

Chapter 3 – The Outcome of the Battle

What “Battle” are we talking about? It is not some future battle, like the Battle of Armageddon but a daily battle to stay on the right track to reach heaven.

1 Timothy 6:12 says *“Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”* (NASB)

It is the battle that we face every day. It is against Satan. It is Good vs Evil. It is a battle to God’s will.

Ultimately, we are on the winning side. Remember, Satan wants to be in control but from our study of the Book of Revelation, Satan is defeated, Jesus wins.

Each of the following verses tell us about the “Battle” between Good and Evil.

- a. Luke 10:18 – Satan was kicked out of Heaven for the first time. (Jesus speaking)
- b. Matthew 28:7 – The tomb was empty. Jesus had defeated death and sin.
- c. Revelation 12:12 – Satan’s time is short.
- d. Job 1:10-12 – Satan has to ask permission.
- e. Revelation 20:1 – It is an angel that defeats Satan.
- f. Revelation 20:10 – Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire

The central question we must ask is always this: “Who is in control?” If you think that you are in control of your life and what happens to you then you are in trouble.

If you understand that God is in control of all things and that He has a plan for your life, then in every situation, no matter how big or small, you can confidently say “God has got this!” Paul believed that way.

He says so in Romans 8:28, *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

If we believe this way and believe the outcome of a difficult situation is in God’s hands then there are certain truths that we have:

- a. If we prayed about the problem then we can have peace knowing we gave it to God.
- b. If we enlist the help of other believers who prayed about it and they too will feel peace.
- c. We can know that we had done everything that we can do to ensure success.
- d. We can fully trust in God to be in control and to accomplish His plans and purposes for my life.

Charles Stanley says “If you are living your life in this way—praying about every major decision, walking in the peace of God as you go about your daily routine, doing what you know to do to live safely and with commonsense precautions, and trusting God to be in control always and to accomplish His plan for your life—you are living the way God intends! The attacks that may come your way are not attacks that you could have avoided.”

Your response to Satan’s attacks determines what happens. The way we respond determines whether:

- a. Our faith will be strengthened or weakened
- b. Our witness of God’s power and presence in our lives will be greater or lesser
- c. God receives greater or lesser glory and praise
- d. Unsaved people are more or less inclined to trust in Jesus

Just as with Adam and Eve in the Garden or Job or every other person that has lived, Satan will attack you. We live in a fallen age. The world and man’s history is made up of sinful men and women. No one can avoid the devil’s external attacks.

External attacks happen. The devil has the power to trip us up, inflict harm upon us, and cause evil to adversely affect our lives.

John 10:10 tells us, “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*”

1 John 3:8 says, “*8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*”

These verses tell us that Satan comes to steal and kill and destroy. The one who does what is sinful, is of the devil. Sin is nothing new to Satan, he has been sinning from the beginning.

On the positive side, these verses tell us that Jesus came to earth so believers may have life, and have it to the full. They also tell us that Jesus came to destroy the devil’s work.

Satan does not leave anyone out with his attacks. He even attacks God’s chosen ones. Each of the Biblical figures had bad things happen to them even though God chose them for a higher purpose.

- a. Joseph, the son of Jacob – He was thrown in a pit, sold as a slave, falsely accused, spent years in a prison for a crime he didn’t commit.
- b. Elijah, the prophet - Jezebel persecuted him. He hid.
- c. Rahab, the prostitute – All of the people from Jericho were killed except her family
- d. Even Paul – Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 endured persecution for Jesus’ sake.

We can and must recognize that no matter how severe the external attack, God is in control; the devil is not. And because God is in control . . .

- a. The attack of the enemy is limited in scope.
- b. The attack of the enemy is limited in duration.
- c. The good that God has planned will be far greater than the results of the attack.
- d. God has planned a benefit that will strike a blow against the devil, bring about eternal blessing to God's children, and bring God glory.

"Have you considered My servant Job?" Job's story was about a man under spiritual attack. With all that Satan did to Job, what was Job's response at first (read Job 1:21) "*The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.*" He praised God. Even Job's wife suggested that he curse God and die. Job refused. Job's friends weren't any better. They accused him of sin, Job 19:2-3. More intense attack, Satan can use anyone against you. Yet Job persevered.

Throughout the story of Job, we learn the following things about Satan's attacks:

- Job 1:12 - God put limits on what Satan could do. Satan might have been given the ability to destroy Job's possessions and afflict Job's body, but he could not lay claim to Job's life or his spirit.

- Job 2:13 - God put time limits on Job's suffering. He did not allow Satan to bring more suffering into Job's life than Job could endure.

- Job 14:10-17 - God rewarded Job. God turned the situation for good, rewarding Job with far more than he had lost.

- God received glory from Job's life. Thousands of years later, we are still using how Job maintained his faith and trust in God even in the worst of times. Job proved God's faithfulness and God's omnipotent, omniscient goodness.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - "*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*"

Often we miss interpret this verse, it is talking about temptation but we associate it with difficulties. It does not say that God will not give us more strife in our life than we can bear.

"God has promised to supervise all temptation that comes at us through the world, the flesh or the devil. He promises to limit it according to our capability to endure it – according to our capability as we rely on Him, not our capability as we rely only on ourselves." (Guzik)

Whenever the devil strikes us, we can take heart that God has a purpose in allowing the devil to act. The purpose is a divine one that we may not understand but that, nonetheless, is for our good or the good of others. The grief, suffering, or pain is for a season only. The end result, as we remain faithful to God, will bring glory to Him.

Never lose sight that God is in control of your life—all of your life, all of the time. He has a purpose and a plan that is unfolding as you continue to praise and thank Him, and to trust Him step by step.

You can always count on these things when the enemy attacks you. You can be certain that:

- a. Isaiah 59:1 - God will help you. God is holy, omnipotent, omniscient, and immutable. The Bible tells us, “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear” (Isa. 59:1). The Lord desires to help you. He is waiting for you to ask Him!
- b. The attack will come to an end. No temptation or crisis lasts forever. A temptation may come again in another form, or come again after a period of time, but every temptation has a time limit put on it.
- c. You will be stronger in your spirit after you have resisted an attack of the enemy.

Never lose sight of the truth that God and Satan are not equals. Satan is not omnipotent (all-powerful). He is not omniscient (all-knowing). He is not infinite. God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is omnipotent, omniscient, and infinite.

Remember Satan is a defeated foe. Rev. 20:10 tells us so. It says, *“And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

God desires for us to choose to love Him, accept Jesus as Savior and follow Jesus as Lord. But if a person willfully and consciously chooses not to receive Jesus, God will allow that person to make such a choice.