

## The Invisible Spiritual War We Encounter Every Day

Unfortunately, many Christians deny the existence of Satan. This is a profoundly misguided belief, obscuring the very real and perilous invisible spiritual battle that exists around us. Satan is intent on obstructing, harming, and destroying God's image in us, while also causing chaos and disruption in our lives. It's crucial to recognize that spiritual warfare is a genuine phenomenon. Lucifer, the name Satan bore before his fall, was originally created as a holy angel. **Ezekiel 28:12-14** describes Satan as having been created as an anointed cherub, apparently the highest of all created angels. He grew arrogant about his beauty and status and decided he wanted to sit on a throne above God's. (**Isaiah 14:13-14; Ezekiel 28:15**). Satan's pride caused his downfall, leading God to expel Satan from his exalted position permanently. If pride is strong enough to destroy one of the mightiest and wisest beings, how much more cautious should we humans be about living apart from the Lord? This may come as a big surprise to many, but we are in a spiritual war zone, and this battle is happening in our hearts and minds, growing more intense as our culture and the world around us change. Satan has many names in the Bible. He's called the deceiver, the murderer, the tempter, the destroyer, the liar, the accuser of the brethren, and the evil one, among others. Peter pronounces, **1 Peter 5:8**: *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* What is more, the Bible tells us we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against Satan and his evil spirits, **Ephesians 6:12**: *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."* Did you know Satan has an organizational chart? Rulers are the top leaders, powers make up the staff, world forces of this darkness are divisional commanders, and spiritual hosts of wickedness are the rank-and-file devils. Our enemies are not people. We need to accept that. We think our enemy is a person. No, our enemy isn't a person. Our enemy is the evil force that influences a person to do things they shouldn't do. Satan uses people to persecute us, lie to us, cheat us, hurt us, and sometimes even kill us. Our real enemy lurks in the shadows of the unseen world, constantly influencing the behavior of people. As Christians, we belong to the Lord, and we should be aware that once we become Christians, we become targets. We don't escape spiritual warfare simply because we choose not to believe it, or because we refuse to fight it. It's there whether we like it or not, believe it or not, or attempt to do anything about it or not. The phrase *"full armor of God"* comes from **Ephesians 6:13-17**, and Paul tells us that the conflict with Satan is spiritual, and therefore, no physical weapons can be effectively used against him and his demons. We are not given a specific list of tactics that Satan will use. However, the passage clearly states that if we follow all the instructions faithfully, we will be able to stand and achieve victory, regardless of Satan's strategy. We will detail the *full armor of God* in next week's devotional.