

9



SPIRITUAL WARFARE



9



How not to Battle

1

Do not underestimate the devil.

2

Do not overestimate the devil.

3

Do not neglect your personal life.

4

Do not ignore the enemy within.

5

Do not attempt to bind Satan.

6

Do not practise unapostolic acts.

7

Do not be interested in extra-Biblical revelations.

8

Do not get overexcited about demon-casting.

9

Do not fight alone.

10

Do not be self-confident.



How not to Battle

Introduction

- Christian life is a “fight” from beginning to end —
 - Col 1:13 ... *from the power of darkness ...*
into the Kingdom of the Son ...
 - Paul at the end of his life —
2 Tim 4:7 ... *I have fought ... finished ...*
 - Christ’s final word to each of the seven Churches—
Rev 2 & 3 ... *He who overcomes ...*
(2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21)

- As we come to the end of the age,
the battle gets intensified —
Rev 12:12b ... *devil ... short time ... great wrath*

The devil’s primary work is “*deceiving*” (v9)

This is how he is introduced right from the beginning
(Gen 3:1) ... *cunning ...*

In spiritual warfare,
he prompts God’s people to adopt unscriptural methods —
ineffective methods — so he would win.

- There’s always a conflict between the “*Spirit of Truth*”
and the “*spirit of error*” —

1 Jn 4:6

The Holy Spirit is the “*Spirit of Truth*” (Jn 16:13)

All Scripture is thro’ His inspiration (2 Pet 1:20,21)

Anything extra-Biblical is from the “*spirit of error*” (1 Cor 4:6)

We can overcome the attacks of the “spirit of error” only when we obey the “Spirit of Truth” —

Rom 16:17-20 ... *deceive ... obedience ... crush Satan ...*

The very first weapon in the spiritual armour is the “*Belt of Truth*” (Eph 6:14); the last in the list is the “*Sword of the Spirit,*” the *Word of God* —

this means, all the weapons are sandwiched by the “*Word of Truth.*”

Nothing more, nothing less!

Neither to the left nor to the right!

- Jesus did not argue with the devil;
He simply quoted *what is “written!”*
Mt 4:1-10

The devil will keep on “changing” his tactics;
we cannot outwit him if we leave out the “unchanging”
Word of God.

When we exceed the Biblical limits,
the devil is only too glad,
because we become vulnerable to his attacks —

Eccl 10:8b ... *breaks ... wall ... bitten by serpent*

How not to Battle

1. Do not underestimate the devil.

- The first lesson to be learnt in war —
“Know your enemy!”
- What is the devil?
According to Jesus □ **Ruler** of this world (Jn 14:30)
According to Paul □ **Prince** of the power of the air (Eph 2:2)
□ **God** of this age (2 Cor 4:4)

Attested by John towards the end of his life —

1 Jn 5:19 ... (a) *We know we are of God,*
AND (b) *the whole world...wicked one*

As much as we know fact (a)
we must know fact (b) also!

- What are the devil’s characteristics?
 - Wisdom & Beauty
Ezek 28:12,13 — This passage speaks of the fall of
the proud King of Tyre.
Prophet Ezekiel likens it to the fall of Satan.
 - a) “*perfect*” in beauty — not relative in beauty ...
unlike Miss World/Universe
Satan is Mr. Universe! —absolute beauty!
 - b) “*full*” of wisdom — That’s why *most cunning* (Gen 3:1)
He is a master schemer —
2 Cor 2:11b ... *not ignorant of his devices*

His craftiness is unparalleled —

2 Cor 11:3 ... *as the serpent deceived Eve ...*

He is so clever that you cannot easily identify him—

2 Cor 11:14 ... *transforms into angel of light ...*

□ Strength

Mk 5:1-4 ... breaking shackles “*into pieces*”

Acts 19:14-16 ... overpowering 7 youngsters

Today sportspersons take drugs for extra strength.

Samson had unusual strength when the Spirit of God came on him.

Satan can work unusually when he works thro’ human beings!

□ Miracle-power

2 Thess 2:9 ... *power ... signs ... lying wonders ...*

— (Ex 7&8) / Egyptian magicians by their enchantments were able to turn their rods into serpents.

Though Aaron’s rod swallowed them all, the fact remains that miracles are possible by demonic powers also.

— When Aaron stretched his rod over the waters of rivers and pools in Egypt, it became blood.

The Egyptian magicians also could do it.

— Aaron stretched out his hand on the waters of Egypt; frogs came up and covered the land.

The magicians also could do it.

Beyond this they could not duplicate it;

but is it a small thing to perform the above miracles?

□ Undivided Kingdom

This is a testimony given by Jesus Himself:

Mt 12:26 ... *not divided ... stand ...*

Think of the tremendous power Satan has
in that he has a Kingdom in tact!

His Kingdom also well-organised —

Eph 6:12 ... *principalities ... powers ... rulers ... armies ...*

How are they able to stay united like this?

They are united in their “purpose”

2 Thess 2:4 ... *To oppose God* and usurp Him!

Another aspect in which we must not underestimate Satan—

□ His experience

Over 6000 years of tempting man,
beginning with our first parents ...

Satan has had experience with —

Patriarchs like Job

Kings like David

Prophets like Jonah

Apostles like Simon Peter

Couples like Ananiah & Sapphira

He tempted Jesus “*in all points!*” (Heb 4:15)

With his experience with Jesus,

he must have learnt “how not to tempt!”

— Before his fall, Satan was one of the mighty angels of God;
as such he is well aware of how God and His angels would
operate!

— It’s to point out all these experiences of Satan he is called
“*that OLD serpent*” (Rev 12:9).

And he is referred to as

“the serpent who deceived EVE” (2 Cor 11:3)

i.e. to point out his long experience!

□ His hyperactiveness

1 Pet 5:8 ... *roaming about ... roaring*

Job 2:2 ... *going to and fro on earth*

Mt 12:43 ... *goes through dry places*

Lk 4:13 ... left Jesus only to come back

at *“an opportune time”*

How not to Battle

2. Do not overestimate the devil.

- In the previous chapter we studied that we must not “underestimate” the devil.
Now we will look at the other side.

- Satan is only a “created” being —

Ezek 28:15 ... *the day you were created ...*

Gen 3:1 ... The serpent was “*formed by God*”

God created angels/hosts of heaven —

Psa 148:2-5 ... *He commanded ... they were created ...*

When Satan rebelled against God,
a host of angels joined him; they are the evil spirits.

Because Satan is “created” being,

he is inferior to the “Creator” God!

He is mighty, but not Almighty!

Unlike God, he has limitations.

That’s why,

“*He who is in you ... greater*” (1 Jn 4:4)

Context: “*false prophets*” (v1)

“*spirit of Antichrist*” (v3)

Addressed to “*little children!*”

Not referring to age,

but in order to encourage us

lest we become timid when threatened!

Christ is the “stronger” man —
Lk 11:20-22

- Satan is actually in his descent —
 - Dethroned from Heaven
Ezek 28:16,17 ... *you sinned... I cast you to the ground*
 - Defeated by Christ in His life
Jn 14:30 ... *ruler of this world ... has nothing in Me*
 - Disarmed by Christ on the Cross
Col 2:15 ... *disarmed principalities and powers ...*
 - Detained for 1000 years in chains
Rev 20:1-3 ... *bound for one thousand years ...*
 - Doomed for eternal fire
Mt 25:41 ... *everlasting fire prepared for the devil*He is a DEFEATED Foe!
- What we need is actually an eyeopening —
 - eg) Elisha prayed for his servant—
2 Ki 6:15-17 ... *“chariots” vs. “chariots of fire!”*
 - eg) Paul prayed for the saints—
Eph 1:18-21 ... *eyes of understanding ... enlightened*
- We must *keep the “Lord” always before our eyes;*
not thinking about Satan —
 - Acts 2:25-27 ... *That’s victory over Hades!*
 - 12 spies to Canaan
10 spies ... *giants ... grasshoppers* (Num 13:33)
2 spies ... *“they are bread for us!”* (14:9)
 - Israelites were terrified at the sight of Jericho;
but the Jerichoites were afraid of the Israelites!

Confession of Rahab (Josh 2:9) ... *terror of you ... on us*

Yes, the devil is afraid of us!

Martin Luther: “One little WORD can fell Satan;
that WORD is Christ!”

- Even when Satan attacks us, he can do only as much as God lets him do —

Job 1:12; 2:6

- A hymn by Martin Luther (1483-1546):

*And were this world all devils o'er,
And watching to devour us,
We lay it not to heart so sore;
Not they can overpower us.
And let the prince of ill
Look grim as e'er he will,
He harms us not a whit;
For why? his doom is writ;
A word shall quickly slay him!*

How not to Battle

3. Do not neglect your personal life.

- Our spiritual warfare is against the archenemy of God; as such there must be nothing in our life that displeases God or pleases Satan!

There are two names given to the armour of God —

a) *Armour of **Light***

Rom 13:12-14 ... *not revelry ... licentiousness*

Compare Eph 5:11 ... *works of darkness*

Demons are *rulers of darkness* (Eph 6:12)

b) *Armour of **Righteousness***

2 Cor 6:7 ... *“on the right hand and on the left”*

i.e. an all-out righteousness

Unrighteousness opposed to God’s Kingdom

(1 Cor 6:9)

No compromise between righteousness

and unrighteousness (2 Cor 6:14)

We may talk about the *belt, breastplate, shield, sword, shoes*, etc...But these are effective only to the extent we walk in the *light* and in *righteousness*.

Unfortunately in the Spiritual Warfare Seminars, there’s more talk on “power” than on “purity”

— This gives the devil an advantage.

a) What is a life in the light?

= walking in transparency before God (1 Jn 1:7-9)

When we cover our sins,
Satan can accuse us before God.

When we open them up before God,
He covers them by Christ's blood.
Satan cannot then accuse us!

b) What is a life of righteousness?

Not sinlessness, but submission to God

Rom 10:3 ... *ignorant of God's righteousness*

... *not submitted to it ...*

Satan opposes exercises unto godliness (Zech 3:1-5)

■ See how righteous living leads to victory —

□ Js 4:7 ... *submit to God ... resist the devil*

□ Rom 16:19,20 ... *your obedience ... crush Satan*

□ Psa 81:13,14 ... *My people ... listen to Me ... subdue enemies*

□ Mt 8:8,9 ... *Centurion ... authority ... Word*

But Acts 19:13,16... 7 sons of Scava the High Priest —

Religion but no righteousness

The devil cannot disobey a man who does not disobey God!

Therefore, the devil could not ever disobey Jesus!

The testimony of Jesus:

Jn 14:30 ... *he has nothing in Me ...*

■ Satan takes advantage (foothold) of us

if we harbour/give place to —

□ anger

Eph 4:26,27 ... *angry ... give place to devil ...*

□ unforgiveness

2 Cor 2:10,11 ... *forgive ... lest Satan takes advantage*

□ worries

1 Pet 5:7-9 ... *cares ... adversary the devil ...*

- The devil is a “*thief*” (Jn 10:10)
He comes to “*steal*” our holiness,
“*kill*” our godliness,
and “*destroy*” our righteousness.

Be vigilant to overcome his temptations.

- A hymn by H.R. Palmer (1834-1907):
*Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin,
Each victory will help you some other to win;
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue,
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through!*

(See also Pages 267-269, 540-542, 778-780)

How not to Battle

4. Do not ignore the enemy within.

- We cannot attack the external enemy successfully **unless** we have tackled the internal enemies —

Prov 25:28 ... *no rule over his own spirit*
... *city without walls*

This was Paul's personal testimony:

1 Cor 9:26b,27 ... *"I fight ... I discipline..."*

- Two internal battles —

a) Battle in the flesh

Rom 7:22-24 ... *law in the mind x law in the body*
A captivity!

Only a free man can fight the enemy;
a captive cannot!

Apostle Paul states the same truth elsewhere —

Gal 5:17 ... *"flesh" vs. "spirit"*

Several believers live in guilt and condemnation all their life, because they do not understand what victory over flesh means—

It is **not** eradication but emancipation!

Emancipation: Rom 7:24/8:2 ... *body of death ... free ...*

Not eradication: 1 Jn 1:8,9 ... *If we say ... we have no sin*

How?

(a) *Reckon* (consider) *your old man dead* (Rom 6:11)

i.e. Keep saying "no" to *former lusts* (v12)

(b) *Present your organs alive to God* (v13)

How? Similar to how you had yielded to unrighteousness
(v19)

hands ... legs ... lips ... ears ... one by one.

(c) Strengthen your “*spirit*” against the “*flesh*”

By watchful prayer

Mt 26:41 ... *willing spirit ... weak flesh*

(d) Cultivate the “*fruit of the Spirit*”

to overcome the “*works of the flesh*”

Gal 5:19-21 vs. 22-23

The guarantee:

v16 ... *you shall not fulfill the lust*

— The Promise:

Rom 6:14 ... “*Sin shall not have dominion...*”

i.e. you will have the power to say “no” to sin!

The next internal battle —

b) Battle in the mind

True religion resides in the mind.

That’s why,

Rom 12:2 ... *renewing of mind ... good & acceptable will*

The war is not **mainly** against the flesh,

but against the mind—

2 Cor 10:3,5 ... *arguments ... thoughts*

Say “no” to evil thoughts by cultivating noble thinking —

Phil 4:8 ... *noble ... pure ... lovely ... meditate*

Filter out dirty and vain thoughts!

You cannot prevent eagles flying over your head;
you can prevent them building nests on your head!

We cannot **think** as the worldly people **think** —
Eph 4:17 ... *Gentiles ... futility of their mind*

- These two — lustful flesh and carnal mind —
are the major internal enemies we must first overcome
(Eph 2:3)

Once this is done,
we are better prepared within to fight the enemy without!

- A challenge:

“How can you pull down the strongholds of Satan
If you don’t even have the strength to turn off
your TV?”

— *Leonard Ravenhill*

How not to Battle

5. Do not attempt to bind Satan.

- We very often hear preachers and people saying,
“I/we bind you, Satan!”

There are two reasons why we must not attempt to bind Satan—

- a) The Bible does not permit us to do it.

The Bible teaches us —

We can “*resist*” the devil (Js 4:7)

We can “*cast him out*” (Mt 10:1,8)

We must refuse to “*give place*” to him (Eph 4:27)

We must be “*vigilant*” against him (1 Pet 5:8)

but NEVER once to “bind” him.

(If you bind him, he cannot flee from you;
you will have to carry him away!)

Second reason —

- b) God’s purpose is that Satan must be free today
until he is bound during the Millennium

Rev 20:1-3 ... *an angel... great chain... bound...*

1000 years

Even after Millennium he will be free for a “*little while*” (v3c)

We must be content with this **direct** and **consistent** and **explicit** teaching of the Scriptures. Other passages must be interpreted only in the light of this **plain** teaching —

- eg) □ Mt 16:19 ... *whatever you bind on earth ...*

Understand the context:

- What Jesus gave Peter was not a chain but **“keys.”**
- They were the keys of the *“Kingdom of Heaven”*

They mean two things —

- a) Peter was the first one to **open** the Kingdom to the Jews (at Pentecost) Acts 2
Samaritans (Samaria — Prayed for the Holy Spirit) Acts 8
Gentiles (Cornelius) Acts 10
This is in contrast to the Scribes & Pharisees who shut the Kingdom—
neither they entered nor let others enter! (Mt 23:13)

- b) This also speaks of the authority of the Church in matters of discipline.

See Mt 18:17-20 ... *Church ... bind ... loose*

“Binding & loosing” are judicial terms of that day, meaning “convict” or “acquit.”

In other words, what the Church decides will be endorsed in Heaven.

- Then, what about *“binding the strong man?”*

Mt 12:28,29 ... *unless he first binds ...*

This was in defence of the accusation of Pharisees. Jesus acknowledges that the devil is *“strong”* (v29), but He Himself is *“stronger”* (Lk 11:21,22).

The Gospel is the *“power of God”* to release (*save*) folks from captivity— (Rom 1:16)

- In the same way,

- Don't try to **banish** Satan.

Don't ask any evil spirit,

“Will you go to the bottomless pit?”

Satan is a liar — He can tell 1000 lies!
Jesus never sent the evil spirits to the bottomless pit;
only once He specified where to go —
that too into “swine!” (Mk 5:10-13)

Only **after** Millennium,
Satan will be cast into the *bottomless pit* (Rev 20:7,10)

- Don't try to **burn** Satan.
This will be done by Christ at His coming
2 Thess 2:8 ... “*with the breath of His nostril ...*”
If God has no use for Satan and his angels,
He would have fried them long long ago!
- Don't **blaspheme/curse** Satan.
Even *angels do not bring accusation ...* 2 Pet 2:10b,11
Even Michael ... *dared not bring accusation ...* Jude 8-10

Do not attempt to
bind, banish, burn or blaspheme Satan.

(See also Pages 89-91, 714-716)

How not to Battle

6. Do not practise unapostolic acts.

- Once people were denying the very existence of demonic spirits;
but now they have swung to the other extreme:
 - excessive interest in demons
 - preoccupation with demonology than theology
- Some of the unapostolic acts in practice today —

(a) Warfare Prayer

i.e. focussing prayers on Satan rather than on God

A wrong quote:

Daniel — The answer to his prayer was delayed
by 21 days

Prevented by the Prince of Persia (Dan 10:13)

Daniel did not pray:

“O Prince of Persia, Come down!”

Rather he kept on praying to God —

9:19 ... *O Lord ... O Lord ... O Lord ...*

10:12 ... *before your God ...*

Similarly, the early Church did not pray to bring down

Herod & Pilate

Rather, they acknowledged God’s sovereignty

and prayed TO Him for boldness —

Acts 4:24,29 ... *voice to God ... grant boldness*

Then how about “*speaking to the mountain?*”

(Mt 17:20; 21:21)

“Moving the mountain” is just a Jewish metaphor
to stress the “impossible” nature of the issue —
eg) *Though mountains depart, My kindness...peace!* (Isa 54:10)

Another unapostolic practice —

(b) Prayer Walks

The first lesson Jesus taught on Prayer was
“to pray in secret” (Mt 6:5,6)

Pray in secret; preach in public (Mt 10:27)

E.M. Bounds: The secret of prayer is praying in secret!

The believers did not go on a prayer march
around the prison walls when Peter was imprisoned—
Acts 12:5,12,17

To pray for Delhi you don't need to go to Delhi;
pray from where you are;
because distance does not matter to God (Jer 23:23)

The Jericho march not meant to teach any lesson on prayer.

It was just to test people's obedience.

They were simply shouting, not praying or praising.

It was for destruction, not salvation (Josh 6)

- The promise of land in the OT to Israel has only spiritual or typical significance to Christians, and not physical or geographical.

(c) Spiritual Mapping

People try to locate and identify which spirit is active
and where, and wage war against it.

There's no such teaching anywhere in the Bible.

Rather, the Bible says —

“the whole world ... sway ... wicked one” (1 Jn 5:19)

i.e. There's no place on earth where there's no demonic influence.

We are to simply "*preach*" everywhere —
eg) Paul in Athens (Acts 17)

He did not wage war against the gods and goddesses of Athens—

Instead he "*preached*" to the people
and "*reasoned*" with them — Acts 17:16,17

He preached a "long" sermon (vv 22-33)

We have to simply preach Christ so the *light of the Gospel*
may open the blinded eyes of people (2 Cor 4:3,4,5)

The spiritual warfare prayer of Ephesians 6 was for
"*boldness to preach*" (vv 19,20)

(d) Prophetic Acts

Breaking of idol models, mosque models,
tearing of veils, etc.

This will only provoke non-Christians.

This is paganism and rowdyism.

Similarly, burning of flags and effigies.

God has not called us to break idols,

but bring people from idolotary

to the Living God who cannot be made with hands

(1 Thess 1:9).

Opposition to the Gospel will always be there,

but we must not lose "*favour with the people*" (Acts 2:47a).

That's the secret of Church growth (v47b)

How not to Battle

7. Do not be interested in extra-Biblical revelations.

- We have often stated that —

The Bible is not only “supreme;”
it’s also “sufficient!”

What’s written is sufficient for our “life on earth”
which is a preparation for “life in eternity” (Jn 20:30,31)

This knowledge and conviction will keep us safe
and secure and successful in spiritual warfare.

- Suddenly people come up with new revelations,
and they call them as “mysteries.”

There are only two great mysteries —

- *Mystery of Godliness* (1 Tim 3:16)

It’s all about the life, death & resurrection of Christ.
The historical record by the four Evangelists
(Matthew, Mark, Luke & John),
and the doctrinal interpretation
by the NT apostles & prophets are more than sufficient.

Next is —

- *Mystery of lawlessness* (2 Thess 2:7)

This is about Antichrist and his agents.
Enough has already been revealed to us now—

Context: vv 5-8

- The other mysteries are —
 - *Mysteries of the Kingdom*
 - Explained by Christ thro' parables
 - eg) Mt 13
 - *Mystery of the Gospel* (Eph 6:19)
 - *Mystery concerning the salvation of Gentiles and Israel* (Rom 11:25; Col 1:26,27)
 - *Mystery of the union of Christ and the Church* (Eph 5:32)
 - *Mystery of Second Coming* (1 Cor 15:51,52)
 - We shall be changed in the “*twinkling of an eye!*”

- Do not probe into whatever is not clearly/explicitly taught in the Bible — Dt 29:29 ... *secret things ... belong to God*
 - Especially,
 - beware of digging into the “*mystery of lawlessness*”
 - which will end up in the “*depths of Satan*” —
 - Rev 2:24

Not knowing the depths of Satan is a qualification to become overcomers (vv 25-27)!

- There's a revival of cults —
 - Folks are attracted towards Satan's Church & Satan worship
 - Prediction — Rev 2:9 ... *Synagogue of Satan*
 - 3:9 ... *Synagogue of Satan*
 - Apparently they may not look evil but they are deceptive —
 - 2 Cor 11:14,15 ... *angel of light*
 - ... *ministers of righteousness*
 - (Recollect what we studied about *armour of light* and *armour of righteousness* in Lesson 3).

i.e. Hate all works of darkness.
Walk in practical righteousness.
This alone is safety.

- In spiritual warfare,
defence is more important than offence
eg) Eph 6:13-17

Weapons for defence: (five)

Belt of Truth

Breastplate of Righteousness

Shoes of Peace

Shield of Faith

Helmet of Salvation

Weapon for offence: (only one)

Sword of the Spirit

How not to Battle

8. Do not get overexcited about demon-casting.

- Lk 10:17-20 ... *do not rejoice that the spirits obey you, but over your names written in Heaven.*

In other words, Jesus wanted them to rejoice over the cause than over the effect—

Why the devil must obey us —

a) We are the children of God.

Lk 10:20 ... *Names written in Heaven*

Jn 1:12 ... *“Authority” to be children of God*

Authority vs. Power

All believers have equal authority though their gifts of power may vary.

How do we get this authority? —

First, it's given to Christ —

Lk 10:22 ... *all things delivered to Me ...*

Mt 28:18 ... *all authority given to Me ...*

Next, Christ gives it to His disciples —

First, to the 12 — Mt 10:1

Then, to the 70 — Lk 10:1

Then, to all of us believers —

Mk 16:17 ... *those who believe ... in My Name ...*

Demon-casting is **not** a gift —

it's not in any gift list!

Miracles & healings are in the lists,

but not demon-casting! (1 Cor 12:7-11)

It's the rightful ministry of **every** believer.

Next reason, why the devil must obey us —

b) We have the Word of God.

Mt 8:16 ... *He cast out spirits by the Word ...*

The Sword of the Spirit is for every believer

Eph 6:10 ... *My brothers ...*

:17 ... *Sword of the Spirit*

Psa 149:5,8,9 ... *two-edged sword ... all His saints*

(Though this passage is about our future reign with Christ.)

c) We are *Ambassadors for Christ* (2 Cor 5:20)

We represent the Kingdom of God.

The kingdom of Satan must bow before

the Kingdom of God.

That's why, Lk 11:20 ... *Finger of God ... Kingdom of God*

"Stronger" man (vv 21,22)

Ours is more than "super" power

— "supra" power!

— Mt 10:7 ... *Preach ... **Kingdom***

:8 ... *Cast out demons*

Because of these reasons, the devil must obey us.

Don't be overexcited when demons obey you;

be surprised only if they don't!

- Instead of exercising such spiritual authority,
don't resort to physical force on the demon-possessed—
 - pulling hair ...
 - being rough ...
 - pouring oil into eyes...

- pushing the candidate on the forehead...
- “blessed” water to drink ...
- searching for metal sheets, etc.

Do not get angry with the candidates.

Already he is tortured by the demons —

eg) Mk 5:5 ... *cutting with stones*

- Also, do not talk too much to demons —

Lk 4:41 ... *Jesus didn't allow them to speak*

Acts 16:17,18 ... *Apostles "greatly annoyed"*

eg) An outstanding healing evangelist in India was deceived as he spent too much time talking to the demons after his crusade meetings.

- Do not exhaust your energy with demons.

They know how to drain you!

Evangelism more important than exorcism.

"Preach ... and then ... cast out" (Mt 10:7,8)

Don't lose the priority!

How not to Battle

9. Do not fight alone.

- Eccl 4:9,12a ... *though one may be overpowered,
two can withstand him ...*

The Scripture abounds with passages

which emphasize this truth—

- One oft-repeated name of Jehovah —
“Lord of Hosts” (Armies)
Look at the plurality.
- When and why did God give Eve to Adam?
 - a) Gen 2:16-18 ... Immediately after giving him
the Commandment
 - b) To assist him in fighting the Tempter
(not primarily to keep him from adultery
— There was no other woman!)
- Joshua against the 5 Kings of Amorites — Josh 10:5
“Joshua AND all the people”
vv 7,29,31,34,36,38
- Arithmetics defeated!
Lev 26:8 ... 5 chase 100
100 chase 10,000; not just 2000!
- Joab & Abishai
1 Chr 19:10-13 ... *too strong for me ... for you ... help*
We all have our strengths and weaknesses
- 70 Disciples sent as two by two Lk 10:1
“They” returned ... demons subject to “us” (v17)

- How Jesus sought the company of
His disciples though they were weak!
“Hour of Power of Darkness” (Lk 22:53b)
He appreciated them that they were with Him
in His *“trials”* — (v28)
- *Gates of Hell shall not prevail against the “Church”*
(Mt 16:18)
- One reason why we don’t see large-scale manifestation
of God’s power is that we love to play solo —
On the other hand,
Peter **and** John — *“look at **us!**”* (Acts 3:4)
Paul **and** Barnabas (Acts 14)
- We must seek the help of other brothers and sisters
when we go thro’ fierce battles in our lives.
Also, when we see someone struggling,
we must not be just onlookers —we must involve —
Come out of your comfort zone! (Num 32:6,7)
That’s why the Bible says —
Encourage one another... (1 Thess 5:11)
Pray for one another... (Js 5:16)
*“Deliver **us** from the evil one!”* (Mt 6:13)
“If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it”
Body concept (1 Cor 12:26)
eg) An infection in the finger affects the whole body
- Satan and his Kingdom are not divided;
only an undivided Church can defeat him! (Mt 12:25,26)

(See also Pages 59-61, 303-306, 380-384, 517-519, 546-549,
642-646)

How not to Battle

10. Do not be self-confident.

- Even though we are to wage a good warfare as “soldiers,”
ultimately “*the battle is **not** ours, but the Lord’s!*”

This truth is repeated simply too often in the Scriptures:
Two outstanding examples —

- 2 Chr 20:1 ... The enemies
:12 ... Jehoshaphat’s prayer
:15 ... Prophecy thro’ Jahaziel
- 1 Sam 17 ... David & Goliath
:26b ... *uncircumcised... Armies...
of the Living God*
:35 ... **I** killed the lion and the bear
:37 ... **The Lord** who delivered me ...
:45 ... *you come with spear ...
I in the Name of the Lord!*
:47 ... The battle is the Lord’s!
- Other references:
Ex 14:14; Dt 1:30; 3:22; Josh 10:14,42;
23:3,10; 2 Chr 20:29; 32:8; Psa 24:8; Zac 14:3

- This does not mean we can be casual or careless—
Prov 21:31 ... *horse prepared ... but victory ... Lord*
Neh 4:14 ... “*you*” fight ...
:17 ... *one hand trowel ... another hand sword*
:20 ... “*Our God*” will fight!

In other words,

Without us God WILL NOT;
Without God we CANNOT!

- The human tendency is to depend more on ourselves than on God—

That's why,

Psa 147:10,11 ... *strength of horse ... legs of a man*

Zech 4:6,7 ... *might ... power ... Spirit ... Lord of **HOSTS***

"Grace ... Grace!"

David's mistake: Numbering the people (1 Chr 21:1-3,7)

Calculating human strength

- The spiritual warfare passage calls us to "STAND" —

Eph 6:13,14

This is what Moses told the people

when the Egyptians came chasing them—

Ex 14:13 ... *stand still and see ... salvation*

The Christian is not struggling towards a possible victory,

but he proceeds from a victory already won!

That's why: *Be of good cheer; I've overcome the **WORLD!***

(Jn 16:33b)

What is this "world?" (1 Jn 2:16)

"Lust of the flesh"

"Lust of the eyes"

"Pride of life"

The 3 chief enemies of God's people

The 3-fold temptation to Eve

The 3 temptations in the wilderness to Jesus

- What about "sorcery" & "divination?"

The apostles encountered these powers in their ministries.

Acts 8:9-24; 13:6-11

We have this promise:

Num 23:23 ... *no sorcery against Jacob ...*
... *no divination against Israel ...*
... *what GOD has done!*

We are of "God" ... Hence the victory (1 Jn 4:4)

Yes, do not be self-confident!

■ Worship the "*Lord of Hosts.*"

Whenever God's people felt threatened,
He reminded them, thro' His prophets,
of His Name — "*Lord of Hosts (Armies)*"

eg) Jeremiah — 88 times
Zechariah — 55 times
Malachi — 25 times
Haggai — 14 times

■ A hymn by Charles Wesley (1707-1788):

*Stand then in His great might,
with all His strength endued,
And take, to arm you for the fight
the panoply of God;
That having all things done,
and all your conflicts past,
Ye may overcome thru Christ alone
and stand entire at last!*