

Spiritual warfare is a reality in the life of every Christian. As we read last week we have been given armour by God to be able to stand in the day of battle; we’re not defenceless but have spiritual protection in place. Coming straight out of church (the Palace Beautiful), Christian comes into an all out attack with Apollyon, who according to Revelation 9:11 is a subordinate of satan; *“And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.”*

The first assaults of Apollyon are like a mind game; to reason with him, to cause him to doubt, to lie to him, to negotiate with him, to condemn him, to contradict his new belief with rational discussions. It’s like the analogy we’ve heard of a bird flying around someone’s head and although it’s distracting and irritating, you don’t want it to and make a nest on your head! All kinds of thoughts (thousands of them daily) fly through our mind, but they can only gain control over us if we start meditating on them and welcome them in...to build a nest.

- Apollyon mocks Christians being one of his former subjects and concludes that he still belongs to him. But the Word of God says in [John 10:28-29](#); *“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”*
- Apollyon tries to seduce Christian to come back, saying his wages will be better and his duties easier. The only wage satan gives is death as we read in [Romans 6:23](#); *“For the wages of sin is **death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
- Apollyon is condescending on those who have backslidden and infers that Christian will do the same. Although this may be true, when you truly know Jesus, His love and forgiveness, you will say like Peter did in [John 6:66-68](#); *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life**.’”*
- Apollyon lies saying that there is no reward in serving his new Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus says in [Matthew 16:26](#); *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* We’ve often heard the statement, “he/she sold his soul to the devil.” This is truer than what we’d care to imagine. Many a person has done this to achieve power, notoriety, fame and fortune. They may have it all in this world...but their ultimate reward if there is no repentance is death, eternal separation from our loving heavenly Father. [I Peter 1:6-7](#) also says; *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* Read also [II Thessalonians 1:4-10](#)
- Apollyon trudges up Christians past failures, shortcomings, discouragements, fears and more since he has become born again. He hurls accusations to taunt him. The Bible says in [Revelation 12:10-11](#); *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.’”* As Christian, when we know we sin, [I John 1:8-10](#) says; *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

When these assaults seem to not dissuade Christian, an all out battle occurs as we see Apollyon’s fury against Jesus. Don’t consider it a light matter that your adversary, the devil, wants to take you out. It’s very real, there is a real spiritual warfare going on for your soul. The battle is intense with Christian as we read, but I’d like to highlight just one of the weapons in particular; it’s the sword. What is the sword that Christian uses? [Hebrews 4:12](#) says; *“For the **word** of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any **two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* The sword is the Bible, the word of God!

All of the armour is defensive except for the sword which is offensive. You can be in battle all day, standing, dodging darts and words, watching them bounce off of you, but the battle is ultimately only won when you go on the offensive with the sword, which is the Bible, the word of God. That's how Christian defeats Apollyon. When Jesus was tempted by satan after he had fasted for 40 days and nights in the wilderness, Jesus quoted from the Bible saying; "it is written"([Matthew 4:1-11](#)). If that's what Jesus did....how much more as Christians do we have to use the word!

How well do you know your sword – the Bible? How tightly to you hold on it? Can it easily be knocked out of your hand or have you loosened your grip on it? Do you read it and meditate on it regularly/daily or is it something that you only pick up once a week, once a month or less? Have you been worn down by the warfare in your mind that you haven't meditated on the Bible and have hence become weak and have lost your hold on it? Have you lost the conviction of the power that's in the Bible? It's no wonder it's been taken out of our schools and government. Its offensive in every sense of the word, the devil hates it! If you identify with this then I'd like to encourage you, as Christian did, to regain your love for the Bible, go offensive with it and boldly speak it out loud as the fiery darts are flung at you. The spoken word will cause the adversary to flee in terror as it says in [James 4:7](#). You don't need to sit back and take the adversary's assaults on your mind and life or run and hide from them. Find verses in the Bible that pertains to your battle and boldly speak them out loud and say; IT IS WRITTEN and watch your adversary flee in terror! Give thanks then to your heavenly Father for the victory won and be refreshed by taking communion, because as often as you do you bring to remembrance all that Jesus has done for you at the cross.

