

# What Satan Teaches Us

by Matthew Allen

Any team that wishes to find success will spend ample time in preparing for the opponent. Hours are spent analyzing the strengths of the opposition. Plans are developed as to how to exploit apparent weaknesses so victory can be achieved in the quickest way. The most successful teams in sports, business, etc. are prepared!

Paul compares the Christian life to a battle in Ephesians 6:10-20. Christians are encouraged to *put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places* (6:11-12). Shouldn't the Christian be prepared to meet the devil head-on? We must stand up to the devil! Satan is prepared to do whatever it takes to keep you out of heaven! Let us examine the strengths of our opponent!

**We would do well to learn from Satan's determination.** Satan is determined to win, and if it were not for the help of God, we would be destined for failure. Sheer determination is a potent weapon used effectively by Satan. Repeated and continued attacks upon the soul have cost many a Christian their spiritual lives. The Christian has been promised assistance from God. However, God will not fight our battles for us. We must make the determination to achieve victory no matter what! Determination comes from the possession of a strong faith. Paul wrote: *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord* (1 Cor. 15:58). Make up your mind that you will stand up for Jesus! Are you as determined as Satan to achieve your objective?

**S a t a n takes advantage of every opportunity.** Know that Satan will take advantage of every weakness to fulfill his overall objective: keeping your soul out of heaven! How can we succeed? Constantly strengthen areas that are weak, thus limiting the opportunity for Satan to attack. The Hebrew writer said, *Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed* (Heb. 12:12-13). Peter also said, *be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith* (1 Pet. 5:8-9a). It takes constant effort to remain sober & vigilant. Too often we slack-off. When we do, we invite spiritual disaster! Let us set our minds that we are going to live for the Lord and look constantly for opportunities to further His cause!

**We should take notice of Satan's zeal.** Job 1:7 says the devil had been all over the earth looking for someone to attack. Among the Arabs the devil is called, *el-hharith* which means "the active, busy one." He is constantly up to no good!

How many Christians realize this? Do we possess fervent zeal for what we believe in? The very thought of Jesus hanging on the cross should motivate us. We need to be busy and zealous in the work of the Lord! Paul instructs us to "not lack diligence!" (Rom. 12:11) This is a personal

responsibility! No one can fight our battles for us! We must pursue every thought and every effort to defeat the devil!

**We need to "turn the tables" on Satan.** He uses these strengths against us everyday! Put on the whole armor of God! Be vigilant to the cause! Analyze the strengths of the devil and be ready to stand up when the attack comes! Are you prepared?