



True, Satan used Scripture, as well, but those scriptures were misused in order to be deceitful. The truth, the word of God, is Satan's greatest weakness. The word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword and it cuts everything to the heart of the matter (Hebrews 4:12). This is why the word of God is the only weapon in the Christian's armor (Ephesians 6:17); it is the greatest and only weapon we will ever need against the adversary. In Lewis Carroll's story, *Through the Looking Glass*, there is a creature called a "Jabberwocky" that is the deadliest creature to ever exist. Its only weakness, which eventually kills it, is a weapon called the "vorpal blade." To use this illustration, the word of God is the vorpal blade while Satan is the feared Jabberwocky. As Christians, we must always keep in mind that, when Satan rears his ugly head, we can fight him off with his greatest weakness.

The war that is waged upon us by our adversary is a dangerous one. I pray that we learn these lessons and practice them enough so that, when the time comes to use them, we will be ready and thereby be able to defend ourselves against the Devil's attacks. May God always bless us in this endeavor and may we always stay safe in His loving embrace.

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Faithful Sayings Issue 12.13 March 28, 2010

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

12.13

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

March 28
2010



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

Three Keys to Spiritual Self-Defense

by Curtis Carwile

I was watching a show the other day on the science of self-defense. The show itself is pretty neat; it uses a lot of scientific equipment to test exactly how effective certain techniques are in different scenarios. In this particular episode, they were evaluating different techniques of self-defense. One thing that impressed me about the show was that, before it got to all the "cool stuff," one of the self-defense experts came out and gave the three essential keys to self-defense that everyone must remember if they want to defend themselves from an attacker. This got me thinking. All of us are attacked on a daily basis by our enemy, Satan. In First Peter 5:8, Satan is called a "roaring lion" who is constantly looking for the next person he'll "devour." In Ephesians 6:11, we see that Satan is constantly hurling fiery darts at us with pinpoint accuracy. He is a formidable foe and we must defend ourselves against his advances if we hope to stay alive. It is with this in mind that I would like for us to consider three keys to spiritual self-defense.

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Awareness

The first key to spiritual self-defense is to **always be aware of your situation**. This is something that is taught in every military school, every self-defense class, and every martial arts dojo because it is so important to know where you are and what is going on there at all times. As Christians, we need to be constantly aware of our situation, personally, emotionally, and physically. In Ephe-



Olsen Park church of Christ

sians 5:15, Paul tells us to **“walk circumspectly.”** That word “circumspectly” literally means to “look all the way around.” So, we are to always be “looking around” at what is going on in our lives and around us. Personally, we need to always keep in mind what Jesus told the church at Ephesus to **“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works”** (Revelation 2:5). We must always remember our roots, where we were (which was lost in sin) and where we are now thanks to His grace. We need to be aware of our pride which threatens our standing in grace so we can take the appropriate actions. Emotionally, we need to always be aware of our surroundings. If I know that I get easily annoyed in certain situations or around certain people to the point that I stumble, I need to be aware of that so I can prepare for those situations and be patient. Physically, we need to be aware of our surroundings. If I know that I will be tempted to drink, I don’t need to go to parties or places where alcohol is served. If I know I will be tempted by sexual immorality, I should avoid “alone time” with no one else around with someone I’m sexually attracted to. If I know I will be tempted to lust, I should stay off the internet and not subscribe to premium movie channels. Preparing to battle Satan requires us to constantly be aware of our surroundings and our current situation. If we don’t, we’ll lose before the battle has even begun.

Control

The second key to spiritual self-defense is to **always control your fear**. There are two types of fear: fear of the known and fear of the unknown. As Christians, we need to

prepare ourselves to deal with both types of fear so that we can control them. As far as the fear of the known, we know what tricks Satan is going to pull on us; I mean, he’s only got so many. We know that he will hit us hard when we are at our strongest. We know that he will hit us harder when we are at our weakest. We know that he will hit us the hardest when we are at the most exhausted. We know that he is the father of all lies and that he is going to lie to us about everything (e.g. “Evolution is a scientific fact and there is no God”; “One drink won’t make you drunk and that’s really all the Bible forbids”; “There’s nothing wrong with using a piano in church if it makes you praise God better”). We know everything Satan is going to do to us and why. And, since Jesus has already defeated him and provided us a way to defeat him, what we know about him is nothing of which to be afraid. As far as the fear of the unknown, we don’t know when or how Satan is going to use his tricks and how subtle he will be when he uses them. This is partially what most of us are afraid of; we don’t like the unknown and Satan preys on that fear. This is why it is so important for us to walk circumspectly, so we will do our best to see Satan coming, whether he comes as the **“great dragon and serpent of old”** (Revelation 20:2) or as an **“angel of light”** (2 Corinthians 11:14). In either case,



we must control our fear and, the stronger our faith is, the easier this will be.

Knowledge

The third key to spiritual self-defense is to **know the critical weakness of your opponent**. In Matthew 4, when Jesus was being tempted by Satan, look how He responds to Satan’s attacks. In Matthew 4:4, 7, and 10, Jesus answers Satan with Satan’s most critical weakness—the truth. In all three verses, Jesus begins by saying, **“It is written.”**