



NEW LIFE

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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The Wiles of the Evil One

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(adapted from Maranatha Messenger dated 06 December 2009)*

Introduction

The Christian life is not a play-ground but a battle ground. We are involved in a battle – a spiritual warfare. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Eph 6:12).

God's Word reminds us that we are fighting against a real enemy - the devil, also called Satan and his evil demons. He is the accuser of the brethren in Christ and the father of lies (Rev 12:10). The good news is that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ had already defeated him at the cross of Calvary when He shed His precious blood, died for our sins and rose again from the dead. The final judgment upon the devil is sealed and he is a defeated foe and powerless against Christ and His church.

While we have victory in Christ over the evil one, we should not allow ourselves to be complacent and hence be alert or on guard. The devil still tries to hinder us in our walk with God and our service unto Him. He tries to lure us with falsehood and the sin of pride, lust of the eyes and lust of the flesh. His main strategy is to tempt us to commit sin, rob us of our peace with God, destroy our Christian testimony and effectiveness in serving the Lord. That is why we must be on guard against him and be vigilant, careful and not fearful of the devil. 2 Corinthians 2:11 says, *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*

In any warfare, we must know the enemy. God's Word exposes the devil's diabolical nature. In John 8:44, our Lord Jesus described him as *"...the devil...a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* God's Word in Revelation 12:9, 10b further describes him as *"that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."* In the last days the devil will be more proactive to attack God's people to undermine the work of God and to destroy the witness of the church if possible.

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How does the devil accuse us? One way is to tempt us with his lies and railing accusations to cause us to fall or be discouraged and to doubt God and then lure us to disobey God's Word with a diabolical question. *"Hast God said"* followed by a lie, "Ye shall not surely die" were the strategy he used to tempt Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:1,4). It is the same today. Beware the devil's lies when he says, "Sin is really not bad. God is hiding something from you. Just forget God and do it. Do not miss the opportunity and enjoy your self and do it." The devil then tempts and accuses us falsely to make us feel guilty, to isolate us and drive us to despair and further away from God. Beware of the wiles of the evil one and expose him with the Word of God as the Lord in the wilderness when he was tempted of the devil and he quoted scripture to drive him away. Finally, Daniel, Joseph, David and Job were all tempted and tested and every child of God will be tempted and attacked at some time and we need to be alert all the time and resist the devil with God's help and strength. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

How to overcome the evil one victoriously? We must make a distinction between the attacks of the devil and the prompting by the Holy Spirit. While the devil's accusation leads to depression, the Holy Spirit convicts us and leads us to Christ in faith and knowledge, restoration and peace and the meditation of the Word of God. Romans 5:1-5 says, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."* God is our Refuge and Strength and we need not fear the evil one's assaults. We need to humble ourselves before God and choose to obey God's Word and to get right with Him and be restored unto Him while standing up to the deceptive and abusive assaults of the evil one.

Our restoration to God is only possible because our Lord Jesus Christ is our Advocate before God. John the apostle says, *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins"* (1 John 2:1,2b). The Advocacy of Christ in pleading our cause is illustrated in a vision in Zechariah 3:1-3 of a court scene before God the Holy Judge. There was Joshua the high priest of Israel, clothed with filthy garment symbolizing the sins of the nation. There was the angel of the LORD who is Christ. Also, present was Satan who accused Joshua of sins. But Joshua was given a clean garment symbolizing cleansing from sins from God on the merit of Christ our Advocate who became the perfect sacrifice for our sins. The verdict - there was no ground for any charge against Joshua but the evil one continues with its diabolical assaults. Today, the devil has no grounds to accuse us before God because Jesus Christ has fully paid the penalty of our sins. Through His righteousness and shed blood on the cross we are forgiven of our sins, justified before God and declared righteous before Him. Turn to Christ and let Him be our Refuge and Strength to defend us against these malevolent attacks of the evil one which will fail in the end.

Our Lord has also given us the means of grace to overcome the temptations of the devil and to live victoriously for Him. What are we to do?

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Pray Fervently

2 Corinthians 10:4 tells us, *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds"*. In prayer we humbly acknowledge the grace of God in giving us Salvation in Christ. Through prayer we also need to put God first and to put on the whole armour of God which are the 6 pieces of protective cover and prayer according to Ephesians 6:13-18. Without Christ we are powerless against a formidable foe but with Christ as our Refuge, we are under His protection and care.

Resist Steadfastly

We are to draw nigh to God first and receive strength from the Lord to resist the devil. We are told in James 4:7 to *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* We resist by God's strength and not giving in to the lies and assaults of the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27 exhorts us, *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil."* Here, we are reminded to guard against the sin of unrighteous anger and we must deal with Satanic temptation and be not unforgiving, grudging, covetous, immoral, envying, or give any opportunity for which the devil could use to accuse us. We need to seek God first and maintain a good testimony before God and men and continue to fight the good fight of Faith and expose and oppose Satan and his evil forces without the fear or favour of man (1 Tim 6:11-12).

Live For God Faithfully

Revelation 12:11, *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."* The Lord has saved and sanctified us to live for Him as His Word commands us. We have the indwelling Holy Spirit who empowers us to be good witnesses unto Him. We must therefore continue to yield to God and consecrate our lives for His use. In the same spirit of love and gratitude to God shown to us by the Apostle Paul, we echo his words, *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (Phil 1:21). Concentrate on the Word of God and the Work of God in saving souls and be not distracted or discouraged by the attacks of the evil one and fall into his malevolent wiles.

Christ has set the perfect example for us in how he defeated Satan during the temptation in wilderness (Mat 4:1-11). He quoted scripture to ward off the diabolical temptations and tribulations by the devil. Satan is a defeated foe and he will be dealt with by God's perfect justice one day, cast into the lake of everlasting fire (Rev 20:10).

Conclusion

The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 5:8 says, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* We praise God that in Christ, despite the tribulations and testings, we need not fear the devil's railing assaults and his fiery darts for we have the victory over the devil through our risen and victorious Christ who has overcome our adversary. Truly *"in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him (Christ) that loved us"* (Rom 8:37).

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	<i>Today: 13/12/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 20/12/2009</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Joey Seow	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Message:</i>	Christ in the Gospel of Matthew	The Genealogy of Jesus Christ	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	Matthew 1:1	Matthew 1:1-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Resident Minister: Thank God for the safe arrival of Pastor Ki. Continue to pray for Mrs Ki & sons who will be arriving in London on Tuesday. Pray that their shipment will arrive safely in January. • Bible Study: Today, we will cover Lesson 28 (Genesis 37). Please spend the upcoming week preparing for DHW Lesson 29 (Genesis 38). • Pray for those who are sick: - Constance (ankle), Douglas (knee pain), Barbara (Alzheimer's), Prema (thyroid & skin condition), Eld Jack Ford (old age and knees), Margaret (asthma), Mrs Ki's father (lung cancer), Eld Chew (recovery from shoulder injury), Mrs Ki (recovery from back pain), John (cold) , Maureen (cold) • Pray for those who are away or on travel: Mrs Ki & sons (S. Korea to UK), John & Sharon (S'pore), Nicolas (Belgium), Yetta (S. Africa), Fung (HK), Margaret (US), Joy (Madrid) • Pray for those seeking employment/new opportunities: Joy, Yetta
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Grace	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Joey Seow	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Message:</i>	Abel's faith	Enoch's faith	
<i>Text:</i>	Hebrews 11:4	Hebrews 11:5	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Joy	Sophia	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 13/12/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 20/12/2009</i>	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Joey / Daniel	Jonathan / Joy	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Joshua	Lee-Wei	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Lesson 28 (Gen 37)	Lesson 29 (Gen 38)	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 18 Dec	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Christmas Dinner	
Sat 19 Dec	4:00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Jonathan	
Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £748.35		Lunch: £47.30	
<u>Promise and Prayer</u>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adapted from "In Green Pastures" by J.R. Miller, D.D.</i></p> <p>There is really no true praying which is not based on a divine promise. We may never pray unqualifiedly unless there be a promise for the thing we want. But when God has promised anything to us, we can go to him with boldness and ask him to do as he has said. But why ask if he has promised? Asking shows faith. Asking is the acceptance on our part of what God offers. Ask, and ye shall receive; ask not, and ye shall not receive. Find a promise for what you want, and then bring it boldly to God. If you have no plain promise, ask humbly, submissively, and modestly, leaving altogether to his wise love the things about which you are uncertain.</p>			