual strategies to use to overcome Satan.

1] *"And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb"* The "blood of Christ" is the expression of the sacrificial death and full atoning work of Jesus on our behalf on cross, that He bled and died for sinners. The blood of Christ has the power to atone for sins committed by people, and all whose faith rests in that blood will be saved. By shedding His precious blood on Calvary's cross, Jesus broke Satan's hold on mankind. Satan had us bound by sin, but Jesus "freed us from our sins by His blood" (REV1:5) The blood of the Lamb signifies, the death of the Son of God. (JOH1:29) The lamb of God without blemish or defect" paid in full the debt of sin and we need no further sacrifices for sin. (HEB9:12) Satan's authority over us has been broken. The shed blood of Christ certifies His victory over Satan. It is Christ's blood that redeemed us. (1PE1:19) This precious blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all our sins. (1JO1:7) It is this blood that brought us (EPH2:13) and justifies us before God. (ROM5:9) Our claim to be under the "blood" declares Christ as our victorious. By His blood will make our consciences pure from useless acts so we may serve the living God. (HEB9:14) Our Lord Jesus has taken away sin by his death. Plead the Blood of Jesus over yourself. your family for protection, deliverance, salvation, healing. You can bear witness to the power of the blood of Jesus and you will overcome devil.

2] *"And they overcame him by the word of their testimony"* Our testimony about our identity with Christ. We are no longer our own, for we have been bought with a price. We belong to Him, and the price He paid was His life. This calls for publicly declaring our identity with Christ. We need not be ashamed to declare Him as our Savior before the whole world. Our testimony of making Jesus Christ our personal Lord and Savior is a divine seed of God. He cannot defeat us if we resolutely confess our faith in Jesus. When your Jesus-glorifying testimony, means to you and what He has accomplished for you through His death, burial and resurrection! By testifying of Christ's power to save, heal, help, and to sustain, that Satan's efforts becomes ineffective. By witnessing Christ to the unsaved the devil's stronghold is broken. Your position in Christ grants you all authority of every evil attack Satan tries to launch against you. Your position in Christ makes you so secure that God the Father will let no one pluck you out of His hands. (ISA49:16)

3] *"And they did not love their lives to the death"* is addressing total surrender to God in that even if called to have to do so - die as a martyr for one's faith in Jesus Christ. Even the martyrs are conquerors. Death is the believer's ultimate victory, at home with the Lord. (2CO5:8). *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (PHI1:21) The more we dedicate ourselves to Christ, the weaker become the thrusts of the devil. When Paul realized how vulnerable he was to temptation he cried out, "Who shall deliver me?" In the next he answered, "I thank God, through Jesus our Lord!" (ROM7:24-25) Rejecting self in behalf of Christ is required of Christians. It calls for loving Christ of being willing to sacrifice our life.

*No weapon formed against you shall prosper; Because you are righteous.* (ISA54:17) Promise to Israel is often applied to God's children today, as we deal with spiritual enemies. No matter what the devil devises to throw at us, in the end it will fail because God is the sovereign ruler. *God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.*

*So we will not be afraid,* (PSA46:1-3,) Even deadly disease causes destruction in the world, the economy fails, Almighty is with us, He will save us: God is in command. He controls both those who make weapons and those who use them. Lord will protect and uphold His children. Every child of God can hold this promises! *For there is no sorcery, no divination no witchcraft, that can be used against the nation of Israel. And of Israel, Oh, what God has done!* (NUM23:23)

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*(2CO10:3-5) Because spiritual warfare is--spiritual--it must be understood with a spiritual mind.(1CO2:14) It is necessary to use "spiritual discernment" to understand spiritual things. In 2King 6 Elisha prayed and God opened the eyes of Gehazi and allowed him to visibly see the angelic hosts of God aligned for battle Walks in the flesh, referring to living in earthly condition in the world. We do not wage war according to the flesh and our warfare is not oriented toward flesh i.e. human being. A spiritual war is raging and your mind is the battlefield. Satan's primary attacks occur in our thought life.(ROM8:6-7) Satan wants to make your mind carnal(worldly) God wants you to be spiritually minded. *to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* Satan battles for your mind because the way you think affects the way you act: *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts.*(MAT15:18-19)Satan knows if he can control your mind,he can control your body, actions and spirit. The enemy continuously hurls fiery darts at you in the spiritworld. Most of these darts are aimed at the mind. Satan wants to shake, disturb or exert control over your mind. The mind is one of the most complex and least understood parts of the human body. Satan has many subtle methods of attacking the mind. The first temptation of man started in the mind with this strategy: Questioning the authority of God. Satan said to Eve, Did God really say that you could not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Questioning God and His Word leads to doubt, unbelief. Deception is a part of the enemy's strategy. Satan uses lies, cults, religious spirits to deceive millions of people today. Some of deceptions include following appeal: "You can become a god" "There are more ways to Heaven than by Jesus" "God is too good to send anyone to Hell." Seducing spirits of Satan attack the mind to twist the truth of God's Word. The body, soul, spirit of man are closely related. Because of this, Satan accesses the soul and spirit through the flesh. This strategy is evident in the first temptation of man. Eve "saw the tree was good for food (taste), and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise"(GEN3:6) Satan used fleshly senses and desires to gain access to Eve's soul and spirit. The flesh as a spiritual force of evil. Satan uses the flesh to war against the mind:(ROM7:23) If you've ever dealt with things like worry, doubt, confusion, depression, anger, condemnation, you've experienced direct attacks in your mind. Depression can lead to suicidal thoughts because of the hopeless feelings which produces uncontrollable mental grief, sorrow. Satan uses circumstances of life to lead to depression. A great loss or fear of loss, can all be used to cause depression. Pro.24:10 warned fainting in the day of adversity. If you do not conquer depression it can lead to oppression by Satanic spirits, where Satan gains restrictive power over mind. Satan wants to discourage because he wants to down, lazy, depressed. Satan attacks the mind is thru withdrawal, to isolate you from rest of Church. Satan causes wrong attitudes towards others. He inserts fiery darts of envy, jealousy, suspicion, unforgiveness, distrust, anger, hatred, intolerance, prejudice, competition, impatience, judging, criticism, covetousness, selfishness. He tries to cause wrong attitudes of greed, pride, vanity, ego, arrogance, self-righteousness. Wrong attitudes lead to wrong emotions. Satan inserts rebellious thoughts into your mind. Rebellion is willful disobedience, stubbornness, against God's authority. Remember rebellion was the original sin of Satan. The "I will" spirit is a way to recognize operation of Satan. They will insert thoughts of sexual impurity, lust, mental sexual fantasies. Satan causes indecision, confusion, frustration in your mind. When you are confused, you cannot be a good Christian soldier, ineffective in spiritual warfare There is whole category of tormenting thoughts Satan sends into your mind by worry, anxiety, nervousness. It includes spirit of fear, fear of death, bitter memories of events that should be forgiven, forgotten. Satan tries you to compromise and lower your spiritual principles. Satan will occupy your thoughts with materialism rather than with eternal values. If you allow Satan to persist with thoughts of depression, suicide, torment, accusation, etc., it can lead to mental illness. Satan can possess the mind of unbelievers and backsliders. Satan works in the minds of unbelievers to blind them to the truth of the Gospel:(2CO4:4) What an arsenal of weapons Satan has targeted for the mind! And he's seeking to destroy those who identify with Christ. Left unconquered, these thoughts lead to sinful actions. For example, hatred can lead to murder. Adulterous thoughts can lead to act of adultery. Divorce starts in the mind. Covetousness can lead to stealing. But good news is, you don't have to let those thoughts defeat you. You can win the battle with God's help! God has given counter strategies for overcoming attacks of Satan on the mind: God want to encourage and equip you to renew your mind through God's Word. First, ask God to search your mind and reveal to you any wrong attitudes, motives, thinking which has been inserted by the enemy: Ask forgiveness for wrong thought patterns and use the Word of God to develop new thought patterns. Avoid things that would open the gates to your mind. These include things like drugs, alcohol which reduce your ability to think and respond. Recognize confusion is not of God: refuse to accept spirit of confusion in your mind. *And be not conformed to this world; but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind.* (ROM12:2) Renew your mind by prayer and meditation on God's Word. Jesus resisted temptations in the wilderness successfully because He was walking in the Word and in the Holy Spirit. Blood of Christ cleanses our conscience. We are to bring into captivity every thought to obedience to Christ. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

The battle over the walls

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*So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.*(NEH2:20) Book of Nehemiah relates story of a battle to rebuild walls of Jerusalem which had been destroyed by an enemy. The gates of Jerusalem in Nehemiah ch.3 have symbolic to your spiritual walls: *But you shall call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.*(ISA60:18)

The Sheep Gate (v.1) represents work of the cross in your life. Jesus is the Lamb! who is the Door of sheep.(JOH1:29)

The Fish Gate (v.3) represents Christian witness: His disciples become fishers of men.(MAT4:19) Gospel of eternal life

The Old Gate (v.6) represents the old nature (inherited) changing to the new: Dead to Sin, Alive to God.(ROM6:1-23)

The Valley Gate (v.13) speaks of suffering and testing: sanctified or cleansed or made holiness of life.(2CO1:3-5)

The Dung Gate (v.13) represents the works of the flesh(sin) which must be eliminated: place of repentance.(GAL:16-21)

The Fountain Gate (v.15) represents the work of the Holy Spirit: referred to living water. Pool of Soloam (JOH7:37-39)

The Water Gate (v.26) represents the Word of God: the place of gathering, of teaching, of fellowship.(JOH4:10-14)

The Horse Gate (v.28) represents the believer's warfare: fights against evil spirits, sin, lusts of his flesh.(EPH6:10-17)

The Eastern Gate (v.29) speaks of the believer's hope in the return of Jesus: the triumphant entry of Jesus.(EZE43:1-2)

Miphkad or Inspection Gate or lions-gate (v.31) speaks of self-examination and the judgment seat of Jesus:(ICO3:9-15)

These are the spiritual walls Satan has targeted to destroy in your life. Chapters 1-2 describe condition of the walls around Jerusalem. They were in ruin, destroyed by enemy invasion and the gates had been burned with fire. Without walls and gates, a city was open to invasion on every side from enemy forces. If your spiritual walls are destroyed, you too are open to attack by the enemy. Nehemiah felt an intense burden from God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

When Nehemiah determined to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, he met powerful opposition from his enemies. The attacks are divided into two main categories: External attacks & internal attacks. External attacks the enemy launches who are not part of the body of Christ. 1. Direct criticism: "What do you think you are doing?" They were against the reconstruction project and tried in every way to prevent it.(2:19) 2. Mocking: Satan will use the tongue of others to discourage and defeat you.(4:1-3) 3. False accusations: The enemy will use others to accuse you.(6:5-7) 4. Diversion: from things of God and the work.(6:2) 5. Popular influence: The enemy trying to influence with popular opinion.(6:2) 6. Compromise: Nehemiah refused to compromise.(5:15) 7. Threats and fear: The enemy made fearful threats.(6:10-13) 8. Fighting and hindering: Open tactics of fighting and hindering were used.(4:8) 9. Conspiracy: A plot was made.(4:8) 10. Attacks at vulnerable times: The greatest attack of the enemy came when the wall was half finished.(4:6) When you are being effective for God, you are vulnerable to enemy attack. Internal attacks of Satan are those made from within the Body of Christ. 1. Discouragement: The workers became discouraged which resulted in loss of strength, vision, confidence.(4:10-11) 2. Dissension: division, disunity among God's people. We are busy battling each other instead of building. 3. Weak believers: The enemy used weak workers to try to defeat the construction project.(4:12)

Following strategies were used by Nehemiah to rebuild. You can use the same to assure victory at your spiritual walls: Examine the walls of your spiritual life, your home, church fellowship has the enemy crept into? *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.*(2CO13:5) Self-examination or judge ourselves is one of the symbolic gates of your wall in the spirit world. Satan will try to prevent you. As Nehemiah, recognize that the reason walls are destroyed is because of sin. Then like he did (1:5-7), confess your sin and ask forgiveness. As Nehemiah, determine to rise and rebuild your spiritual walls:(2:20) Be prepared...you will face opposition from the enemy. Nehemiah refused to be diverted by enemy tactics.(6:2-3) Do not let the enemy divert or distract you from rebuilding your spiritual walls. Popular opinion was that Nehemiah was a rebel.(2:19) Nehemiah was not influenced by popular opinion. *He said, "So did not I, because of the fear of God"*(5:14-19) Nehemiah identified the enemy and his strategies. He discovered that the enemy planned a surprise attack.(4:8,11) You must identify your spiritual enemy and his strategies in order to be effective in spiritual warfare. Nehemiah developed counter strategy when he heard the enemy planned to attack. He set some workers as a guard to watch for the enemy. Every worker built the wall, also had his sword was prepared to fight.(4:13-18) When Satan does break through and invade, be assured that God will fight for you! Nehemiah faced the enemy in God's power. He confronted and conquered them. The greatest attack of the enemy came when the wall was half finished. When you enter the arena of effective spiritual warfare, be prepared. You are a target for an attack of Satan. Nehemiah's response to criticism, mocking, scorn, false accusations, threats, fear, was simply to continue building the wall: *So we labored in the work:*(4:21) Nehemiah stayed with the task. He did not stop building: *So the wall was completed in fifty two days.*(6:15) Nehemiah did in a short time what the enemy said could not be done.

If the walls are down around your life, enemy may tell you the task is hopeless. But, with God's help, you can rebuild the wall. *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*(PHI4:13) Be alert, set a watch over your spiritual walls. Nehemiah began with prayer. He fasted, wept, mourned, prayed night and day.(1:4) He prayed for himself, he prayed for his nation and he even confessed the sins of the forefathers who had brought destruction to Jerusalem. We as the church need of renewal by the power of the Spirit. Come and let us rebuild our crumbling walls to the glory of God.

The battle with the tongue

- 7 -

*But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*(JAM3:8) These verses reveal that although the tongue is a little member of your body, it is very powerful. Through the tongue the whole body can be defiled. The tongue can never be tamed by man. Only when you yield your tongue to God can control be maintained over it. Bible compares the tongue to: A fire, a world of iniquity, A beast that needs taming, A tree bearing either good or evil fruit, A fountain of either fresh or bitter water. Bible says the tongue is powerful because of the effect it has on others. The tongue has power to bring death or life.(PRO18:21) As effect it has on you. You can snare yourself with your own words: (PRO6:2) because your words can separate you from God: “*With our tongue we will prevail;* (PSA12:4) God hates things are done by the tongue. A lying tongue, A false witness who speaks lies,(PRO6:16-19) Your tongue is closely related to your heart, body, soul, spirit. If Satan has control of your heart, he has control of your tongue:(MAT15:18-20) Satan seeks control of your tongue by tempting you to speak. By evil communication you breach thru which Satan enters to war against your spirit. Satan uses your lips to affect your soul: Idol words:(MAT12:36) Foolish words:(PRO15:14) Filthy words:(COL3:8) Vain words:(PSA12:2) Boasting words:(JUD16) *He who guards his mouth preserves his life,*(PRO13:3;18:7) When David realized the great battle with the tongue, he cried out: *What shall be given to you, Or what shall be done to you, You false tongue?*(PSA120:3) The first step in gaining victory over the tongue is to get your heart right with God. Your mouth will speak what is in your heart. If your heart is not right, your tongue will reveal it. Recognize you will be held responsible for the words that come out of your mouth.(MAT12:36-37) You should set a good example by your conversation:(ITI4:12) Keep your words few and simple: *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*(PRO10:19;MAT5:37) *let every man be swift to hear; slow to speak, slow to wrath.*(JAM1:19)

By honestly confessing feeling of being unworthy to look upon, God sends angels to purify soul.(ISA6:7) *Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away.* With God's help, you can control the tongue. But you must take action to control your own tongue. Let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile.(IPE3:10) *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,*(COL4:6) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth. (EPH4:29) Jesus spoke gracious words: So all bare Him witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth,(LUK4:22) There was no guile found in His mouth:(IPE2:22-23) Speak words of wisdom and kindness: Learn the power of peaceful words: *Let your conversation be worthy of the gospel of Christ,*(PHI1:27) Let your lips be filled with praise to God:(PSA145:21) *Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.*(PSA19:14)

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.*(EPH5:8) Jesus as the light of this world and we walk in His light by following His principles, living in His power and growing in His grace. Let us be in peace and harmony with, a) Husbands and Wives: willingly submitting to her husband and a husband sacrificially loving his wife.(EPH5:22-33) b) Parents and Children relationship.(EPH6:1-4) c) Servants and Masters relationship.(EPH6:5-9)

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,”* To obey means to listen with the purpose of responding positively. Our obedience to our parents should be “in the Lord,” which means we can honor and serve the Lord when we obey our parents. But parents have the responsibility to teach their children in obedience, so that the child will grow up knowing how to obey God. Obedience is a right act, Honor is a right attitude.

How parents walk in the light: not provoking their children to wrath. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Parents have the opportunity to provoke their children to wrath, through an unkind, severe discipline, abuse of authority, over-critical attitude that torments the child instead of training them. This harsh kind of parenting gives an unnecessary justification to a child's natural rebellion. Train up your child with tenderness, affection, patience. Encourage and rebuke must be combined with training/teaching.

How employees walk in the light: working as servants of Jesus. Servants are to obey their masters with a sincere heart as if serving the Lord. It reminds us that our work can and should be done as if we were working for Jesus. We are not to work with eyeservice (working only when the boss is looking) or as men-pleasers (only care about pleasing man), but with good will (a good attitude, not complaining) doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men. God will return to us in the measure that we have worked hard for Master/others; He will not allow our hard work to go without reward.

How employers walk in the light: treating their workers well. Masters are to treat their servants in the same way and not threaten them. Masters are to recognize they and their servants have a common Master in heaven that judges fairly. Masters are told to do the same things to them (their employees). Even as servants are to work hard and honestly for their masters, so masters are to do the same on behalf of those who work for them. Employers to give up threatening and other forms of harsh treatment. By knowing God in heaven, who He judges without regard to wealth or position.

Is Christ divided? Harmonious relationships are result of submitting to one another in the fear of God. Unity in the church, home, society depends on harmony in our relationships, position, practice. Don't fight. No gossip, No vain glory. Solution of quarrelling: by maintain unity with one mind. do with one accord. Let's love, forgive, endure each other.

We must aware of the reality of presence of evil. We should realize that enemies are evil forces that come from powers of darkness. Since we are in a spiritual battle, we need spiritual weapons. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal (human) but mighty in God.(2CO10:3-5) Weapons mighty in God are praying in spirit, the word of God, singing hymns, praise and worship. Delegated power and authority in the Name of Jesus. When the church, stands united against evil, fully equipped with armor of God, we become challenging force to the evil one and Lord get glory for the victory. Let us unite, engage in spiritual warfare that will destroy the works of darkness. The whole armor is an expression of your trust in God what He has done for you thru Christ. Our victory in spiritual warfare was secured at the cross of Christ and the blood that was shed. The armor of God is for action we need to take in our spiritual lives that give us victory!

There is no scriptural command to "rebuke" Satan, until he is chained or bound by an angel, during the millennial reign of Christ.(REV20:1-3) Zechariah 3:2 tells us that it is the Lord who rebukes Satan. The angels Michael, rather said, "The Lord rebuke you"(JUD1:9)"*Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil/wickedness in the heavenly places*" Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm"(EPH6:10-13) The whole armor is to bring strength, stability, encouragement so you can receive all that God has for you, to overcome all evil and temptation!

How, then, do we draw near to God? His instruction continues, "Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded" We must actively seek to eliminate Satan's way of thinking and behaving from our lives. Satan, however, is so clever and powerful that no human being can successfully resist his influence—without God's help. Therefore the key to resisting the devil is to sincerely and consistently draw near and remain close to God. Here, God provides us with a defence seven spiritual armor of God. Bible tells us how to put them on and use them effectively!

**The Belt (of Truth):** "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,"(vs14) A soldier who is fully equipped with spiritual armor, belt of truth keeps secure in Christ and makes effective all the other pieces of armour. To Christian soldier a belt of truth means honesty, truthfulness, integrity, sincerity surrounds every part of our life. Truth protects from the deception of Satan which can lead to sin. You are to have your loins girt with truth. Commit yourself daily to walk in the light of God's truth. Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Psalms 86:11

**The Breastplate (of Righteousness):** "having put on the breastplate of righteousness,"(vs14) A soldier with a breastplate (chest protector), goes into battle boldly with confidence. The devil is constantly attacking with lies, accusations and reminders of past sin. Without breastplate of righteousness, these will penetrate your heart. Spiritual breastplate of righteousness refer to the covering of the righteousness of Christ.(2CO5:21) It protects from sin which leads to confusion. Live in a way honourable life to Him. How blessed are those who keep justice, who practice righteousness at all times!

**The Shoes (of Peace & Preparation):** "and having shoes your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"(vs15) Having our feet fitted with shoes of the gospel of peace indicate a readiness to advance in the spiritual realm. Spiritual shoes protect your will from the temptation of the enemy who would lead you in wrong paths. It protects from spiritual confusion which results in unbelief. They indicate your willingness to do every good work and to spread Gospel to all nations. They aid in our movement and stand against the enemy. Gospel of peace that comes from God's way of life.

**The Shield (of Faith):** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.(vs16) Your spiritual shield is called the shield of faith in order to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Realize that doubt, fear and anxiety are attacks from the enemy. Shields are used to intercept specific attacks such as arrows by means of active blocks. It is a faith that enables you to overcome the evil forces of the world.

**The Helmet (of Salvation):** "Take the helmet of salvation."(vs17) The helmet served as protection for the head, which protects from bondage. Satan's target is your mind. Satan's weapon is Lies. The enemy to make us doubt God and our salvation. The hope of salvation refers to salvation in the future tense. It is final salvation from the presence of sin when Jesus returns. Helmet of salvation represents transformed and renewed thought life for serving and pleasing God.

**The Sword (of The Spirit):** Put on "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."(vs17) The sword of the Spirit served as an offensive weapon against enemies. They can use to Satan's strongholds, arguments and thoughts are all weapons the enemy uses against us. The sword symbolizes power, protection, authority, strength, courage, it represents discernment and the penetrating power of the intellect. Jesus used the Word in defense against the attacks of Satan in the wilderness. We have been given mighty sword of the Word of God that has divine power. God's Word illuminates. It reveals to us the good and the bad, the wise and the unwise. It is free from the restraints of stumbling in darkness.

**Praying always:** with all prayer, supplication in the Spirit,(vs18) Regular prayer is essential to maintaining our nearness to God. Trust on God, be humble! Let us pray in the Spirit on all occasions, praying for the saints; be joyful and give thanks in everything. Stay alert, be persistent in prayers for all believers everywhere who struggle in the same battle. *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*(1CO15:57) Since victory is a gift from God!



*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*(EPH 6:12) A principality is the territory of a devil. Principalities are ruling devil spirits possessing executive authority rule in the world. There are evil angels ruling the kingdoms of the world that oppose the truth of God, of which Satan is the chief prince or ruler of the world system. In Mat.12:24, the devil is called "Beelzebub" meaning "the prince of demons" in which wicked spirits are subject to and operate under Satan's dominion. The idea of prince devil spirits ruling or controlling a region is supported in Daniel 10:12-13;20-21. An angel, who was sent by God to answer Daniel's prayer, was delayed for 21 days because of a battle that took place between God's angel Michael and "a prince of the kingdom of Persia." and "the prince of Greece." They are rulers of the darkness of this world. This is the kingdom of darkness that is the whole realm of satanic rule. It is Satan's purpose to deceive these nations and to keep them from obtaining a knowledge of God's truth and salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. Satan is depicted as a deceiver of nations.(REV12:9) Satan's success, in deceiving a nation, is due to a lack of discernment on the part of the people. The people are blind to the invisible forces of supernatural evil that are operating and influencing their visible human agents of political, social, religious and cultural programs. Satan's greatest victory would be to convince the world that he just doesn't exist or subtle. However, God signifies the devil as the author of sin, sickness, death and warns us to be alert and vigilant.(1PE5:8)

Our Spiritual Warfare is Against "Powers and world rulers of Darkness" Rulers to indicate top level of evil spiritual forces. Authorities refer to general forces of evil attacking believers. Powers to refer to the worldwide nature of this spiritual battle. Or powers to do something or delegated influences of control. This would include all evil powers and the power of sin and evil in operation in the world. This type of evil can be seen in drug lobbies, epidemics, terrorism, pornography and crimes. Darkness means blindness, ignorance that leads to unrighteousness and ungodliness. Rulers of the darkness of this world are lords and princes that control ignorance, blindness and ungodliness over regions as the abominations of the nations.(JOH3:19)

Our Spiritual Warfare is Against "Spiritual Wickedness in Heavenly Places" The word wickedness means depravity and particularly in the sense of malice, plots, sins, iniquity. Since Satan is the prince of the power of the air, these wicked spirits, in high places, are often understood to be the collective organization of all of Satan's devil spirits. These wicked spirits work evil and mischief and operate in our atmosphere. All kinds of spiritual filth are propagated, in these realms, for the purpose of humanity's deception and destruction. Prior to becoming a Christian we too walked according to the prince of the power of the air.(EPH2:2-3) We are delivered from the power of the prince of the air, and from the sinful nature that once ruled our path in life. When we received Holy Spirit, at the moment of our conversion to Christ, we were translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God's light, now have God in Christ in us. We are continually delivered and empowered by God as we walk according to His Word and Spirit. As we do this, we take our seat in the heavenlies with Christ.(EPH2:5-7) Jesus is called the Prince of Peace and of Life.(ISA9:6) Whose kingdom plays no part in this present world system of darkness. Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight," (JOH18:36) God's provision of escape from kingdom of darkness thru faith in Christ, the mystery of salvation is revealed to us.(1CO 2:7-10)

"Spiritual wickedness in heavenly places" emphasizes a battle beyond this world. It is referring to wicked spirits who have infiltrated the religious systems of the world. They have even crept into congregations of the righteous. Satan has organized his evil forces to imitate the true church of God. He has set up a form of worship in the spiritual high places. Satan has also prompted the organization of many cults. Cults are those who are part of the occult, those who hide and conceal evil behind the cloak of religion.(Jude 4) Satan aims for total adherence of man. He uses cults and infiltration into the Body of Christ to accomplish this purpose. From earliest times men have chosen high places for worship. These high places became scenes of evil orgies and human sacrifice connected with the worship of false gods and idols. God told Israel when they entered the Promised Land to drive out all the inhabitants of the land and destroy their high places:(NUM52) In the book of Judges, Israel's failure to drive the people out of the land. As a result, they fell into idolatrous worship in the high places. After the period of the judges, some kings of Israel destroyed the high places. King Manasseh was one who rebuilt the high places. After he had been punished and repented for this sin, he was restored to his throne and resumed worship of the true God. People continued to offer sacrifices at the high places, but only to the LORD their God.(2CH33) When Gideon was called of God to be a mighty warrior, Lord told him to destroy the altar and cut down wooden image. Then Gideon was to build an altar to God.(JUD6:26) A burnt offering could be made only after high places were torn down. It was then that deliverance came! "The Lord is with you, Mighty Warrior." God still calls today for the evil in high places to be torn down by warriors of God.

The devil controls the kingdoms of the world and we should not underestimate his influence and power. God is telling us to stand against these evil forces by equipping ourselves with the power of God and looking unto Christ as our example. And the devil, taking him(Jesus) up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world.(LUK4:5-7) Jesus resists each temptation with a quote from Scripture, refusing to rebel against the plans of God the Father. Finally, Jesus refuses to worship the devil in exchange for the kingdoms of the earth. He tells the devil to leave and holy angels come minister to Him. Christians anticipate the rapture but also Christ's earthly kingdom. When He rules the world, there will be no more crime, warfare, corruption, poverty, injustice. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign for ever and ever*(REV11:15)

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*(ACT10:38) If you are to wage effective warfare, you must learn how to deal with demonic powers that obsess, oppress, possess the body, soul, spirit. There are people who are tormented, troubled, possessed by the powers of darkness. Jesus said that the casting out of demonic powers was one of the signs that the Kingdom of God had come.(MAT12:22-30) Jesus taught about demons and how He dealt with them. Jesus ministered to all who came with demonic problems. It is example of Jesus and authority of His name provides basis for dealing with demonic powers. Opposition to God's will is Satan's main objective. The word "Satan" means adversary. Satan is primarily God's adversary (JOB1:6) He is secondarily, man's adversary.(IPE5:8) Demons of various natures operate as spirits of infirmity, seducing spirits, unclean spirits. Satan uses them to war against man in body, soul, spirit. Seducing spirits include the spirit of divination. (ACT16:16) Such spirits of divination operate in fortune tellers, witches, palm, to foretell future which is naturally unknown. Evil spirits can oppress people. To oppress means to bear down, or bind from the outside. This oppression is accomplished by evil spirits in various ways. They cause depression, create negative circumstances, and insert wrong thoughts into the mind such as thoughts of suicide, immorality, unbelief, fear, etc. Demons create circumstances. situations which tempt men to sin. Demons can possess human beings. Demon possession is a condition in which one or more evil spirits inhabit body of a human being and take complete control of their victim. A man lived Gadarene in the tombs. The demons tormented him so badly that he went around crying out, cut himself with stones and did not wear clothing. The possessed person is host to resident demons. Possessed person held responsibility with factors that led to his condition. Possession can happen unwillingly. But believers can be affected by demonic powers. It is these powers against which we wrestle. Satan uses demonic powers to attack believers from the outside through oppression. But he cannot possess the true believer. To possess indicates inside occupation. This is what happened when Peter, disciple of Jesus, was used of Satan to try to divert Jesus from suffering for the sins of all mankind. When Jesus described the suffering He was to go through, Peter said: "*Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You! Jesus said to Peter: Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.*(MAT16:22-23) Jesus did not mean Peter was actually Satan. He recognized that at that moment Peter had allowed Satan to operate through him. He was allowing Satanic spirits to influence him.(EPH4:27) If a believer continues in known, unconfessed sin, you will eventually end up in a backslidden condition.(ICO9:27) and again become part of Satan's Kingdom. It is important when you sin, immediately confess your sin and turn from unrighteousness. Demons gain control in several ways: Through generations: Demons may oppress or possess a person because of previous of parents. Through the mind: Continuing in sinful thoughts and actions can lead from oppression to possession and finally to a corrupt mind. This is a mind totally controlled by evil thoughts. Demons gain access thru addiction to drugs, alcohol. Through sinful actions: Sinful thoughts are soon fulfilled by sinful actions. For example, thought of adultery is fulfilled in the actual act of adultery. Sin is rebellion, and rebellious thoughts and actions provides an entry point for demonic activity. Dealing with demonic powers is for all believers who would have the ability to overcome demonic powers: *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons;*(MAR16:17) Jesus has given His followers the ability to deal with demonic powers. He first delegated such power to the disciples: *And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*(MAT10:1;10:8) It is important that believers do not become overly demon conscious. You are not to fear demonic powers. To overcome demonic powers it is important to be able to recognize their presence and tactics. The Holy Spirit has provided a special spiritual gift for this purpose. This gift is called discerning of spirits.(ICO12:10) To discern means distinction between and identify evil spirits. This gift permits believer to discern the spirits operating in others. It prevents deception by lying spirits. Spiritual realm-problems related to sin. These require spiritual healing(salvation, repentance, forgiveness of sin) When a woman of Canaan came to Jesus with an appeal that He cast out an unclean spirit from her daughter, she said *Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.*"(MAT15:22) How did she know this? She knew it by symptoms. This young girl had an unclean spirit which her mother recognized by outward manifestations of the spirit. A woman who Jesus relieved of a spirit of infirmity was bound physically. Chronic sickness may be demonic oppression. Are you mature enough in the Lord? Jesus warned, whom He never knew.(MAT7:21-23;ACT19:13-16) Freely you have received, freely give. Christians who have knowledge of scripture to do battle with your spiritual enemy can cast out demons in His name. Be prepared to do so! Fast and pray before you go to minister deliverance. Since power, authority for deliverance comes from God. We have the Holy Spirit in us, that is the reason we can set people free. Any deliverance must be done according to guidelines found in the Scripture. Christ and His apostles are our example. Jesus sent out His disciples in pairs for this ministry. Do not make a show of such ministry and try to attract crowds with it. Lord may direct you to delay until further instruction is given, i.e., they may need to deal with a sin problem. Bible tells us to try the spirits. In cases of supposed demon activity, Lordship of Christ is what should be emphasized. Since the Bible teaches that Christ has achieved victory over Satan and his forces, believers should stand upon that truth, and not be afraid of demonic manifestations. Christ should be Magnified/Glorified as Lord. Do not attempt to cast demons into Hell. The demons recognized Jesus and asked if He had come to torment them before their time. There is a set time for final judgment of demons in the future, to the lake of fire.(Hell)

Pray the prayer of deliverance

- 11 -

Pray a prayer of deliverance which focuses on specific problem of demonic influence which you have identified. Just as salvation is based on condition of faith, so is deliverance. God wants to deliver, just as He wants to save. Jesus commanded you to do so just as He told you to spread the Gospel. Jesus gave His disciples authority and power over all demons. *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.* (LUK10:19) All the evil in the world, including death, sickness, demonic oppression is the work of Satan and demons, i.e. "snakes and scorpions." all the power of the enemy indicate. They bluster and rage in order to terrify the people of the world and sow fear and doubt, but the truth is that the least in the Kingdom of God has authority to "trample on them." Jesus gives us assurance that He has given us the power to overcome all the power of the enemy and nothing shall harm us. Jesus taught that first you should bind the enemy, then you can exercise power over him: (MAT12:29) If demonic powers are binding in oppression, pray for their hold to be loosed and their powers to be bound. Jesus loosed the woman in synagogue from the spirit of infirmity. She was oppressed, casting out was not necessary. In cases of demon possession, you have the authority to cast demons out in the name of Jesus. Faith, fasting, and prayer are necessary to cast out demons. (MAT17:14-21) The Word of God; the blood of Jesus and the infilling power of the Holy Spirit are tools for deliverance God has given you. Holy Spirit will direct you in prayer of deliverance. This establishes power base for deliverance. Here is a sample prayer:- *"In the name of Jesus Christ and on the basis of the authority of His power, His Word, His blood, and the Holy Spirit ....."* *"...I bind you....."* (Jesus taught to bind the strong man first before attempting to cast him out) *".....and I command you"* (Ministering deliverance is a prayer of authority. You can speak quietly, but you must take authority over the forces of evil in the name of Jesus. Look directly into the eyes of the person as you speak.) *"...the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_"* (if the spirit has been identified either through spiritual discernment, then name it specifically; otherwise, generally) *"...to depart"* (this is casting out process) *"...without harming \_\_\_\_\_"* (name of person being delivered), or anyone in this house, and without creating noise or disturbance" (Sometimes the demon will try to harm the person or create disturbance.) *"...I forbid you to reenter this person"* *"...and I loose the Holy Spirit to fill of this person with the cleansing, delivering power of the blood of Jesus."* Always forbid the demons to reenter. This is part of prayer of deliverance: *When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"* (MAR9:25) Jesus rebuked demons and told them to be quiet. (LUK4:34-35) We are told to loose as well as bind. If you have identified a specific spirit at work, loose the opposite spirit. For example, bind spirit of pride and lose spirit of humility. Prayer for those affected by demons can be done with or without laying on of hands. Jesus used laying on of hands to minister to the woman oppressed with spirit of infirmity. (LUK13:11-13) she was made straight and glorified God. In other cases, He did not lay on hands but rebuked the demons. (LUK9:42) Any conversation with demons is dangerous because there are lying spirits. Praise God for the answer: Follow prayer with praise to God for deliverance. Believe He has done what He said He would do. Thank Him for it. After deliverance, those who have been possessed by demons should be led in a prayer of confession, repentance, and renouncing any sins or involvements connected with the demonic activities. If the person has any occult items should be destroyed. Jesus taught that the departure of evil spirits leaves an empty place. There is danger of a demon returning to his former victim accompanied by worse spirits: (LUK11:24-26) The spiritual "house" must be filled by the new birth experience and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Follow up counseling and ministry is necessary. The person should be immersed in the Word of God and prayer and become part of a community of believers. Those experiencing deliverance from demonic powers also should be encouraged to give their testimony. Jesus told the demoniac of Gadarene: (MAR5:19-20) There are specific ways to protect yourself from activities of demonic powers. The most important protection is to receive Jesus Christ as Savior because demons cannot possess a true born-again believer. Keep yourself from sin, for through sin you "give place to the Devil." Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Demonic spirits and the spirit of God cannot inhabit the same spiritual vessel. Avoid an obsessive interest in demons. Avoid any contact with occult. Do not consult witches, astrologers, horoscopes. Do not serve false gods or allow idols to come into your home: (Deu.7:25-26) It is important to control your mind, your tongue, and select your associates carefully. It is also important to gain victory over the world and the flesh. The leaders of the church are responsible when an attack from the enemy comes to use the "rod of God" to defend God's people. In Matthew 18:18, Jesus says, *"Whatever we bind on earth, will be bound in heaven and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.* We exercise that same power according to the Word of God, we stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might with the whole armor of God. In the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and in His name, we stand against the wiles of the devil; all principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places. How great is our God who not only gives us authority but also the power to carry out His will. At the command of Jesus the disciples had performed miracles. Jesus confirmed their miracles by saying: *"I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning"* (LUK10:18) The miracles of the disciples were an assault against the power of the devil. The Messiah, who was to bruise the head of the serpent, had come. The disciples performed their miracles in His name. The miracles were proof of Jesus' victory. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. The sting of death has been abolished because Christ has atoned for our sins. God has promised us, death will be defeated forever at the rapture, that the resurrection from the dead, when the last trumpet blasts and Christ returns for those who belong to Him.

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*(2TI4:7) You have studied many strategies for spiritual warfare and you will advance to spiritual fight in the strength and power of God. But some time you may face failure. Do not be discouraged. Some of mighty men of God faced similar situations, but went on to win the war.

Joshua was to lead Israel across the Jordan River to claim their promised land. One of the warriors of Israel sinned by taking spoil from the enemy, something God had forbidden. Because there was sin in the camp, Israel lost the battle at Ai.(JOS7) King David lost a battle when the evil Amalekites invaded southern portion of his kingdom and burned the city of Ziklag. They took the women captive, including David's wives. David's friends were upset with him, they threatened to stone him to death. David was greatly distressed and discouraged.(ISA30:1-6) A wicked queen Jezebel sent a messenger to prophet Elijah informing him she was planning to kill him.(IKI19:4) Here was the great man of God who had healed the sick and did miracles in the name of the Lord. Now he was hiding, fearful, hopeless, and wanting to die.

As you engage in spiritual warfare, you too may experience a loss. But although you lose a battle with the enemy, it does not mean you have lost the war. Each of these men lost a battle, but recovered to win the war. It is possible to recover from snare of enemy when you lose a battle:(2TI 2:26) Recover means to awake or arouse yourself. A snare is a hidden trap. They may recover indicates you must take steps. Step One: Recognize your failure: Joshua recognized and admitted the failure at Ai.(JOS7:8) David admitted failure in the incident with Bathsheba. I have sinned against the Lord.(2SA12:13) Elijah admitted failure. He said: It is enough: now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.(IKI19:4) Step Two: Repent: You must ask God to forgive you: David repented of his sin with Bathsheba.Ps52 Joshua and the people repented before God. Elijah repented. He admitted he was no better than his sinful ancestors.

Step Three: Rebuild: When you have experienced failure in spiritual warfare you must rebuild your spiritual strength. Joshua waited before the Lord in prayer to regain spiritual strength before returning to the battlefield. He prayed to discover the reason for failure and receive guidance for corrective actions.(v.6-15) David then asked God if he should go and fight. He kept seeking God's guidance in what to do. David "*encouraged himself in the Lord*" before returning to battlefield.(ISA30:6) Elijah rested, ministered by an angel, waited on a mountain until receiving strength of God's power. Ask God to reveal causes for failure you experienced and what to do to correct situation. Spend time in prayer/fasting. One of the principles of warfare applies to the spiritual realm: "Do not stop fighting just because you are wounded!"

Step Four: Return to the battlefield: One of strategies of enemy is to tempt you to give up when you have lost a spiritual battle. It is true that the Holy Spirit will convict you when you fail, there is a difference between condemnation of the enemy and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit always singles out a specific sin while condemnation of Satan is generalized. "You are so weak. You will never be able to make it as a Christian. You are no good." Do not listen to the enemy. Acknowledge your failure, repent before God, recognize that *therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.*(ROM8:1) Joshua continued military campaigns in the Promised Land with great success. He returned to Ai and conquered forces which had caused his defeat. After the loss at Ziklag, David returned to battlefield to great victory. He recovered all the enemy had taken from him: *And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away.*(ISA30:18-19) Elijah recovered from his dejection, returned to spiritual battle, and performed the greatest miracles in his ministry. We are troubled on every side, but not destroyed.(2CO4:8-9) Instead of giving up battle, Paul learned from failure and went on to victory. God has "Delivered"(In the past)"Does deliver"(In the present) "Will yet deliver"(In the future)(2CO1:10) If you learn how to win the war, you will be able to say "*I have fought a good fight.*"

*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*(MAT24:21) Bible tells of a terrible time on earth which is called tribulation during which spiritual forces of evil will be more active in the history of the world.(REV13:16:13-14) Antichrist a great deceiver, dictator and a living devil will be revealed. They will do signs, wonders, deceive many. He will blaspheme, exalt himself above all, persecute God's people. He will sit in the temple, displaying himself as being God, demands the worship. They will be issued a number, mark of the Beast. The tribulation will last for 1,260 days.(DAN9:24-27) There are a series of judgments from God which will come on the earth during tribulation period. Seven judgments come the antichrist, false prophet and inhabitants of the earth, which take the form of plagues. That the world must be punished for sin and rejection of God. At the end of great tribulation, Christ will return with His saints (raptured believers) *Behold, the Lord comes with His holy ones.*(JUD14:REV19:14) His feet will stand upon Mount of Olives to deliver the Israel. He will defeat antichrist and all his forces in the battle of Armageddon. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom.(ISA9:7) During the start of Millennial period, Satan and his evil forces will be bound a thousand years.(REV20:2-3) After that he must be loosed a little season. And the final conflict with Satan will occur on earth.(REV19:20) Satan goes out again to deceive the nations. Finally rebellion against Lord Jesus in the battle of Gog/Magog at the end-millennium but God will send fire from Heaven and end all opposition of the forces of evil, consumed them in a moment.(EZE38:2,22;REV20:7-9)The reason for final battle is that Satan at last be defeated and Jesus acknowledged as Lord of all. This completes God's plan of the ages:(EPH1:9-10) *Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*(PSA24:8)