

**BEARETH
BELIEVETH
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ENDURETH**
All Things

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DEFEAT BOTH ENEMIES WITH THE WORD OF GOD (PART 1-3)

Dear Chosen One: “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 KJV.) Many of God’s people are in a battle, but they do not know who their enemies are. If you don’t know who your opponents are, you are fighting a losing battle. Some individuals are fighting their allies instead of their opponents, and they are creating conflicts among the people who truly love them.

YOUR NUMBER ONE ENEMY IS THE DEVIL

The devil is an evil spiritual force, and he is your enemy. Yes! The devil is a spiritual being, and he will use any force or human vessel to fight against you. Most of the time the person whom you think is your enemy—is not! The devil is the one who is controlling that individual from within—he is the enemy. Therefore, you cannot fight a spiritual battle in the flesh. This battle must be fought in the spirit. God knew that one day the devil would come after His children, so He provided a "**Full Body Armor**" that can protect us with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God to fight this spiritual battle.

The Bible says, "**Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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 heavenly**

realms... Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6: 11-17 NIV.)

Whenever the devil comes after you, open your mouth and speak the Word of God. The Word will form a sword and it will cut through the devil's devices and destroy his flaming arrows. The Word of God will do great damage to Satan, your spiritual enemy. The Bible says, to **stand firm**, make sure that you have confidence in the truth and wear it as your belt. Keep the breastplate of righteousness on as it will protect all your vital organs and your heart from being deceived. Hold your ground, show no fear, and speak the Word of God in boldness and you will see the devil take off running. Don't be afraid; look the devil in the face, proclaim who you are and remind him that he was defeated at the Cross of Calvary.

The devil is so afraid of Jesus that when he hears the Word of God, he doesn't have time to see who is speaking it. All he knows is that he is being attacked with a weapon more powerful than his, so he flees. When Jesus was in the desert and the devil came to tempt Him, Jesus wasted no time. He opened His mouth and spoke the Word. The devil thought that Jesus was too weak and hungry to resist his temptations. What the devil did not know was Jesus'

Don't fight your enemies in the flesh! Use the Word of God.

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strength was perfected during His weakness. Jesus told the devil **"IT IS WRITTEN"** every time the devil launched his attack; Jesus responded with the Word, **"IT IS WRITTEN!"** Finally, Jesus told the devil **"Do not put the Lord your God to test"** and the devil left Jesus in hopes of getting another opportunity (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus fought the devil with the Word. Jesus was the Word at the beginning of creation. The Word that was with God, the Word that was God, the Word that created all things, and the Word that took the form of man and became flesh. Yes! Jesus was and is the Word I am talking about (John 1:1-3.) The Bible tells us **"The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"** (Hebrews 4:12).

When Jesus spoke to the devil, His Words became the double-edged sword—a mighty weapon. In Revelation 1:16, this powerful double-edged sword was the Word of God in Jesus' mouth. **"Out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword."** People of God, you have the same sword in your mouth. The Word of God has authority, power, and will defeat your enemies—start using it.

Yes! As born-again Christians, you and I must stand with our feet planted in the Gospel of peace and remind ourselves that we have the authority to use God's Word to fight the devil. The devil was Jesus' enemy and now is our enemy. NO, he is not your friend. Moreover, don't feel sorry for him. He is your adversary condemned by God to spend eternity in hell. Do not try to fight Satan in your own strength or without the armor or without the Word of God. The devil is a powerful entity that has been around from the beginning of creation. He has no mercy, no compassion, and he doesn't fight according to guidelines. He will use anything or anyone to come against you just to win his battle.

Without your armor and sword, you are no match for him.

One of the devil's flaming arrows is the spirit of pride. If the devil can get a child of God to become prideful, he will lower that person out of God's will and fight him or her in the flesh. Pride makes a person change God's Word to his or her own words. Do not do it! Take up the shield of faith and it will extinguish all the arrows the devil is shooting in your direction. Your flesh is corrupted, and it is no match for the devil's schemes.

Jesus gave you the most powerful armor to protect yourself and the weapon to defeat the devil, so use it. The Word of God is powerful by itself. God does not need you to fight the battle; all He needs you to do is keep the armor on and open up your mouth and speak His Word. God's Word will do the fighting, not you.

Oftentimes the devil chooses to fight us when we are spiritually weak, physically sick, or have not read our Bible. Most times he uses us when we remove ourselves from under God's radar. Yes! The devil is always looking for opportunities to defeat God's children and has done so since Jesus finally defeated him on the Cross. Now, Satan's mission is to target the Body of Christ by launching various attacks. Have you ever noticed that during those times when you are weak, sick or haven't read the Bible it seems like all hell has broken loose against you? It is because the devil is constantly looking for the right opportunity to fire his arrows.

A good Commander in Chief knows that when his opponent is weak or vulnerable it is the time to launch an attack. If human beings know this kind of battle strategy, don't you think the devil knows it too? Yes! He is always watching to see when you will take your armor off so he can launch his attack. Sometimes he attacks you so fast you are unprepared to defend yourself. Therefore, keep your Armor on and speak the Word of God and you will defeat the enemy. **Part 2 coming in March.**