***Fighting Satan and Sin***

Think for a moment about being thrust into a “fight” without being prepared. Imagine yourself suddenly being plopped into a war zone in your pajamas and slippers with no weapon, ammunition, or supplies- just you alone on the battlefield with professional soldiers all around you. You have no maps or other intelligence reports that tell you where you are, but can see the enemy all around you. What are your chances of survival, let alone success?

Or, which one of us would be willing to step into the boxing ring with a professional fighter with no real training, preparation, or experience? And yet we think we can “beat” Satan with little more than a desire to win and half-hearted flurries from time to time.

Understand a few of things:

* We are in a war/fight for our eternal destinies, Matt.10:34; Eph.6:10-12.
* Satan is a *professional-* not some rank amateur, John 8:43-45. He lies, cheats, steals, and murders; he has been doing so since the beginning of time, and is an *expert assassin.*
* We cannot be a pacifists in this fight and survive- just “agreeing to disagree” with him won’t cut it. There are no “peace treaties” that can be made (or will be kept if made). We can’t just “claim victory” by saying what we’re doing is right when it isn’t either, Isa.5:20-21.
* Nor can we expect to win this battle if *unprepared* to fight for our lives- because that is exactly what is at stake. This is no *pillow fight,* andthere are no “Marquess of Queensberry Rules” to make it a fair fight either!

So what do we do?

**I. Know Your Enemy:**

**A. Satan**

1. Don’t underestimate him. He is a master at what he does. He lies, cheats, steals, and murders, and there is nothing that he won’t do to win, cf. 2Cor.11:3,14; Eph.2:2; Col.1:13. He will lie to you about God and His character, Gen.3. He will attempt to convince you that God either doesn’t really care about you, or that God has given up on you. He will implant doubts in your mind about your position and fellowship with God.
2. He already has defeated and occupies the rest of the world, and can (and will) focus all his attention and efforts on the faithful, and those seeking to become such, 1John 5:19.
3. He will ruthlessly use each and every opportunity you give him against you, cf. Matt.4:1-3ff; 13:21-22. He will deprive you reason and freedom in order to defeat and enslave.

**B. Self**

In most cases, or at least often, we are our own worst enemies. How so?

1. In our pride, we think we’re in control and can “play” with Satan and sin and “manage” them without any ill effects. Such is self-deception, Gal.6:7-8.
2. We convince ourselves that what is actually “wrong” is OK for us, or at least is justified in our case, Prov.16:2.
3. We refuse to admit our *captivity* to Satan and sin, John 8:31-34.
4. We can’t win a battle that we don’t even know we must fight- let alone not knowing *how* to fight it. So, we wind up *aiding/abetting* Satan to defeat us, Rom.13:13-14.

**II. How to Fight.**

**A. Cut Satan’s *supply lines.***

1. Stop deceiving yourself about sin or its “lack of effect” on you, 1Cor.10:12-13.
2. Stop allowing Satan to deceive you about:
3. God’s love and care for you, Rom.5:8.
4. The “glories” of this world, 1John 2:15-17.
5. Stop keeping your *“man of sin”* on life support, Rom.8:12-13. Such makes it easy for Satan.
6. Stop isolating yourself from God and brethren who want you to win. Christians who seek to stand alone are easy targets for Satan. Embrace your *fellow soldiers;* fight *with* them, and fight *for* them also, Eph.4:14-16.

**B. Get tough and fight!**

When we stop making excuses for ourselves, and justifying our failures, we can roll up our sleeves and get with it. You can’t “stay clean” in this fight, you’re going to have to “get dirty”! This isn’t an electronic *push button* war, it is hand-to-hand combat! You have tools- Eph.6:10-18, use them!

1. You have *armor* to protect you, vv.13-17a; and
2. You have a *sword* with which to fight, v.17b.
3. You also have *heir-support,* v.18a!
4. To these add *vigilance* and *perseverance,* v.18b.

**III. Conclusion**

You can overcome Satan and sin because Jesus paved the way, Heb.2:10; 12:2 (*archegos-* not a *writer,* but one who *goes first* to *pave the way;* a *captain* who *leads* by *example*). Without His love, grace, mercy, and sacrifice, we would have no hope. But through them, and His conquering of sin and Satan, victory can be ours if will get busy and fight, 1Cor.15:55-58.