



PHOTO CREDIT: ECHOHISHEART.COM

## Don't Be Deceived: Ten Battle Plans to Take Out Your Enemy

PASTOR JENINE MARIE HOWRY (2016)

You might not have realized this but you are in a war zone every single day of your life. The very moment you chose God you decided to take sides. There are only two: the side of God and the side of His enemy. You need to know who this enemy is if you are going to defeat him, and you also need to know what you have in Christ Jesus that makes you victorious over his cunning attacks. Let's begin with the enemy of your very soul.

### Who is Satan really?

Satan was originally created as Lucifer, a beautiful Cherub, an angel of light, created perfect with his own free will.

**"You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God;**

**every precious stone adorned you" (Ezekiel 28: 12-13).**

But pride took over. Let's just say he became full of himself when he should have been full of God. He became puffed up, thinking himself above God and his ways. God considered this attitude to be evil.

**"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you". (Ezekiel 28:15).**

That puffed up pride awarded him a one-way ticket out of God's Kingdom. In essence, he got the boot. That is what pride does to us all. It separates us from the God who made us. God hates pride because it insinuates that we are better than others and better than Him. Pride also is shown by thinking we can do it all without God or His help.

So, Lucifer was cast out of heaven and exiled from God's Kingdom. His puffed up pride that exalted himself above God caused the biggest separation from heaven ever. In fact, it was so serious, Lucifer will never partake in the coming Kingdom of God, but in fact his deeds awarded him hell for eternity.

Just like any other prideful soldier who just lost the battle, he chose to take as many angels with him in the fall, and 1/3 of them joined him. These fallen angels spawned the evil demonic spiritual attacks we battle every day as a Christian.

According to his change in nature, Lucifer (which from the Latin means "*light bearer*") at that moment was renamed Satan, meaning *adversary*. The Bible has described him as "*lord of the flies*" or "*lord of the dung hill*"! Can you

think of anything more disgusting than that?

### Now let's look at what we have in Christ Jesus

Jesus is the Savior of all people. His sacrificial dying upon the cross on Calvary releases us from the bondage of sin and death. His actions also delivered us from the evil one...Satan. All we need do is believe and place our trust in Him. We become His and we are defended by His miraculous power always and forever.

The Bible tells us that we are saved by grace, meaning there is nothing we can do to earn salvation. It is a gift from God.

**"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast". (Ephesians 2: 8-9)**

The word "saved" as in "salvation" from the Greek is **Sozo**. Sozo refers to salvation from our sins, healing from our illness and sicknesses, and deliverance from the attacks of the enemy. As you can see, Jesus' act upon the cross gave much more to you than a ticket to heaven when your time here is over. He gave you everlasting life, a place in His Kingdom, healing from disease, and deliverance from the devil and his schemes. If you are a Christian, you are a blessed being!

Yet along with this knowledge, faith, and understanding, also comes responsibility. We are

responsible to "guard our hearts with all diligence". We are responsible to take care of our bodies because they are the "temple of the Holy Spirit". We are also responsible for renewing our minds by "washing them with the water of the word of God". All of these things are Biblically spoken of. In a nutshell, we work on this thing with God knowing He has supplied the power and the way.



Taking a look at the nature of Satan.

- 1) He looks like light
- 2) He is prideful and thinks he is above God and worthy of worship
- 3) He is an enemy of God and God's people
- 4) He is cunning, crafty, and manipulative
- 5) He speaks lies, he does not have the spirit of truth, so there is no truth in him or his ways
- 6) He has fallen angels under his command in the form of demonic powers and principalities
- 7) He loves to pervert the beautiful things of God, such as marriage, Jesus'

- church, all things that are good and pure and holy**
- 8) **He is the lover of sin and evil. He wants God's people to fall.**

These are only a few things. Do not be deceived. He always comes and presents his garbage in the form of something we think we want and he does it looking like an angel of light. Remember, things that look good are not always good. Know the nature of God, his personality, and His ways. You are a lot less likely to be deceived when you know the heart of our Father for us!

**What happens when we become prideful?**

Satan's influence can always be noticed when a person becomes prideful. An overcoming victorious Christian who has won a battle never does it filled with pride. God tells us that "pride comes before a fall", and we see that example through what happened to Lucifer/Satan.

### Battle Plan #1: Eliminate Pride

**If you are having a hard time getting victory in some area, there is a good chance it is rooted in pride.**

Pride can be a real nasty thing for us because it can take so many different forms. Some of these can be:

- 1) Un-forgiveness – Forgiveness takes humility and pride will not allow this.

- 2) Selfishness/Self Centered – We think only of ourselves and not the needs of others.
- 3) Covetousness – Pride makes us think we deserve to have things that others have, or always wanting what others have.
- 4) Greed – Greed states that we deserve to have more than we need or more than what God has blessed us with.
- 5) Adultery – Adultery is prideful because it insinuates our marriage partner is not enough of a gift for us and it leads us to do things out of our own greedy desires, not considering the pain it causes others.

As you can see there are many ways a prideful attitude can take form. Our battle plan #1 is to have God search our hearts, reveal any wicked ways or desires, and eliminate them!

**“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.**

**See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139: 23-24)**

**Remember: Humility is a devil buster!**

Puffed up haughty pride is usually pretty obvious but pride also comes in more subtle ways. Those are the ways Satan gets us the most because we don't expect or suspect anything. You

see, Satan and his demonic forces love to play on our areas we are insecure, have not grown, or are not aware of. Sometimes he plays on our wounds. We all have them, so this gives him plenty of ammunition.

### **Battle Plan #2: Flush Out Emotional Wounds**

**I'll let you in on one of Satan's most common ploys.**



Your enemy loves to attack you in a place that is wounded from an experience you have endured. In fact, just like any other enemy he will set you up! He will work on your most touchy wound and arrange an influence surrounding you in a way where you will become upset, disempowered, fearful, and hurt. He loves to isolate you, so if he can get you to become depressed, all the better for him.

The good news is that God is stronger and His light reveals those wounds if we are willing to undergo the process in order to allow Him to do so and to heal them. When we attend first aide classes and learn wound care for our physical wounds we also learn a valuable lesson for our emotional wounds. All wounds need air, protection, and

medication to heal. Emotionally we can air our wounds to one another, protect them with the covering of God's Holy Spirit, and medicate them with His words. His spirit loves to comfort even when words are hard to express or even hear. He has a mystical way of being so present any time we need Him. All we need to do is call upon Him and He is there!

Our emotional wound healing depends first and foremost on the airing process. You see, the enemy loves to pull out things we hide and shame a believer. That way he can make us feel like we are not worthy of God's love or salvation. Airing has a multiple purpose. One is to expose and open a wound that needs to be bled out in order to allow a space for healing. Bleeding out became a term I started to use when I was in college working on a Master's Degree. I discovered that so much healing can take place when we allow a wound to be cut open, the festering released, and then allow the hurt to flow out from us. Airing also has the purpose of volunteering exposure. The enemy cannot expose what we have already allowed to come forward. By volunteering information about ourselves we walk in personal integrity and disempower the enemy's ability to cause us shame.

Through the airing process prayer can be added, with comfort, and God's grace. The word of God tells us to confess our sins to one another. Having a partner to air our wounds with can be a very powerful healing process.

Bringing in the power of God's word and the power of Holy Spirit guided prayer can create a miracle that sets the captive free! How exciting is that?

Bottom line, if a person deals with the inner wounded self, the enemy will have no power to use those wounds. Not only that we get to walk free from anything similar ever hurting us again.

### **Battle Plan #3: Be Sober and Alert to the Enemy at All Times**

Would you walk into enemy territory without paying attention to your surroundings? Or, would you be in the enemy's midst without a sober mind and allow yourself to be vulnerable to an attack? God warns us about these things.

**"Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour". (1 Peter 5:8)**

Think of a detective movie where an officer moves in on a place where a suspect is hiding. He or she goes in with a gun drawn, carefully inspecting every area surrounding them. The moves are made with strategic caution because the idea is to defeat the suspect and not the other way around. Every detective has rehearsed his battle plan and strategies while learning how to apprehend a suspect. It is not different when dealing with the enemy of our soul. God has given to us a weapon. It is called "the sword of the spirit" (His Word). In fact, God has given to us an entire

armor to wear when dealing with our enemy.



### **Armor of God**

**"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 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. Ephesians 6: 10-17).**

Our struggle is not with people we see on earth, not really. It might seem that way when we experience them but behind every evil is a spiritual dark force that will need an attack in the spirit world in order to reckon with it. If we battle in the flesh we are in trouble because our true enemy is not flesh. If we battle God's way in the spirit, we will win every single time. No exception!

The devil is defeated by the truth, the word of God. Jesus is our authority because He is the living word. When we battle with that authority the devil has no choice but to put down his weapon and leave. The enemy's strength is a lie. He wants us to think he is a big bad boogie man! He is NOT! He is a slimy sniveling entity who is nothing more than lord of the dung hill. Picture that as a vision when you go into battle!

When you decide to go into battle go armed with God's truth. Speak it out loud, and show Satan who is boss! Jesus gave you that authority! You CAN bring down enemy strongholds by pretty much telling him how exposed, weak, and done he is! Not to mention speaking the very name of Jesus makes him run for the hills! He is the only one we ever should make the statement "go to hell" to! That is where he will live for eternity anyway!

Keep yourself alert, and stand your ground until the end. Know the victory is already yours! Keep a sober mind. Never get caught off guard. Know the enemy's

strategies and act accordingly. If the boundaries are guarded, then the walls will never be penetrated by enemy forces!

#### **Battle Plan #4: Know Who You Are in Christ**

**“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).**

When God tells us that we are seated with Christ in high places we are sharing his position in the heavenly realm. We are given to Jesus as a gift from God the Father. We are His! When we remember “whose” we are there is no backing down when the enemy advances. We fight our battles with the assurance that we have His victory. Jesus conquered sin and death through his crucifixion and resurrection. We share in that victory. He has given it to us as a gift. We need not earn a thing. All we need to do is believe and conduct our battle plans according to His ways. We are His most treasured possession and we are victorious in Him.

When you think about it, any time you come up against someone and you know, that you know, you are the stronger one, you will win the battle. This is the same with our spiritual battles. We have to know that we know we have won because Jesus is our victory. He stands with us because He is on our side!

#### **Battle Plan #5: Be Grateful**

Gratitude has a power all of its own. When we are grateful for what we have there is no yearning for the things that others have or what we think we desire. Remember the discussion on pride? Gratitude takes care of covetousness, selfishness, and envy. God loves us to count our blessings. It grows riches in our hearts with the thankfulness of all He has given to us and all He has been for us. Satan hates this because he cannot dig into the personal love and gracious way that God takes care of His children. He can only play on our dissatisfaction. If there is none of that then he is automatically defeated.

#### **Battle Plan #6: Forgive**

Oh boy! If there is ever anything the devil hates it has to be forgiveness! He thrives on strife and forgiveness takes that away from him. When we forgive we put forth healing for our own hearts. We release ourselves from the hold that hurts have had on us. We also release the one we are forgiving in the spirit realm. We create a double powerful blessing when we forgive. Forgiveness also keeps us from becoming bitter, hardened in heart, and remaining wounded. Sometimes it is a process but if we are diligent enough in practicing it we will succeed.

Forgiveness allows us to move forward and releases us from the past. It is really quite powerful! It does not have to mean we agree that the offender has been right. It just means that we choose to

love ourselves and love our enemies as ourselves. Remember, our true enemy is Satan not the one who offended us. We can become angry and hurt at what someone has done but we can forgive the act and still love the person. This never means we should just accept them back into our lives. Trust has to be earned over time and when it is violated then our boundaries have to include proving one’s self to us in order to trust again. This might never happen and that is fine. We can still be released and victorious through forgiveness!

#### **Battle Plan #7: Set Boundaries**

Boundaries are a very important thing for every believer to understand and have. They are there for our protection and also our security. Boundaries state, “This territory is ours/mine and no one else can infiltrate it because is it sacred ground.



JenineMarie.com

One important area that needs these boundaries is in marriage. When people get married they come together to join as a unit and as one. They should learn to operate within that oneness. God wants us to “keep the marriage bed undefiled”. His heart is to

keep safe His married couples and he holds them deep within his love. His protection is there but the responsibility of receiving wisdom belongs also to the couple. Guarding boundaries together is the best way to make sure the enemy does not take hold of some of the sacred marriage ground.

The means keeping intruders OUT! It is not unkind to protect a marriage from those who might carry a spirit of lust, division, or adultery. These spirits are especially assigned to destroy marriages because married people are powerful in the spirit. The devil sure does not want anyone to have that kind of power, now does he? Of course he is going to attack the married couple with everything he can.

The very best battle plan for married couples is to pray together. The devil can never cross the blood line while praying in the name of Jesus and proclaiming His shed blood upon the marriage. When two come together and pray as one, God's promise is to be there as well. Also a threefold cord is not easily broken. Keeping prayerful over boundaries works with all of them, not only the marriage ones. We all have certain things we will accept from others and things we will not. Enforcing boundaries in the spirit realm knocks out the enemy from the spirit first so the person who is the intruder will not prevail.

**Battle Plan #8: Pray in the Spirit**

Every Christian should know how to pray in the spirit. When we come to God in prayer, His Holy Spirit joins us and loves to do this! Jesus told us that He wants us to ask for things. He wants to help us, He wants to battle for us, and He wants us to WIN! "If God be for us who could ever be against us"?



**"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people". (Ephesians 6:18).**

To pray in the Spirit is to be led by the Spirit. Just begin to pray, ask God's Holy Spirit to help and He will be there to take the lead. Sometimes we don't even know what to pray so the Spirit will come and intercede for us even in words we cannot understand.

**"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans". (Romans 8:26).**

When approaching God, know you are at His throne. Remember, we are in high places with Christ Jesus! Also remember to be

completely honest in how you are feeling about something. God is a God of truth. If you are angry, begin with confessing that you feel very angry. God gets angry too! He HATES when the devil tries to destroy His children. Ask Him to guide you and then allow Him to flow through your heart, mind and out your mouth. It takes a bit of practice but you will get the hang of it. The Holy Spirit knows how to do battle. He will reveal the enemy to you and show you how to conquer him in the spirit world. If there is a spirit of division in your relationships He will reveal that. If there is a spirit of adultery that is trying to attack your marriage by sending in temptation, He will reveal that too! You can conquer these things and more when you pray with God because you are in agreement with Him and you cannot lose!

**Battle Plan #9: Pray Without Ceasing**

**"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil". (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22)**

The easiest way to pray without ceasing is to have God in your heart all of the time. God's Holy Spirit lives in YOU. You can connect with Him every second of

the day, every moment you breathe. How cool is that?

Don't be afraid to pray tenaciously! You were born to do this and you have been gifted to do this! Have others pray with you. We are stronger in numbers.

### **Battle Plan #10: Pray with Strategy**

Every warrior has a battle strategy. Ask God to help you to discern the spirits that are trying to attack. God will make you aware of them and you can go in for the victory!

Remember you are His chosen and you cannot lose when you align yourself with Jesus! He is the Master of Battle Strategy!

I want to also add this: in order to make these things work you need to work them! Nothing happens if nothing is done. Get upset with the enemy! Jesus did! Get tenacious with getting rid of him and his evil ways. Be in continual alliance with God and His Holy Spirit and your protection,

victory, and success will be assured every single time.

Will there be moments when you are wondering what is happening? Probably. You are human. But be assured that there is something going on in the spirit realm on your behalf. You might not see it instantly but you WILL see it! Trust God. He loves you, so trust in that love!

**Dear Jesus, Thank You for choosing me to be one of Your children, and thank You for the love and protection You have for me. Forgive me of my sins and help me always to see the error of my ways. I want to align myself with Your wisdom, Your integrity, Your love, and Your power.**

**I proclaim the authority of Your name as I stand with You at the throne of grace in high places. With Your authority I call out every evil demonic entity that has attached itself to my life. Every power, principality and evil dark force must break free from me right now. "You cannot**

**have dominion in any area of my life", in Jesus' name!**

**I cast down every spiritual stronghold in the name of Jesus. Every strategic plan or Satanic scheme is rendered powerless, NOW. "Satan you have no authority in my life. I bind you, and every demonic influence under your command in the name of Jesus. You must flee and never return.**

**Thank You Lord, for Your protection and for Your love for me. Thank You for salvation. Help me to always remain in Your Spirit and keep close to me always.**

**Thank you, Jesus, for delivering me from the powers of hell and for setting me free from the plans of enemy forces. I proclaim and declare that I live in Your land of peace, love, and Kingdom joy, forever and ever, amen!**

Contact Information:

Pastor Jenine Marie Howry

[Jenine Marie Coaching](#)

For Prayer:

800-421-1765

JenMarie7777@icloud.com