

Enemy

Have you been hassled lately by Satan in your personal life and ministry?

I hope you are defeating him, because you can and you should.

Jesus withstood Satan's attacks and temptations because:

- He was filled with the Holy Spirit and led by him;
- he was always obedient to God, always did his Father's will;
- he denied the desires of the flesh;
- and he used Scripture to overcome the tempter's appeal.

An athlete will not go out on to the field to play American football competitively without all of his gear in place. Each piece of equipment serves a specific purpose. If such concern and precaution go into a game, what should be done in readiness for the conflict of the ages?

I need to be a fully covered Christian – defensively and offensively. The first-century believers easily understood Apostle Paul's analogy to ancient body armor, and he says that God has a special suit of armor for you and me.

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Satan knows that Christ has defeated him and that his days on earth are numbered. But he would like to have us believe nothing has changed. He doesn't want us to know we have been empowered by God.

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work” (1 John 3:8).

And again: “having disarmed the [evil] powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Col. 2:15).

“[Jesus Christ]...has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him” (Luke 22:69).

[Jesus] said, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to...overcome all the power of the enemy...’ (Luke 10:19)

“They overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death” (Rev. 12:11). Just think! These ordinary humans overcame the devil, even though it may have cost them their physical lives! ◇◇◇