



Main Text: 1 Peter 5:8—(8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Introduction: If you are like most people, you find yourself asking, “What is going on in this world? What is happening?!” Many people are living on edge?! Just cutting another driver off in traffic, can easily result in a fist fight or a shooting! Peaceful gatherings erupt into attacks against anyone in the vicinity, even innocent bystanders! People have little patience for the young, the old, or the disabled! Why is all this happening, you ask? Where is it all coming from?! Are the politicians at fault; the religious community, conservatives, or liberals? What? The answer is, all these things are a result of Satan’s exploitation of man’s sinful nature, and his desire to destroy as many souls as he can. Satan’s last-days campaign is in high gear. His time is short, and he knows it. That also means our time is short. Jesus is soon to come! The apostle Peter warned the first Christians to be on the lookout for the devil, who prowls around like a lion looking for souls to destroy. All human beings, saved or unsaved, are fair game. Our only hope is to be anchored in Jesus; to be serious-minded and vigilant, and resist the devil. Otherwise, Satan will continue to deceive us into believing that our neighbor; our spouse, or any other person is our enemy, when He alone is our enemy.

What We Need to Know About the Devil:

- **The Devil is Real! Luke 10:18--** [18](#) And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Note: The first thing we must acknowledge is the existence of the devil. There are people who refuse to believe the devil exists! People even believe the world will get better because of man’s knowledge and advances in science, technology, and medicine. But what does the word of God teach? We should believe the word of God because the word of God is “truth” (John 17:17). Jesus said He “beheld,” that is, He saw Satan fall from heaven like a streak of lightening. If Christ witnessed the devil’s expulsion from heaven, then the devil is no imaginary being. He is real, and he is here in the earth, with us. Believing or pretending that the devil is a figment of our imaginations or simply a character of Christian folk lore is to put ourselves at a disadvantage at discerning and resisting his attacks.

- **The Devil is Our Enemy: 1 Peter 5:8**—(8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Note: The Bible clearly teaches that the devil is our adversary. The Greek word for adversary is “antidikos” (an-tidy-ee-kos), meaning opponent, or Satan. An opponent is an enemy, a rival, or a challenger. Satan, the devil, is our enemy and our opponent—nothing or no one else! He is not only the enemy of born-again believers, but of sinners as well! Peter told the saints, “...your brethren that are in the world” suffer the same afflictions! The unsaved and saved experience the same trouble because they have the same enemy—the devil! The devil wants to kill both. He wants to kill the unsaved before they come into the light of truth; and the born-again believer so that they abandon the truth. If humankind could ever get the revelation that we all have the same enemy, we would be well on our way to joining forces against the devil instead of allowing him to pit us against one another.

- **The Devil is a Murderer and the Father of Lies: John 8:44**—“...He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

Note: Jesus said Satan is a murderer and the father of lies. See Ezek. 28:15, Gen. 3:5-7. The devil’s greatest hope is a lie. With lies, he convinced one-third of the angels in heaven to join him in revolt against God. With lies, he convinced Eve to distrust God. Since Adam’s fall all human beings have inherited the potential to lie. The Bible teaches that “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies” (Psa. 58:3). Children never have to be taught to lie. They inherently know how to tell them. Where did that trait come from? It came from the devil, the father of lies. With lies, the devil has motivated kings, emperors, and dictators to kill millions of innocent people since the beginning of civilizations. With lies, the devil causes people to kill each other with hatred, malice, slander, and murder. In 1994, lies were instrumental in Rwandan genocide. Over 500,000 people Hutu and Tutsis died. Each time we think, speak, hear, or know of a lie, we can be sure our adversary, the devil, is at work.

- **The Devil Has One Mission: John 10:10**-- The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. **Job 2:6**--And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

Note: A general who is going to war knows how important it is to understand his opponent’s objective. Jesus said the thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. Satan is the Chief thief. His only objective is to kill, steal, and destroy human beings, so that we will never be permitted to inhabit heaven—his one-time home. The devil has no other motives. When the devil afflicted Job, the Lord had to limit the devil to attacking jobs material possessions and his body, otherwise, he would have killed job. The devil will use any circumstance, person, or thing to kill human beings spiritually and physically. Each day around the globe approximately 155,000 people die from various causes. Although it will never be reported as such, the devil often kills people. If we are to win this high-stakes game of life we must understand Satan’s single-minded, laser-focused objective—the destruction of all human souls.

- **The Devil is Angry! Rev. 12:12**--Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. **Matt. 8:28-29--28**And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. **29**And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Note: In Revelation 12, John said the devil was cast out of heaven and came down to earth “having great wrath.” Satan is angry because he knows that his time is short and that his judgment of everlasting torment cannot be reversed. Soon, God will judge him and cast him into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). The demons that encountered Jesus were afraid Jesus would torment them ahead of schedule! They too were aware of the shortness of their time and their inevitable doom! The devil’s anger fuels his actions. The tragedy, violence, and crime in the world today occurs because the devil is working around the clock to destroy as many souls as his time will allow. We must see the handwriting on the wall! Because of his limited time; unescapable judgment, and God’s grace toward human beings, the devil is on a rampage. The senseless, violent, lashing out that people are doing to one another is an expression of the devil’s anger with God and the people God loves. Once this anger is infused into the hearts of people, they commit heinous acts out of anger.

- **The Devil Holds Sinners Captive: 2 Tim. 2:24-26**—The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient; in meekness instructing those who oppose themselves; if God peradventure will grant them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. **1 John 3:8**-- He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. **1 Pet. 5:9--⁹** Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Note: No one wants to admit being under the control of the devil. But the truth is, the unsaved, that is, those who through faith have not obeyed the truth unto salvation (Eph. 2:8-9, 2 Thess. 2:13-14, Matt. 10:40, John 3:5, Acts 2:38-42), are taken captive by the devil “at his will”. In other words, the devil has enslaved them for his purposes. Sinners may believe they are acting on their own volition, but they are mere puppets for the devil, and are used in his plan to destroy humanity. They simply do not realize it. John said those who continue to sin are of the devil. The devil controls unbelievers, and Christians who continuously live in sin. God’s people must be able to teach those who are lost; be patient with them; and humbly share the truth with them, so that God can free them from the devil’s clutches.

How to Battle the Devil and Win!

- **Get the Holy Ghost Power: Acts 1:8**--But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Note: The devil is a powerful being. Paul told the saints at Thessalonica “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us” (1 Thess. 2:18). Human strength is no match for the devil. But the same power that threw the devil out of heaven is available for anyone who wants it! The Holy Ghost, which is the Spirit of God, is what heaven is made of. That’s why Paul said the earnest of our inheritance in the kingdom of God is the Holy Ghost (Eph. 1:14). Jesus promised that when we received the Holy Ghost, we would receive power! We don’t need more laws and guns to fight the forces that are ravishing this earth. We need more Holy Ghost power dwelling in more human beings.

- **Put On the Whole Armor of God: Eph. 6:11-16**--¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Note: The apostle Paul admonished the saints to equip and conduct themselves as soldiers. Look around you. Satan is waging war on humanity. We are in a spiritual battle that requires the right kind of gear. Since the wickedness we are fighting is spiritual, the equipment we need to fight back must also be spiritual. Paul said, “Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). If the armor we choose isn’t God’s armor it won’t work! Paul lists seven spiritual pieces that complete God’s armor: Truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Along with the Holy Ghost, this holy uniform will ready us to stand the devil’s attacks.

- **Submit to God and Resist the Devil: James 4:7--** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **Zech. 4:6--** Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Note: With the Holy Ghost and the right armor, we are ready to deal with the enemy. But there are still two more things we must do: First, we must submit to God. Submitting to God is becoming obedient to His word, His will, and His way. Being a Christian and not submitting to God is like being on a football team and not following the coach’s game strategy. It doesn’t work! Just as a coach knows how to win, so the players follow his lead, God has never lost a battle. He knows how to win. All we must do is follow His lead. Notice that submitting to God comes before resisting the devil. Too often we succumb to the devil’s tricks because we try to resist him without submitting to God. But the prophet Zechariah warned us about that. The devil will not be overcome by our natural strength or power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts. Our help comes from the Lord! If we submit to God first, we’ll get assistance to resist!

Summary: What’s behind all the anger, violence, and war in the world? Satan is on a rampage! But people are so busy fighting each other, they do not know the real enemy. They don’t realize the devil is our only adversary. The devil is real! He is a murderer and a liar with one mission—to kill, steal, and destroy. Since God kicked him out of heaven, he came down to the earth in great anger! In defiance toward God, he influences people to destroy themselves with hatred, violence, and war. The good news is, once we know our enemy we can direct our anger toward him, and not each other—but not with natural force! Since the devil is a spiritual being, we need spiritual power to defeat him. We obtain that power through the infilling of the Holy Ghost. After being inducted into God’s army by infilling of the Holy Ghost, we must “put on the whole armour of God” (Eph. 6:14-18), submit to God, and resist the devil. Only then can we expect to overcome the enemy of our souls.