

Christian Combat: Know Your Enemy!

Ephesians 6:11

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*

NVI - *"Pónganse toda la armadura de Dios para que puedan hacer frente a las artimañas del diablo."*

NLT - *"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."*

AMP - *"Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil."*

On July 21st, 1861 the people of Prince William County in Virginia, gathered on the hillsides with picnic baskets, lawn blankets, and parasol umbrellas, while enjoying the summer breeze and beautiful wild flowers that covered the country side. Men, women, and even little children had gathered for some exciting entertainment that afternoon. Buggies full of excited spectators traveled the few miles from the state capital to "watch the fireworks" - a skirmish between the Yankees soldiers and the Rebels from the south.

You see, this day became known as the "First Battle of Bull Run" and marked the beginning of the Civil War. But as the 36,000 soldiers confronted each other that day in Virginia, the atmosphere quickly changed from one of delight and entertainment, to a house of horrors, full of screams, pain,

and the gruesome reality of death. No one that day had truly anticipated the horrors of war. By evening time, thousands of wounded and injured men, were moaning and screaming for help, and hundreds of soldiers lay dead upon the battlefield. For the next four years, the hell of war engulfed our country.

Today, as Christians, we are at war!! This is the bold declaration of the Scriptures. But some Christians are acting just like the naive people on that summer day in 1861 - they are oblivious to the real nature of this spiritual war, and they are ignorant of how dangerous, and even deadly, this cosmic conflict really is.

It is called "Spiritual Warfare" or "Christian Combat" and it is no picnic! Know it or not, like it or not, you and I are operating in the midst of a war-zone, and we we are in the battle for our lives! You were born in a war-zone; and created in conflict; and birthed on a battlefield!

The pages of the New Testament constantly declare that the Christian's life is all about being a faithful soldier, and a courageous combatant. Christ is our great King and Commander, and our life is our about faithfully serving Him, fighting the good fight, waging a good war, and wrestling against a fierce and deadly enemy! Read the NEWSPAPER...Look at your NEIGHBORHOOD...and gaze into your own HEART... and you will see war raging all around and with us!!

- "The art of war is is vital importance..it is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin. Therefore, under no circumstances can it be neglected." - Sun Tzu
- "If you know your enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. But if you know yourself and not the enemy, for every victory gained,

you will also suffer a defeat." - Sun Tzu

- *"There are 2 kinds of information that no military commander can afford to be without - information on the terrain where the battle will be fought, and more importantly, the information pertaining to the enemy forces - combat intelligence." - Matthew Ridgeway*
- *In the Revolutionary War, the British underestimated the patriots.*
- *During the Vietnam War, the US often didn't know the Viet Cong.*
- *In Afghanistan, the Russians never understood the mujahideen.*
- *Now in the War on Terror, we still underestimate Islamic jihadists.*
- *But in our "Christian Combat", the life of spiritual warfare that a believer is engaged in... do we not know OUR enemy, are we ignorant of the creature that the Scriptures call the devil?!?"*

Here, in Eph [6:11](#), the word for "*wiles*" is the original Greek word "*μεθοδεία*" or "*methodeia*" which means "*methods, schemes, plans, or strategies*"

- I. Satan's Strategy of **DESTRUCTION!**
- II. Satan's Strategy of **DENUNCIATION!**
- III. Satan's Strategy of **DELUSION!**
- IV. Satan's Strategy of **DECEPTION!**

- I. Satan's Strategy of **DESTRUCTION!**

- *"Any blow, to be successful, must be sudden and hard!" - Gen. Robert Lee*
- *"Hit hard, hit fast, and hit often!" - Gen. Omar Bradley*

- *"The art of war is simple. Find out where your enemy is. Attack him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving!" - Gen Ulysses Grant*
- John 10:10 - *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*
- Job 1:6-21 - *"So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided them and took them away - indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord."*

- One of Satan's main strategies is *PHYSICAL PERSECUTION!*
 - Acts 4 - James martyred
 - Acts 6 - Stephen martyred
 - Peter, Timothy, Luke, Paul....*Read "Fox's Book of Martyrs"*
 - *"The essence of war is violence. Moderation in war is imbecility!" British Admiral Fisher*

- *20th century has been the bloodiest century of Christian persecution:*
 - From Jesus' days (32AD) to 313AD - *5,400* Christians killed
 - From 313AD to 1900AD - *14,500* Christians killed (300%)
 - From 1900 AD to 2017 - Over *455,000* Christians killed (3,000%)
 - *1* Christians is killed every *11 minutes*
 - Every month, *322* Christians are killed
 - Every month, *214* Churches/Property are destroyed
 - Every month, *772* forms of violence are committed (beatings, rapes, arrests,...)

- *"The Devil takes no Holiday; he never rests. If beaten he rises again. If he cannot enter in the front, he steals in thru the rear. If he cannot enter at the rear, he breaks through the roof or enters by tunneling under the doorway. He labors until He is in. He uses great cunning and many different schemes. When one fails, he has another at hand and continues his attempts until he wins." - Swindoll*

- WHAT IS *THE COUNTERMEASURE* FOR THIS STRATEGY OF SATAN?!?

The comfort of God's Spirit and the power of His Presence!

Acts 1:8 - *"..you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.."*

John 14:16-18 - *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."*

"The second attack on a target, should always be from a totally different direction." - Comm. Hirshfield

II. Satan's Strategy of DENUNCIATION!

- "devil" - This is the Greek word "διάβολος" or "diabolos" meaning "a false accuser, or slanderer".
 - *"To fight and conquer in all your battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemies resistance without fighting." - Sun Tzu*
 - *"A battle is lost less to the loss of men, then by discouragement." – Frederick the Great*
 - *"You cannot expect a soldier to be a proud soldier, if you humiliate him. You cannot expect him to be brave, if you abuse and cower him. You cannot expect him to be strong, if you break him." - General Delos Emmons*
- Zech 3:1-5 - *"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the*

LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by."

- #1. We see that Satan is a "prosecuting attorney" against humanity.
- #2. Christ is our Great "Defense Attorney" before the Father!
 - 1Jn 2:1 - "..if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous."
 - Rev 12:10-11 - "..the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

- WHAT IS **THE COUNTERMEASURE** FOR THIS STRATEGY OF SATAN?!?

- The comfort of God's Word and the power of His Love!
 - Rom 8:1
 - Jer 31:3, 34
 - Lam 3:23

III. Satan's Strategy of **DELUSION!**

- "In starting in waging a war, it is not right that matters, but

victory." – Adolf Hitler

- [Isa 14:12-14](#) - *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."*
- [Eze 28:13-17](#) - *"You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers... You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. You became filled with violence within, And you sinned... Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.."*

A Lion... 1 Pet 5:7

A Dragon... Rev 12:3

A Destroyer... Rev 9:12

- WHAT IS **THE COUNTERMEASURE** FOR THIS STRATEGY OF SATAN?!?
 - The light of [God's Word](#) and the power of [Humility!](#)
 - [Phil 2:5-9](#) - *"Let this mind be in you, which also in Christ Jesus...He humbled himself.."*
 - [1 Pet 5:5-9](#) - *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble...humble yourselves.."*

IV. Satan's Strategy of **DECEPTION!**

- *"The first casualty when war comes, is truth." – Sen.*

Johnson

- *Invasion of Normandy...*
- *Invasion of Iraq...*
- One of satan's main strategies is DECEPTION!!
 - Gen 3:1-5 NLT - *"The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."*
 - *"In my days in Southeast Asia, I saw a woman who was so demonized she literally was held by a chain. She had collar around her neck. Her nails had grown long and she howled at night like an animal. She had the wildest look in her eyes you could imagine. She also had incredible strength. On one occasion she got loose in the streets of Naha, a city in Okinawa. It took four policemen with all the strength they could muster to get her into the police vehicle, and back on her leash!" - Swindoll*
- His DECEPTION takes many forms today:
 - Intellectual deception... "There's no evidence for God!" (Rom 1:20)
 - Moral deception... "God doesn't care about this!"

([Rom 6:23](#))

- [Spiritual](#) deception... "Everyone will go to Heaven!"
([Heb 9:22](#))
- [Emotional](#) deception... "God could never love me!"
([Rom 5:8](#))

• WHAT IS **THE COUNTERMEASURE** FOR THIS STRATEGY OF SATAN?!?

- The light of [God's Word](#) and the power of [Truth!](#)
 - [John 8:31-32](#)
 - [Psalm 119:105](#)
 - [Jer 23:29](#)

[Eph 6:17](#)