



Should Christians Fight?

Nancy L Harry

When you think of an army, what comes to your mind? Fighting and battles come to my mind. Some of you may naturally be fighters, jumping in and fighting even if it isn't your fight. Not me! I have a hard time even confronting. I'm more comfortable running in the opposite direction. And the thought of violence and blood—uh uh. But God has been changing me and guess what? If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and the Lord of your life, he is changing you too.

We remember those who were willing to go to battle and fight for our freedom. Today we remember those who are presently in battle for our freedom and the freedom of others—freedom from the terrorists who have no respect for the life. Sometimes God 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 the 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 where God resides, Lucifer, a beautiful archangel created by God, stood over his 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 defeat God, their very own creator. We could describe this as a mutiny 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 in other terms, 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 their quest to overthrow the Creator of the universe. They continue their mutiny by trying to get as many of us as they can to follow their example, by influencing us and drawing us into sin, into rebellion against God. 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 you an abundant life, to heal and to meet all your needs.

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 actually in a way, worshipping Satan. 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.” There is a better way. We don't have to be in bondage to the sins in our lives anymore. 1 Pet. 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? No, this scripture lets us know that now we can put sin behind us, and live righteous lives.

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 are to come out of bondage to sin by renewing our minds with the ways of God.

Jesus paid the penalty of our sins. But do we move into the freedom Jesus died to give us? Or, do we still feel guilty and condemned over sins from our past that God says he forgave? Do we realize we are free from the bondage of sin? It no longer has a hold on us. We are free, so we can serve and glorify God. Now is the time to conquer sin, poverty, sickness, bad habits, selfishness... This is our fight. 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.

How often do we want to tell someone else to “get out of our face?” But do we tell Satan to go? God says the people perish for lack of knowledge, but the truth shall make them free. Jesus died for you and me. He paid the price for your sin and mine. His death freed us from the penalty of sin. God's way of life, when we walk in it, frees us from bondage—the hold sin had over our lives. We are free to renew our minds with His word, and as a result, walk in victory over sin and death, and into eternity with a loving God.

We are called to fight, to be warriors for him. 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. We must take the kingdom by force.

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. There is no victory without a war. It is time for the church to put on its armor. Let's not hide from the enemy or to be pushed around by him anymore. The Church is called to battle. 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, powerful yet merciful and loving. We are on the winner's side.

Come on men. Come on women. If you love God, you have sins to throw out and 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!

Come on men. Come on women. Jesus Christ has recruited you into his army. Let's show God we stand with him! Stand up church and march in the army of God. Your battle cry is praise to God. Let the high praises of God be in your mouth and his Word, a double-edged sword in your hand. Prepare for war and praise your God.