



## Should Christians Fight?

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We remember those who were willing to go to battle and fight for our freedom. We remember those who are currently in battle for our freedom and the freedom of others needing our help. God also calls His people to do physical battle against the evil in this world. However, that call is twofold. There is also a spiritual battle He calls us to, but who is this enemy or enemies we are called to fight? Is it your boss or your neighbor? Could it be your wife or your husband? Let's see who God says it is.

In heaven, Lucifer, a beautiful archangel created by God, stood over God's throne. This angel was so beautiful and shone so brightly that he was called "the morning star." However, he became full of pride and boastful. In time, he decided he wanted to be just like God and even desired His position. Lucifer and a host of the other angels thought they could overthrow God, their very own creator. Mutiny erupted in heaven. God quickly put a stop to their rebellion and foolishness. As a result, these rebellious angels lost their positions in heaven. These fallen angels came to be known as Satan and his demons or as the devil and evil spirits. Wickedness had been found in them.

But listen children of God, you need to know this: These fallen angles haven't given up the quest to rule the earth. They continue their objective by influencing as many people as they can to follow their example of rebellion against God and drawing them into sin. Sin leads to death and it separates us from a loving God. John 10:10 says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." In this scripture, Jesus spoke about Satan and referred to him as a thief with a mission to destroy. And that includes you and me. In the same scripture He adds, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." In contrast, Jesus came to give us an abundant life.

These fallen angels are very cunning. They are deceivers. 2 Cor. 11:14 tells us, "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." In other words, he comes pretending to be something he is not, in order to try to mislead us. Peter gives us a warning in 1 Pet. 5:8, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Consider—when you sin, you are saying by your actions, "I have made you lord of my life, Satan. I am obedient to your ways."

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, if Christ is your Lord then your actions will show it by obedience to His ways. If we love God, we need to be obedient to Him, the Great I Am, the One who created the heavens and earth, and created you and me. He is the one who loves us, shows us mercy, and gives us grace. Ps. 97:10 says, "Let those who love the Lord hate evil." 2 Tim. 2:19 says, "The Lord knows those who are his" and "everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

Have you ever wished you could start your life over? Christ gives us that opportunity. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come," 2

Cor. 5:17. Eph. 4:22-24 says, “You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

We don't have to be in bondage to the sins in our lives anymore. There is a better way. 1 Peter 2:24 tells us Jesus “himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.” Did Christ die for our sins so we could keep on sinning? Of course not, this scripture lets us know that now we can put sin behind us, and live righteous lives.

Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. Yet, He was sinless. He won the victory for us, and we can have the victory through Him. He broke the power that sin had in our lives. He even sent the Holy Spirit to help us day by day. But, do we move into that freedom Jesus died to give us? Do we realize we are free from the bondage of sin? It no longer has a hold on us. We are free. Now we can serve and glorify God with pure hearts. Listen, the truth will make you free and His Word is truth. God has shown us a new way to live. It is a life of love and joy, for right now, right here.

In Eph. 6:10-18 we learn who the real enemy is, how to defeat him, and what the weapons of our warfare are. Don't let Satan have the satisfaction of winning in your life. Don't let sin keep you down. Let's move higher and live in God's kingdom, a kingdom where love reigns supreme, because God is love. Favor, mercy, grace, goodness, righteousness and blessings have no limits in His kingdom.

Listen people of God: Satan is not merciful. We can't be merciful to him. There has to be a battle fought in order to gain a victory. It is time for the church to put on its armor. Let's not hide from the enemy or be pushed around by him anymore. We don't have to let sin or the evil in this world control us anymore. We are more than conquerors. We have victory through Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us the help we need. Our allegiance is to God almighty, who is all-powerful, yet merciful and loving. We are on the winner's side.

Come on men. Come on women. If you love God, throw out what keeps trying to hang around, if it isn't pleasing to our Heavenly Father. There is a spiritual enemy to defeat. Christ has paved the way for us. He has already defeated our enemy. We fight a defeated foe. Think about that! Let's show God we stand for Him! Your battle cry is praise to God. Let the high praises of God be in your mouth, and His Word be a double-edged sword in your hand.

Jesus is coming back and it won't be long. Stand strong. Don't fear. Let God's love surround you. His love will be your protection. It brings us together as one.