**Walking In Victory (1)**

 Apostle Paul is coming to the close of his letter to the Ephesians. He is us calling us as soldiers of Christ to "***walk in victory***". Christian life is not a playground, but a battlefield. Satan and his demonic forces are committed to hinder the work of Christ in us and through us. In our own strength we are no match for the devil. So Apostle Paul is calling us to **be strong in the LORD**; **put on the whole armour of God** and **know the strategy of the enemy,** that we may be able to stand against the devil’s schemes.

**Q: What is the strategy of Satan?**

 The Bible describes Satan as a **Serpent, as a lion, as a ruler, and as the accuser.** If we know Satan’s strategy against us, we will know how to deal with it. The Old Testament revealed to us about four persons had a direct confrontation with Satan “***Eve*, *Job*, *David* and *Joshua* the *high priest*”.** From their experiences we see the targets Satan aims at in our life, the weapons he uses to attack us, the purposes that he wants to achieve; and the defences God has provided for us.

 **As a serpent**, Satan’s attacks aim at our mind as he did with Eve. Lies are his weapon he used. His purpose is to make us ignorant of God’s Will and disobey it. But our defense is using the Word of God as our Lord Jesus did.

 **As a Lion**, Satan’s attacks aim at our body as he did with Job. Sufferings are his weapon he used. His purpose is to make us impatient with God’s Will. But our defense is the imparted grace of God.

 **As a Ruler** of this world, (**The world is not the universe or peoples that God created but refers to the whole value-system which dominates society and is contrary to the ways of God),** Satan’s attacks aim at our will as he did with King David. Pride is his weapon he used. His purpose is to make us independent of God’s Will. But our defense is to rely on the indwelling of the Spirit of God.

 **As the Accuser**, Satan’s attacks aim at our hearts and our conscience, as he did with Joshua the high priest. Accusations are his weapon he used. His purpose is to bring an indictment by God’s Will. But our defense is the interceding Son of God.

 **Satan as a Serpent** his attacks do not always come in open and easily observed forms. They are usually subtle and crafty. He is the deceiver, a tempter, and the father of all lies. He did not approach Eve in his true nature; he used the serpent and disguises himself as an angle of light. He approached Eve and deceived her mind with his lies and made her to disobey God’s command. That is why Apostle Paul warned the church of Corinthians saying *“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ”* (2 Cor 11:3)

 Let us go back to the Garden of Eden and notice the steps Satan took in getting Eve to believe his lie.

 (1) He questioned God’s Word. “Did God really say; you must not eat from any tree in the garden?” (2) He denied God’s Word. “You will not surely die,” (3) He substituted his own lie. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:1-5)

Satan tempted Eve with greater privilege: to be like God! Satan’s lie “You will be like God” still motivates and controls much of our civilization today. Man is seeking to pull himself up by his own bootstraps.

Eve tempted with the desire to be like God and believed Satan’s lies. She saw the penalty for disobedience God as presented by the Serpent did not seem as harsh, therefore, Eve could consider forsaking God’s will and obeying Satan’s will.

 Satan attacks God’s Word because God’s Word reveals God’s will. Always Satan attacks our mind to make us ignorant of God’s will. If Satan can make us ignorant of God’s will, he will rob us of all the glorious blessing God has planned for our life.

So what is our defense? Our wisdom is no match for Satan’s cunning. Our only defense is the inspired Word of God. We must use God’s Word. Our mind should become like a “spiritual computer.” It should be so full with Scripture that when we face a decision or a temptation, we automatically remember the God’s Word to relate that particular situation. If Satan uses the Bible to promote his own lies, as he did with our Lord Jesus in the wilderness, let us do what Jesus did. Use the Scripture saying IT IS WRITTEN.

Satan as a serpent, he deceives**, as a lion, he devours**. But if we resist his deceit, then he will attack our bodies. **Job** is the prime illustration of this kind of attack. By God’s permission, Satan attacked Job’s body and all that related to it. First, Satan attacked Job’s body through the circumstances around him, and Job lost his ten children, his wealth, his health and the favour of his wife, friends, and neighbour.

When Job looked around he saw his situation was painful. When he looked in, it was more painful. And when he looked up, it seemed that God had forsaken him. But Job maintained his faith in God and was honoured at the end.

Satan used sufferings as his weapon to make us impatient with God’s will. James 5:11 says *“As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy”.* This verse indicates that Satan’s purpose was to try to get Job to be impatient and give up. Job did become impatient with himself and his critical friends, but he never lost his faith in God. Although he did not understand what God was doing, Job knew that he could trust God and that God would vindicate him in the end.

What should we do when Satan attacks our bodies with suffering and tries to make us impatient with God’s will?

Job said: “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him” (Job 13:15). Remember what happened to Paul, when Satan attacked him with “thorn in the flesh” that buffeted him enough to make him pray three times for healing. God did not answer Paul’s prayer, but God did meet Paul’s need. “My Grace is sufficient for you”. It is the imparted grace of God that gives us victory when Satan attacks the body with suffering. The imparted grace of God is the only weapon that can defeat Satan, and that grace can be found only in “the God of all grace”.

 We have now met two persons in the Old Testament who had a personal confrontation with Satan. **How do we deal with the devil our enemy?**

Remember the Word of God and do not listen to the voice of the devil! **The Bible says:-**

1. **Be strong in the LORD**
2. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James4:7)**
3. **Do not give the devil a foothold (Eph 4:27)**
4. **Put on the full Armor of God (Eph 6: 10-24)**
5. **Be alert and keep always on praying.**

 May the Lord God bless and keep you. May His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May he lift His face upon you and grant you his prefect peace Amen.