

Waging Effective Warfare: How You Can Defeat the Devil's Favorite Tactics

(STUDY GUIDE)

With James Goll

*"And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season."
(Luke 4:13, KJV)*

I. Conflict and Spiritual Warfare

A. A Normal Part of the Christian Life

1. 2 Corinthians 10:3–5
2. 1 Timothy 1:18
3. Ephesians 6:12
4. Isaiah 54:17

B. Key Statements to Remember

1. We are born in war and born for war.
2. All spiritual warfare centers around the placement of the Son of God.
3. The source of all warfare is the root of rebellion.
4. One of the most powerful weapons of warfare is forgiveness.

C. God Himself Is Presented as a Military Commander

1. *"The Lord is a man of war ..."* (Exodus 15:1–3)
2. *"As a Captain of the Army of the Lord at Jericho."* (Joshua 5:13,14)
3. *"Who is the King of Glory? The Lord, mighty in battle ..."* (Psalm 24:8)
4. *"The Lord of Hosts is mustering the army for battle ..."* (Isaiah 13:4)

II. Names and Nature of the Enemy

A. Names of the Enemy

1. Satan (52 times): Adversary, one who opposes. (Job 1:6–9,12; 2:1–4,6,7)
2. Devil (35 times): Slanderer or accuser. (Luke 4:2,13; Revelation 12:9,12)
3. Lucifer: Shining one (as in Isaiah 14:12).
4. Old serpent. (Revelation 12:9,15; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 16:20)
5. Great dragon. (Revelation 12:3,7,9,17)
6. Ruler/prince of this world. (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
7. Prince of the power of the air. (Ephesians 2:2)
8. God of this age. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
9. The Evil One. (Matthew 6:13, 13:38; John 17:15; 1 John 2:14, 5:18)
10. Prince / Ruler of demons. (Matthew 10:25; 12:26; Luke 11:15; 2 Corinthians 6:15)
11. The Destroyer. (Revelation 9:11)
12. The Tempter. (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
13. The Accuser. (Revelation 12:10)
14. The Deceiver. (Revelation 12:9, 20:3)

B. His Characteristics

1. He is a liar and the father of lies.
2. He has power, but is not omnipotent.
3. He has intelligence, but is not omniscient.
4. He is active, but not omnipresent.

C. His Activities

The enemy of God and man has a plan. Although sinful, he is definitely not dumb. He does not appear to act haphazardly or without a goal in view. However, he is not all-knowing either.

1. Outwit (NIV), to take advantage of (NASB) in the sense to cheat or defraud by deception. Satan has “designs” (NASB); he plans an agenda. (2 Corinthians 2:10,11)
2. Schemes (*methodia*, meaning method), cunning and wily stratagems (compare Ephesians 4:14).
3. The long and the short of it is this: Satan plays by his own rules. He is an unfair cheater. He only plays by God’s rules if we enforce them.

III. What Are the Devil’s Favorite Tactics?

A. Delay—to Weaken Us and Wear Us Out

The enemy attempts to make us lose our way (see Daniel 10:2–14).

B. Deceit—to Derail God’s Purposes

The enemy wants to derail us by going into extreme positions. This will happen by either making spiritual principles into a set of legalistic religious rules and getting us to react and go into “hyper-grace” where we do what is right in our own eyes.

C. Distraction—to Break Our Focus

The enemy will attempt to make us concentrate on a side issue. A time of great intimacy with God can turn to a time of great battle (see Proverbs 4:27) because time with God is a great threat to the powers of darkness.

D. Disappointment—to Magnify the Weaknesses of Others

The enemy will attempt to get our eyes on others while he magnifies their faults. This often happens through the power of offense to get us to give in to a bitter root resulting in bad fruit that defiles many.

IV. Eight of Your Most Effective Weapons

A. You Must Clothe Yourself in the Armor of God

B. You Must Know and Speak the Word

C. You Must Enter into the Power of Praise

D. You Must Tap into the Power of Prayer and Fasting

E. You Must Know the Power of the Blood of Jesus

F. You Must Learn that Rest is Also a Weapon

G. You Must Walk with Others

H. You Must Give Thanks to the Lord

V. Prayers of Declaration

A. By the Blood of Jesus

By the blood of Jesus we have been justified (see Romans 5:9,14). By His blood, we have been sanctified, are made holy and are set apart to God (see Hebrews 13:12). By His blood heaven has been opened all the way to the very throne of the Father, so that we can come and have intimate fellowship with Him (see Hebrews 9:22–24; 10:19–22).

B. Closing Declaration

Father God, in the wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we come into Your Presence with thanksgiving and into Your courts with praise. We place the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the doorpost of our hearts. As believers in Christ Jesus, we declare that no weapon formed against us shall prosper and we welcome the work of the heaven's angels to expose the works of darkness. The thief shall be captured, and retribution and repayment shall be made for the glory of God. We are learning the devil's tactics and we are overcomers by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of our Testimony, in Jesus' name. Amen and amen!