

The Last of the "M&M" Lessons

Mighty Mortal Men and Monsters Don't Stand a Chance Against Magnificently Changed People Who Have Yielded to the Mighty and Merciful Hand of God. One Might Say, "This Is a Mismatch."



Whoa...What are we saying here? Demons are no match for man? The world's "mighty armies" are no match for Christian believers?

No...this teacher is not saying exactly that! This teacher believes:

- Satan and his demons are constantly battling God's forces in the heavenlies.
- Christian believers who have been changed from mere men to mighty warriors for God can overcome the wiles of Satan and his crew.

In the early 1800's, a French philosopher once wrote, "Most people would not recognize Satan even if he had them by the throat".

- If this sad commentary on the lack of spiritual knowledge was true nearly 200 years ago, such lack of knowledge has only increased exponentially, simply because the Christian Church has not taught its members the reality of spiritual warfare.
- Today, Satan does have some Christians by the throat, and they do not realize with whom they are struggling.

Reality...unless you know who you are fighting, you will not realize the power that someone has who is fighting against you. Get to know your opponent:

- 1. Satan is real and he wants to steal from you your identity; he wants to kill you (literally); he wants to destroy your life, your ability to function, and even your testimony of coming to Jesus.
 - <u>John 10:10</u>, "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."
 - <u>1 Peter 5:8</u>, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
 - **Ephesians 6:11**, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."
 - <u>James 4:7</u>, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
 - <u>John 8:44</u>, speaking to the Pharisees..."You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Satan's forces include many demons...

Who are they?

- Demons are fallen angels who, along with Satan, chose to rebel against God.
 - ✓ Some of the demons are already locked "in darkness, bound with everlasting chains" for their sin, (Jude 1:6)
 - ✓ Others are free to roam and are referred to as "the powers of this dark world and . . . the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 2:15).
 - ✓ The demons still follow Satan as their leader and do battle with the holy angels in an attempt to thwart God's plan and hinder God's people (Daniel 10:13).
 - ✓ Demons, as spirit beings, have the ability to take possession of a physical body.

Note: <u>Demonic possession</u> occurs when a person's body is completely controlled by a demon.

This cannot happen to a child of God, since the Holy Spirit resides in the heart of the believer in Christ (1 John 4:4, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Praise God! Praise God!

Jesus, during His earthly ministry, encountered many demons.

- ✓ Of course, none of them were a match for the power of Christ: "Many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word" (Matthew 8:16).
- ✓ Jesus' authority over the demons was one of the proofs that He was indeed the Son of God, "if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." (Luke 11:20).
- ✓ The demons who encountered Jesus knew who He was, and they feared Him: "What do you want with us, Son of God?' [the demons] shouted. 'Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" (Matthew 8:29).

The demons know their end will be one of torment.

Satan and his demons now look to destroy the work of God and deceive anyone they can (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

- √ The demons are described as:
 - o Evil spirits (Matthew 10:1),
 - o Unclean spirits (Mark 1:27),
 - o ______ spirits (1 Kings 22:23), and
 - o Angels of Satan (Revelation 12:9).
- ✓ Satan and his demons:
 - o Deceive the world (2 Corinthians 4:4),
 - o Promulgate false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1),
 - o Attack Christians (2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 5:8), and
 - o Combat the holy angels (Revelation 12:4–9).
- ✓ The demons/fallen angels are enemies of God, but they are defeated enemies.
- ✓ Christ has "disarmed the powers and authorities," and He has "made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15).

As we submit to God and resist the devil, we have nothing to fear. "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Satan works through men and women of flesh. People such as:

- Adam and Eve, Cain, King Saul, Haman, Goliath...many others.
- Herod Antipas, Herodias, Jehoram (Jehoshaphat's son), Abimelchk (killed 70 brothers), Ahab and Jezebel, Herod-the great, Ananias and Sapphira, Judas Iscariot, Mennasah, Doeg-the Edomite.
- Groups of people...Nephilim—Giants, Sodom and Gomorrah residents...and all people on earth (none good, no not one).

But...While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8b, "...God demonstrates and proves His love for us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

We, as children of the Most High God, and believers in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (God's Son), are MORE THAN CONQUERERS. WE ARE THE WARRIORS OF GOD.

NO WEAPON FORMED AGAINST US SHALL PROSPER. BELIEVE IT! REJOICE IN IT!

Magnificently Changed People...Who are they?

People who have a relationship with God.

People with a relationship with God are more powerful than the law. Satan would rather have us be connected to the law in legalism so we will walk around guilty and condemned all the time. But the Lord says in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

Under grace we have more than our own resources. We have God's Holy Spirit enabling us to do His will. The Spirit filled life is moment-by-moment realizing His grace. The Spirit filled life is acknowledging it when I fail and keep bringing it back to God. It is when we take personal responsibility for our sin, and ask God to change us that brings the positive Spirit within us to beat back the attacks of satan.

If God be for us, who can be against us?

Because of what the Word of God says, we need to understand that we are winners, overcomers, and the ones who can hold back the wiles of Satan and his gang of demonic forces.



Quotes about the Ultimate Enemy—Satan

"To me, Satan ultimately represents rebellion." Marilyn Manson

"One of Satan's most deceptive and powerful ways of defeating us is to get us to believe a lie. And the biggest lie is that there are no consequences to our own doing. Satan will give you whatever you ask for if it will lead you where he ultimately wants you." Charles Stanley

"The difficulties we face originate from one of three sources. Some are sent to us by the Lord to test our faith, others are the result of Satan's attacks, and still others are due to our own sinful choices." Charles Stanley

"Disappointment is inevitable. But to become discouraged, there's a choice I make. God would never discourage me. He would always point me to himself to trust him. Therefore, my discouragement is from Satan. As you go through the emotions that we have, hostility is not from God, bitterness, unforgiveness, all of these are attacks from Satan." Charles Stanley

"I do not think the devil cares how many churches you build, if only you have lukewarm preachers and people in them." Charles Spurgeon

"The more useful we are to God, the more we will be attacked by the enemy." Zac Poonen

"The purpose of Satan is to engineer our fall through accusations: "Since we cannot be perfect," sighs the believer, "then what is the use?"" Watchman Nee

"Satan so hates the genuine praise of Christ that his fiery darts of discouragement are not effective against us when we respond in praise." William Thrasher

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray." Samuel Chadwick

"If you are a Christian, you are at war. But our approach to spiritual warfare usually falls into one of two extremes - either we place an undue emphasis on Satan and his powers or we completely ignore the existence of a personal enemy."

- Chip Ingram

James 2:19 "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe-and shudder!"

FIGHT ALL YOUR BATTLES ON YOUR KNEES AND YOU WIN EVERY TIME!