

Raising Commandos

November 23, 2025

A battle rages all around you. Sometimes that battle is visible; most of the time it's not. Our unseen enemy is out for your destruction and all you hold dear. Who is this adversary? What does a largely invisible battle "look" like? Do you have any weapons at your disposal? How are you to fight? What does it mean to be victorious?

DAY 1: Who is our adversary?

1. **Satan:** The Hebrew word שָׂטָן (*satan*) means to oppose, obstruct, or accuse. The Greek term (σατάν, *satan*) literally means "adversary." In the New Testament, it refers to a title or a name.

2. In the verses below, what is Satan like? What tactics does he use?

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Timothy 5:15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made.

Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

John 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

1 Thess 3:5 I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith...

Eph 2:2 ...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Revelation 12:10 Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

3. He accuses: God, to you, you to God, you to you, you to others, and others to you!

4. What struck you about Satan?

DAY 2: What does the largely spiritual battle look like? An example...

1. In the verses below, underline what strikes you about Satan and his ways?

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

2. What was Satan's goal in this exchange?

3. What tactics did he use?

4. How did he lie about what God said?

5. What struck you in how Satan tempted Eve?

* Creating confusion (3:1) -

* Lying about what God said (3:4) -

* Creating untrue illusions about God and people (3:5) -

* Promising an idealized future that not only won't happen, but will make things far worse? (3:5-24) -

6. What resonates about this story with you? How have you seen Satan's tactics with you?

7. Temptation is a cruel hoax, an attack on God and you.

DAY 3: Do you have any weapons at your disposal?

1. We are not left to fight this spiritual battle without weapons!

*Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, ¹⁵ and with your **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take **the helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with **all kinds of prayers** and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

2. Satan is not a lone wolf! What ways does Paul describe our enemy and his army in 6:12?

3. Paul illustrates our spiritual weapons by using a gladiator's armor. Below, write down the significance of each weapon at our disposal.

a. Belt of truth- (Hint: "truth" in this verse does not refer to the bible (6:17), or the gospel (6:15). Our weapon is *living in line with the truth*). The belt provides stability.

b. Breastplate of righteousness- The breastplate protects the soldier's heart! (Rom. 6:13; 14:17)

c. Boots: this weapon is the gospel *which gives us peace*. (Cf: Philippians 4:6-7)

d. Shield of faith – the shield protects us from Satan's fiery arrows. (1 John 4:4)

e. Helmet of salvation- This is assurance of our salvation. (1 John 5:11-13)

f. Sword of the Spirit – the bible (Hebrews 4:12)

g. "All prayer" – keeps us in touch with God for our necessary resources and spiritual power.

3. Think of one way this spiritual armor would help you.

4. Is there a particular piece of armor you don't wear enough?

DAY 4: How are you to fight?

1. One of my favorite passages in dealing with Satan's attacks on me is our text for today!

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

2. What two human responses does James describe in 4:6? What is God's response to each?

2. In 4:7 what does James instruct us to? What do each of these mean?

a.

b.

3. What does James promise will happen if we do both?

4. In 4:7, is there a reason why the first command precedes the second? Is there a connection?

5. In 4:8a, James tells us to "come near to God." What does this imply about us when under spiritual attack?

6. In 4:8b James describes two categories of sin: outward and inward, sins of action and sins of the heart.

a. What strikes you about *both* types of sin being included in teaching on spiritual warfare?

b. James gives insight into our inward sins of the heart in 4:8b. What dynamic in the human heart is alive in 4:8b?

c. What do you think he means by "double-minded?" (cf. James 4:4)

d. James tells us to "wash" and "purify." How does that happen? (cf. 1 John 1:9)

7. In James 4:9, James teaches us to take our sin seriously, not cavalierly. How do you think this relates to the process of spiritual warfare?

DAY 5: What does it mean to be victorious?

Matt. 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted ^v by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

1. What was the thrust of each of Satan's temptation of Jesus?

a. Matt. 4:3-- _____

b. Matt. 4:5-6-- _____

c. Matt. 4:8-9-- _____

2. Jesus Christ had one MAIN tactic in all three temptations. What was it?

3. If you have a bible with cross-references, footnotes or margin notes, look for the following cross-references: Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:13.

* What strikes you about the approach Jesus took to battle Satan?

4. What was the effect did Jesus' approach have on Satan?

5. Why do you think Satan fled when Jesus kept quoting scripture that high-lighted God's rightful authority, place, position and praise?

6. Matt. 4:11 gives us a picture of the aftermath. Satan is gone, but Jesus is not alone. What do you think is going on in 4:11?

*Eph. 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can **take your stand** against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, **you may be able to stand your ground**, and **after you have done everything, to stand**. ¹⁴ **Stand firm then**...*

7. Each of these phrases has the word, "stand." Below, write down the phrase or image Paul uses with the word "stand."

6:11--

6:13a--

6:13b--

6:14--

7. What does it mean to be "victorious" in spiritual warfare?