

The Battlefield

September 30, 2026

BATTLE READY

Craig Smith • The Battlefield • October 4, 2026

If you are a Christian, you are being hunted...

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Pet. 5:8)

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail." (Luke 22:31-32a)

The devil's playbook to take you down...

- **Pleasure (distorted appetite)** - *"The tempter came to Him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'" (Matt. 4:3)*

- **Position (distorted identity)** - *"'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down.' For it is written: 'He will command His angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" (Matt. 4:6)*

- **Possession (distorted wants)** - *"Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'" (Matt. 4:8-9)*

Battling the work of the tempter...

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God

cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone... (James 1:13)

- **Discern his lies** – “He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (**Gen. 3:1b**)

- **Identify your vulnerabilities** – “...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.” (**James 1:14**)

- **Roll the story forward** – “Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full- grown, gives birth to death.” (**James 1:15**)

Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted. (Heb. 2:18)

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. (1 John 3:8b)