

War Between Flesh and Spirit

By: Keith Greer

"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:23-25)

Living in an ungodly world, with evil influences all around us, Christians must constantly live in state of "readiness." The battle between the "flesh" and the "spirit" is not a mythical one—it is very real! Satan continues his onslaught against the souls of men especially those who part of the family of God.



"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." (1 Peter 5:8,9) Satan is relentless in his pursuit of souls. He has only one aim—the eternal destruction of our soul!

How much power does Satan have in this warfare? Only what we will give him! *"Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."* (2 Corinthians 2:11) God limited the ability Satan has in this warfare. How? First, he told of his character and what his aim is. *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."* (John 8:44)

There is no truth in Satan. He will lie, deceive, mislead, make false promises, and hide his real intentions. Man is many times overtaken by this adversary because they underestimate his relentless attack against our soul.

God also told us what we need is our warfare to combat this formable foe. *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Ephesians 6:11-13)

God has always promised that we will have way to escape the temptation Satan's places before us. *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Christians will have to fight *"the good fight of faith,"* (1 Timothy 6:12). This war never ends until we draw our last breath in this life. Yet, we can engage the enemy with full confidence that we will come out victorious in the battle. Dear reader, if you're not fighting the good fight—Satan has already won the battle!