

HP1-Know Your Enemy

One of the most memorable scenes in a war movie is George C. Scott as General George Patton standing on a hill looking down on the remnants of Rommel's Afrika Korps. Rommel had earned the nickname the "Desert Fox" as he won battle after battle in North Africa. Until Rommel faced Patton at the battle of El Alamein, he had destroyed the Allied forces like a roaring lion devouring every Allied tank. Patton smashed the fabled Afrika Korps and looking down on the battlefield said "Rommel, You magnificent bastard, I read your book" Patton knew what to expect from his enemy, Rommel, because he studied Rommel's book on tank warfare. We can take a lesson from Patton because we too face an adversary who wishes to devour us. And like Patton we can read about satan's tactics. The bible is full of evidence about how satan plans to attack. Here are but a few verses:

He is your adversary: **1 Peter 5:8** "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

He is a murderer: **John 8:44** "You are of your father the devil and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

He is a tempter: **James 1:13-15** "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

He is a thief: **John 10:10** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

He is an outcast: **John 12:31** "Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out."

He is a liar and so are his minions. We must discern our teachers so we do not fall under false teaching. **2 Peter 2:1** “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”

He is bold- He even tried to deceive Jesus. **Matthew 4:8** “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.”

He is a deceiver-**2 Corinthians 11:14** “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light”

So, we know the devil is our adversary who wants to murder, tempt, steal, lie and deceive us into following him on a pathway of destruction. As an outcast from Heaven he has a grudge against all Christians because he was cast out of the brotherhood. And he was bold enough to try and tempt Christ so we know he will try to deceive us. You are now well equipped to face the devil. Like Jesus all you have to do is cast him out in the name of Jesus. The devil must respond to Jesus’ commands.

James 4:7 provides the solution whenever we are confronted by the Devil: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” It is not complicated. Jesus has power over the devil and Jesus will cast him out whenever you call on Jesus to do so for you!

Personal Reflection:

How well do you understand the devil’s attempt to mess with you? Where are you vulnerable? Who can come alongside you and help you strengthen your defenses? What’s the condition of your Armor of God?

Group Discussion:

Share where the Devil has attempted to get footholds in your life.

Share who “has your back” when you battle with evil?