

A group of men in 19th-century military uniforms, including blue jackets, light blue trousers, and kepi hats, are standing in a grassy field. They are holding long rifles. In the background, there is a dense line of trees and a plume of white smoke rising from the left side of the frame. The scene appears to be a historical reenactment or a military drill.

# Overcoming The Enemy of Your Soul

Written By Rev.  
**John Marinelli**



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June 2016-Rev. John Marinelli  
P. O. Box 831413 Ocala, FL. 34483

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## Introduction

I'll bet you did not know that you had an unseen evil enemy that lurks around every situation seeking to destroy your very soul? Jesus said, as recorded in **John 10:10**, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly." Peter said, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." **I Peter 5:8** Sadly enough, 40% of professing Christians do not believe in Satan as a real being, only a symbol of evil.

A 2009 nationwide survey of adults' spiritual beliefs, conducted by The Barna Group, suggests that Americans who consider themselves to be Christian have a diverse set of beliefs. Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan "**is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.**" An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they "agree somewhat" with that perspective. A minority of Christians indicated that they believe Satan is real by disagreeing with the statement: one-quarter (26%) disagreed strongly and about one-tenth (9%) disagreed somewhat. The remaining 8% were not sure what they believe about the existence of Satan.



I am here to tell you that Satan is a real being and he is after you, to steel, kill and destroy your soul. The soul is your mind, will and emotions. If he

can influence you there, he can capture you and use you as his tool to hurt others. It all happens in the soul before it plays out in reality. A good example is how he can spin a lie and kill more than 50 million babies. He just said that abortion is a matter of women's health and they should make the life or death choice. They believe that it is not the mother's sin that murders innocent babies in the womb. It's just a good health choice.

Did you know that there is a heartbeat within 13-19-day of conception? Yet in many states legal abortions can take place even in the last trimester, at full term.

## How to Overcome Satan

### The Enemy of Your Soul

Satan, which is also known as the devil, the evil one, the wicked one, the god of this world, the ruler of darkness and the father of lies is after you and every other human being. He, as Peter said, roams the earth like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.



He has many names but that is no matter. He is a defeated foe but yet very powerful. The sure way to win over such an evil force is to resist him steadfastly in the faith as **1 Peter 5:9** says. "Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

Your adversary, the devil, wants to establish strongholds in your life, through which he can control your emotions and manipulate your actions towards doing evil. These strongholds are in your mind. It is how you think about things, your perspective in life.

Before demonic strongholds can be overcome, we should understand exactly what demonic strongholds are. The word *stronghold* appears only once in the New Testament (**2 Corinthians 10:4**), and the Greek word translated "stronghold" means "a fortification such as a castle."

In this passage, the apostle Paul is instructing the church at Corinth on how to fight against and "destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God" (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). They do this, not by using the weapons of the world, but by "divine power." Lofty arguments and opinions are the result of pride and evil and vain imaginations, the very

strongholds in which demons reside. This, then, is the essence of demonic warfare—the power of God to overcome the strongholds of demons.

## **Practical Application of II Corinthians 10:5**

We can use this scripture as a pathway to victory over evil, no matter where it comes from. The key is to bring every thought into the light of the Word of God. Then cast down or reject everyone that sets itself above the Knowledge of God. You hold the thought captive and judge it by what you know is true from the scripture. This keeps you from acting upon thoughts that do not agree with God's will.



We can put out thoughts and what others tell us on trial. The key is knowing what the Bible says. If you are not a student of the Bible, you'll never amass enough spiritual knowledge and truth to be able to judge. This is a problem in the church today.

Caleb Bell of the Religious News Services wrote an article a while back about Christians and their Bibles. Here's what he said their survey revealed.

1. More than 57% of youth 18-28 read their Bibles only three times per year.
2. Only 26% of Americans said they read their Bibles every week...4-times per week.
3. 88% of respondents said they own a Bible.
4. 80% think that their Bible is sacred.
5. There are 4.4 Bibles, on the average in every household of those that responded to the survey.

It is clear by the above statistics that most Christians are not equipped to do battle with the enemy of their soul. Plus, they have no idea about spiritual armor that is made by God just for them to protect them.

## **The Armor of God**

In **Ephesians 6:10-18**, Paul describes the resources that God makes available to His followers—the armor of God. Here we are told how, in an

attitude of humility and dependence, we are to avail ourselves of God's resources. Note that we are to be strong “in the Lord” and “in the power of His might.”

We do not take on demonic strongholds in our own strength. We protect ourselves with the first five pieces of defensive armor and wield the one offensive weapon—the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. We do all of this “with all kinds of prayers and requests . . . praying for all the Lord’s people” (verse 18). In verses 12 and 13 of **Ephesians 6**, Paul writes, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

One habit that every believer needs to develop is focusing on **Ephesians 6:10–18** and “getting dressed” spiritually every day. It would go a long way to giving victory over the devil and his schemes.

Here Paul states that, while we walk in the flesh (we are living and breathing in this human body), we do not war according to the flesh (we can’t fight spiritual battles with fleshly weapons). Instead, as we focus on the resources and weapons of spiritual strength, we can see God giving us victory. No demonic stronghold can withstand praying Christians wearing the full armor of God, battling with the Word of God, and empowered by His Spirit.

## Freedom From Demon Bondage

Excerpts from CBN.org Website Article



Demon bondage can be brought about when an individual is possessed, oppressed, or is in rebellion towards God (sins of the flesh). It takes God's discernment to determine which of these is producing the bondage in an individual's life.

The Bible makes it clear that there are demons, or evil spirits, in the world that interfere in people's lives (**Ephesians 6:11-19\***). Evil forces, or powers, influence and control the minds of individuals, bring sickness and cause undesirable behavior,

inability to function normally, and even suicide. As a result of these forces, people can become a danger to themselves as well as others.

## Warned By The Scriptures

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations, the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee" (**Deuteronomy 18:10-13\***).

## An Example From The Bible

"There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them with which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one" (**Acts 5:16\***).



## Indications of Demon Activity

The following areas may help you to recognize your need for being released from demonic oppression, possession or bondages of the flesh (sin):

1. Compulsion to abuse animals or people;
2. Sexual perversion and immorality (homosexuality, molestation, etc.);
3. A compulsion to abuse your body (drugs, alcohol, gluttony, abuse or misuse of other substances, etc.);
4. Seeking spiritual knowledge through Eastern religions and other counterfeit religious groups (TM, Yoga, humanism, etc.);
5. Involvement in occult practices (fortune-telling, Satanism, etc.);
6. Mental distress or oppression (anxiety, fear, anger, disorientation, etc.);
7. Psychological disorders (split and multiple personalities, paranoia, etc.);
8. Physical disorders may be demon caused (**Matthew 9:32, 33\***);
9. Lack of freedom or joy in the Lord (spiritual bondage);

10. Inability or constant refusals to repent of sin, though you know you are sinning (rebellion).

Seeing these traits in yourself or someone else is a clear indication that you or the others you know that are like this are under demonic control. If it's you, here are some things to consider. It can be your pathway to deliverance, salvation and freedom.

## Your Pathway To Deliverance

- Begin reading your Bible every day or even more frequently.
- Read the 4-gospels, the psalms and the books of Romans, Corinthians, the epistles of John and proverbs.
- Begin to seek the Lord, applying **John 3:16** and get, "Born Again" (Read my eBook on How to Be Born Again.)
- Pray without ceasing, which is to say, talk to Jesus as often as you can about how you feel and ask Him to deliver you from all bondages.
- Start going to church. Seek out the Assemblies of God or Charismatic fellowships and ask them to anoint you with oil and cast out whatever is not of God.
- Get a highlighter and use it to mark key scriptures that mean something to you.
- Begin to confess the promises of God, saying them to yourself in your mind and them out loud until they are apart of your daily thinking.
- Confess your sins unto the Lord, no one else, and ask to be cleansed with the blood of Jesus. (**I John 1:9**)
- Speak directly to each demon as you identify them and command them to leave your body and to stop oppressing you. (*In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to loose me from this bondage and stop oppression.*)
- Drop all relationships with people that practice habitual sin and stop frequenting bars or other places that can put you in harms way.



These are only suggestions that can help you. The best thing to do is **Read! Read! Read!** Your Bible and apply every truth, principle and command. Your goal is to create a new perspective that honors Jesus and makes room in your heart for Him to be lord and Savior.



Jesus came to free those under demon bondage. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (**Romans 10:13\***). The term "saved" or "salvation" includes your spiritual, physical and mental health.

You can be assured of victory over demons if you have received Jesus as Savior and Lord (**John 1:12\***), and have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8\***). The Holy Spirit guides you into truth, empowers you, and intercedes for you. He also gives you spiritual gifts, such as discerning of spirits, for your welfare and that of others (**I Corinthians 12; Mark 16:9-20\***).

Your greatest need is to continually study God's Word. Meditate upon the Bible day and night (**Joshua 1:8\***) to put on the whole armor of God that you might be able to effectively overcome the forces of evil (**Ephesians 6:10-18\***). Jesus answered Satan with the Word of God (**Luke 4:1-13\***). You can do the same. Pray without ceasing (**I Thessalonians 5:17**) and get into a local church fellowship for further ministry (**Hebrews 10:25\***).

## Victors Or Victims



Overcoming the enemy requires certain basic knowledge. As we have seen, 57% of all adult Christians read their Bibles only four or less times per YEAR. It's hard to be a Victor with such little preparation. However, here are a few points that will aid in your search to move from a Victim to a Victor.

1. You must understand that the battle belongs to the Lord. He defeated Satan on the cross and rose from the dead victorious over death, hell and the grave. He died for our sins so we could be free from its bondage.
2. The enemy is real, just unseen with the physical eye. Yet, like the wind, that we cannot see, we both see and feel its effects. So it is with evil. We know it is there.
3. We must acknowledge that we are at war with evil forces. Denial doesn't keep us from getting hurt.



4. We must gather together the weapons of our warfare and learn how and when to use them.
5. We must develop a warier attitude and be willing to fight at a moment's notice.
6. We must know that our spiritual authority is Jesus, and become secure in His Love.
7. We must learn the “Wiles” (Tricks) of the devil so we won’t become a victim of them.

## Two Primary Errors

**Got/Questions.org**

There are two primary errors when it comes to spiritual warfare—over-emphasis and under-emphasis. Some blame every sin, every conflict, and every problem on demons that need to be cast out. Others completely ignore the spiritual realm and the fact that the Bible tells us our battle is against spiritual powers.

The key to successful spiritual warfare is finding the biblical balance. Jesus sometimes cast demons out of people; other times He healed people with no mention of the demonic. The apostle Paul instructs Christians to wage war against the sin in themselves (**Romans 6**) and warns us to oppose the schemes of the devil (**Ephesians 6:10–18**).

**Ephesians 6:10–12** says, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 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 the heavenly realms.” This text teaches some crucial truths: we can only stand strong in the Lord’s power, it is God’s armor that protects us, and our battle is ultimately against spiritual forces of evil in this world.



**Ephesians 6:13–18** is a description of the spiritual armor God gives us. We are to stand firm with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the

gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and by praying in the Spirit. What do these pieces of spiritual armor represent in spiritual warfare?

1. We are to know the truth, believe the truth, and speak the truth.
2. We are to rest in the fact that we are declared righteous because of Christ's sacrifice for us.
3. We are to proclaim the gospel no matter how much resistance we face.
4. We are not to waver in our faith, trusting God's promises no matter how strongly we are attacked.
5. Our ultimate defense is the assurance we have of our salvation, an assurance that no spiritual force can take it away.
6. Our offensive weapon is the Word of God, not our own opinions and feelings. And we are to **pray in the power and will of the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus is our ultimate example of resisting temptation in spiritual warfare. Observe how Jesus handled direct attacks from Satan when He was tempted in the wilderness (**Matthew 4:1–11**). Each temptation was combated with the words “it is written.”

The Word of the living God is the most powerful weapon against the temptations of the devil. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (**Psalms 119:11**).

## A Word of Caution



A word of caution concerning spiritual warfare is in order. Nowhere in Scripture are we instructed to cast out demons or even to speak to them. The name of Jesus is not a magic incantation that causes demons to flee from before us. The seven sons of Sceva are an example of what can happen when people presume an authority they have not been given (**Acts 19:13–16**). Even Michael the archangel did not rebuke Satan in his own power but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (**Jude 1:9**). When we start talking to the devil, we run the risk of being led astray as Eve was (**Genesis 3:1–7**). Our focus should be on God, not demons; we speak to Him, not them.

**I Peter 5:9** tells us that we are to resist the devil steadfastly in the faith. That means to use the Word of God against him in a constant array of spiritual mortars that are launched from our, “It Is Written” gun, just like Jesus did.

If it becomes necessary, and it will, to speak to the demon force attacking you, do so “In The Name of Jesus”. You do have the spiritual power to bind those forces and cast them out.

## **The Keys To Success In Spiritual Warfare**

- We rely on God’s power, not our own.
- We put on the whole armor of God.
- We draw on the power of Scripture—the Word of God is the Spirit’s sword.
- We pray in perseverance and holiness, making our appeal to God.
- We stand firm (**Ephesians 6:13–14**);
- We submit to God;
- We resist the devil’s work (**James 4:7**), knowing that the Lord of hosts is our protector.

“Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken” (**Psalms 62:2**).

## **Conclusion**

This eBook has been a brief introduction to winning the battle and being the Victor instead of the Victim. I’d like to suggest several other free eBooks that will together broaden your understanding on this subject. They can be downloaded from this website. Here they are:



*The Battle of The Ages, The Beast Within, The Believer’s Authority, The Believer’s Handbook of Battle Strategies, Hooks To Hang Your Faith On, Overcoming Temptation, Entering Into God’s Rest and Faith, Strictly By The Book.*

**God bless you as you seek His Will**