

Standing Under Attack

Ephesians 6:10-12

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In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... (2 Timothy 2:3)

Christians need God's power and provisions to stand against Satan's schemes.

I. God's children have powerful, personal enemies. (v. 12)

a) The world.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world... (Ephesians 2:1-2a)

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

b) Our flesh.

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. (Ephesians 2:3a)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. (Galatians 5:16-17)

c) The devil and his demons.

[you also followed the ways] ... of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. (Ephesians 2:2b)

The great dragon... that **ancient serpent** called the **devil**, or **Satan**, who leads the whole world astray... (Revelation 12:9)

...**the accuser** of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night (Revelation 12:11)

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **The tempter** came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” (Matthew 4:1-3)

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**. (John 8:44)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around **like a roaring lion** looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

And no wonder, for **Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light**. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. (2 Corinthian 11:14-15)

How you have fallen from heaven,
 shining one, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
 you who once laid low the nations!
You said in your heart,
 “I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
 above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
 on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
 I will make myself like the Most High.”
But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
 to the depths of the pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15)

Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. (Revelation 12:4a)

...seated [Jesus] at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:20b-21)

But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. (Daniel 10:13 – NIV)

But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me... (Daniel 10:13 – NLT)

d) Two Dangers: when we discuss this topic

1) Disbelief

2) Preoccupation

II. God shares His strength with His children. (v. 10)

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21)

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience... (Colossians 1:9-11)

But [God] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

[Jesus] has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (1 Peter 3:22)

III. God provides protection for His children. (v. 11a)

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

IV. God's provisions will enable His children to withstand the cunning trickery of the devil. (v. 11b)

When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong. (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

...the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes. (Ephesians 4:14b)

Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.
Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land. (Psalms 37:7-9)