

The Battle for Your Life 1.2

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I would not call myself a runner, but I do enjoy running a couple of miles on the treadmill each week. I believe it's good for my health, and I can tell a big difference when I'm not able to run due to a busy schedule or other occasional interruptions to my routine. However, running is not for everyone. Many say to me, "If you see me running, look behind me because someone or something is after me."

Well, truth is, we all have one who is after us, and his intentions aren't good. He's our number one, most powerful antagonist. Every struggle we face has his fingerprints all over it. He is our greatest enemy, yet most have the practice of running toward him instead of away. His status, according to the bible is "the god of this age" who has blinded the hearts of men. Meaning: we are in terrible danger and don't even know it.

The villain of which I speak is the devil. This villain is not a fictional character my friend, he is real and a very present danger. He is very active in this world and all that's taking place. He is a spiritual being with the ability to affect the hearts and minds of men. He is

"The spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience." (Eph 2:2)

The Enemy's Objective:

John 10:10 (NASB95)

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

The Thief.

The thief has no good will for the sheep. He is purposed to steal, kill, and destroy the sheep. Author and theologian, R.E. Neighbor writes,

The thief comes to enrich himself by the slaughter of the sheep. He comes to disrupt the sheepfold. He stands for Satan and Satan's hordes. Satan goeth about to seek whom he may destroy. His works are all for the undoing of mankind. He comes to take away peace from the earth. He stands for all that separates from God, and life, and light. He is the author of death and despair.

He comes to steal.

The enemy seeks to take away or keep from the sheep all that the good shepherd has for them.

He is purposed to steal peace from the earth and from the life of every individual. He accomplishes this through the spirit of divisiveness.

James 3:14–16 (NASB95)

*But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart,
do not be arrogant and lie against the truth.*

*This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*

He comes to kill.

Our battle with the enemy is a battle for our life.

His supreme goal is the taking of life; physical and spiritual. The bible speaks to his power over death. His power of temptation and his cunning lies led man into his sin trap. Consequently, death passed upon all men for all have sinned against God.

John 8:44 (NASB95)

"He was a murderer from the beginning." (Jesus, Christ)

He comes to destroy.

Ultimately, the enemy desires to destroy all things ordained by God.

- The order of society - 1 Tim. 2:2; Rom. 13:1-10
- The culture - Romans 1:18-32; psalm 9:17-20
- The family – Eph 5:27, 6:1-4; Josh. 24:15; 1 Tim. 5:8

All things that pertain to peace and life

This world needs a savior! Our nation needs a savior! We need a Savior! I need a savior!

The Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd is all about the sheep. His purpose is to restore life to the sheep and to fill their life to the fullest. He came to seek and to save the lost; to bring lost sheep into his fold or under his care.

The Sheepfold.

The sheepfold was a rock wall enclosure of loosely stacked stones, and this provided protection against "thieves and robbers". The enclosure also provided protection from wolves and other animals of prey. The enclosure also contained the door of the sheepfold, an opening for the sheep to come in and go out.

Jesus said, I am the door. If he is the door, then we can rest assured that nothing enters our life without His knowledge. Jesus said, "My sheep hear his voice and will not listen to another!" They are many voices bidding for our hearing.

- False doctrines and teachings
- The counsel of the ungodly
- The voice of discouragers; accusers; insulters
- The voice of insecurity
- The voice of fear

Jesus said of the enemy that he does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (Jn. 8:44)

John 10:10, 27-29 (NASB95)

*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me,
and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish;
and no one will snatch them out of My hand.
My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all;
and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

They are many battles that we all must face; battles we could never win on our own. We must stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might!

Psalms 23:1-6 (NASB95)

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You have anointed my head with oil, My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*