

Wrestling Against and Defeating The Ambushes of the Enemy Part 2

Our primary weapon: sword of the Spirit—Eph. 6: 17

Recognize two basic enemy tactics

1. **Demonic ambushes** (*methodia*); sudden attacks structured through 1) circumstances or 2) soul — examples: Herod's slaughter of the innocents—attempt to kill Jesus in his infancy; Peter opposing Jesus' mission **Matt. 16:21-13**—attack in/through Peter's thoughts

2. **Demonic sleeper cells**--long-term, well-planned out strategies to entrap (*noema*) examples: Paul with Philippian slave girl; Herod Agrippa had James killed, then went after Peter – Satan's long-term use of Herod

Spiritual Warfare is Wrestling (Eph. 6:12)

- the nature of Greco-Roman wrestling
- standing wins; the need to “stand” and “remain standing”
- three times throwing the enemy wins the contest

Examples:

1. Jesus in the wilderness – Victory: Matt. 4:1-11: Jesus wrestled against the devil-- 3 temptations; 3 defeats of the enemy; use of the sword of the Spirit, the word of God; devil “flees”

2. Luke 22:31=34—Defeat: Peter denies Jesus three times – but, defeated, he was restored by the grace of God

How to Prepare & Defeat Demonic Ambushes 1 Peter 5:6-9; James 4:7

1. **Submit to (humble yourself before) God** – constantly abide in Him, be clothed with Christ (the full armor of God)
2. Be **sober**--aware of wartime footing, not intoxicated
3. Be **on the alert** (opposite: asleep)—quick to detect an attack when it occurs, or even before it occurs (to pre-empt it)
4. **Resist** the attack—cancel the enemy's authority; use the sword

Pre-emptive Spiritual Warfare

Pre-emptive Spiritual Warfare is a function of “watching” in the Spirit, discerning planned enemy attacks, and “destroying the works of the enemy” before they manifest –


Example: Luke 22:31-34-- Jesus and Peter – “Satan desires to sift you like wheat... but I have prayed for you...”

Note: Jesus “saw” and then acted in prayer to prevent the success of the attack

Two “Always” Ambush Attacks we are not to “be ignorant of”
satan’s primary goal-- to stop our kingdom work or
steal it away (snuff it out) if possible

- **Hindrance**—1 Thess. 2:18—“But we have wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way (prevented/hindered/obstructed/thwarted) us.” —an ambush **before** a kingdom event, to prevent it
- OT—*satan* NT *satanas*—one who opposes, resists, **stands in the way of**’...

Jesus in the wilderness – satan opposes Him in frontal attack

- 
- **Retaliation** – John 10:10 -- “the thief comes only to *steal*, to kill, and to destroy.” –ambush **after** a kingdom event
 - Paul and the Judaizers—Gal. 1:6-7—“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting the One who called you by grace...and are turning to a different gospel—which is not a gospel at all. Clearly some people are deceiving you and distorting the true gospel of the Lord.”
 - Matt. 13:4-- “birds” -- the seeds (of kingdom truth) sown, then the enemy tries to steal it away



Ways to Detect planned spiritual ambushes/strategies that are not yet manifested--

- **Natural**— see “probing” in the visible realm
- **Supernatural**—prophetic “intelligence”
 - 2 Kings 6:8-10 Elisha was a prophetic “watcher” to protect Israel

How to Prevent detected planned attacks:

Resist (*antihistemi*) --actively “**stand against:**” use scripture (sword of the Spirit, the word of God) and declare “NO” in Jesus’ name) (wrestle—resist the enemy up to three times?)

oppose the opposer

1 Sam. 17:45, 47 Example of David—“You **come against** me with sword and spear and javelin, but I **come against/ stand against** you in the name of the Lord...for the battle is the Lord’s.”

military analogy—satellite intelligence plus drone “sees” planned suicide attack by terrorists; U.S. missile targets and destroys the attackers



Key: Immediate Resistance – attack to defend: cancel authority/
come against attacking demons) from a distance (pre-emptive) or
up close (wrestling)

