

Christian Doctrine

Angels (Part 6)

Thoughts Concerning Spiritual Warfare

The Christian and Spiritual Warfare

Christians must understand not only the reality of the spiritual world, but also the reality of spiritual warfare.

Satan's goal in relation to Christians is to:

- Tempt us to sin (Gen. 3:4-5; I John 2:15-17). Note how he tempted Jesus (Matt. 4:3-10).
- Oppose us in our walk with Christ (I Thess. 2:18; Rev. 2:10).
- Ruin our testimony and keep us from living a life pleasing to God (I Pet. 5:8).

Keys to Victory over Satan

- Be aware of the enemy (II Cor. 2:11).
 - Know that Satan is the master of deceit, appearing as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:13-15).
 - Know he will do whatever he can to accomplish his goals.
- Put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18).
 - This armor equips us to handle the attacks of the devil.
 - Use all that we have available in Christ. In Him we have all we need to have victory (Rom. 13:14).
- Submit to God and draw near to Him (James 4:7-10).
 - We must submit to God by doing what He wants us to do, and also draw near to Him by believing and obeying His Word. Clinging to God's Word and using His truth to combat the devil is exactly what Jesus did (Matt. 4:3-10).
 - If you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).
- Resist the devil (I Pet. 5:8-9; James 4:7)
 - I Peter 5:7 tells us to cast all our anxiety on God. This helps us to be prepared to resist (stand against or oppose) the devil and his temptations. We must "resist him in the faith." Just as we put our trust in Christ for salvation, we are to put our trust in Christ daily for victory.
 - James 4:7 says the devil knows he can't have victory over anyone relying on Christ's strength, so he will "flee."

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