The battle is on and the battle is real. Unfortunately, most Christians are losing more battles than they are winning. The victories do not have to go to the opposition, but they will continue to do so until believers learn how to fight biblically.

**Who are our enemies?**

**THE WORLD**  
Sociological Opposition

**THE FLESH**  
Physiological Opposition

**THE DEVIL**  
Supernatural Opposition

- **I John 2:15-17**  
- **Romans 7:15-25**  
- **Galatians 5:17**  
- **James 4:7-10**  
- **I Peter 5:8-9**
How do they primarily attack Christians?

THE WORLD
The world is an organized system in opposition and rebellion against God. *1 John 2:16* characterizes the world as: the lust of the flesh (physical desires), the lust of the eye (beautiful externals) and the boastful pride of life (selfish ambition).

THE FLESH
The flesh is represented as an old nature, the old man or the old self within each individual, including Christians, which is in opposition and rebellion against God. *Galatians 5:19-21*, *Colossians 3:5-8*, and *Mark 7:21-23* provide a partial list of areas that the flesh can easily inflame in this battle.

THE DEVIL
The devil is a real enemy, according to Jesus and the Bible, who is in opposition and rebellion against God. His primary attack against Christians seems to be through debilitating accusations. These accusations are usually mental attacks, in the mind, and are carried out by demonic spirits who faithfully serve the devil. *Revelation 12:10* mentions this type of opposition. It is possible that the flaming arrows targeted at Christians which are mentioned in *Ephesians 6:16* could also represent demonic accusation.
The Christian's defense against the world, the flesh and the devil

*I John 2:17* indicates that we are to evaluate alluring temptation and say "no". The eternal things of God should not be sacrificed for the temporal things of this world. Christians do not have to pretend that the tinsel and trappings of this world are not appealing. Sometimes the things of this world have the appearance of great value. Looks, however, are often deceiving; just ask Adam and Eve. The real issue is not how this world looks, but whether or not the temporal pleasures of this world are worth the eternal price tag that accompanies them.

*Galatians 5:16* and *Ephesians 5:18* indicate that if we walk controlled by the Spirit we will not carry out the desires of the flesh. *Ephesians 4:20-24* and *Romans 12:1-2* state that victory over our old nature or self is possible through consistently renewing our mind. We replace or substitute our old wrong way of thinking with new Christ-like thinking contained in the Bible. Lastly, *II Timothy 2:22* declares that in some situations involving the flesh the faithful believer should simply run.

Scripture like *James 4:7-8* and *I Peter 5:8-9* indicate that the Christian is to firmly resist the attacks of the devil. Jesus' example in *Matthew 4:1-11* shows that He used scripture against the devil in confronting him. Boldly resisting and fearfully running are two very different responses. Christian’s are commanded to resist, not run from this defeated enemy. Perfect love is supposed to cast out fear.
Problem

The world, the flesh and the devil are real opponents who attack Christians in different manners. Since Christians are to defend themselves in diverse manners according to which enemy they are confronting, it becomes extremely important that a Christian knows which enemy he is dealing with so he knows which defense system to activate. If the Christian does not know how to correctly identify his enemies as they attack, will he stand firm in his resistance (devil defense), be filled with the Spirit, renew his mind or run (flesh defense), or evaluate the situation and say no (world defense)?

Sadly, most Christians do not understand warfare. They do not understand the defense systems at their disposal. Therefore, too many Christians lose more battles than they win, and end up blaming God for their failures. The real truth of the matter is that the defense systems will work just as they have been designed to do. But they must be aimed at the right enemy to be effective. The real problem is not with the system; it is with the operator.

The battle is on and the battle is real. The victories likewise are real and so are the casualties. Christian, are you winning more battles than you are losing? Do you understand the opposition? Do you understand your defense systems? Are you blaming God for your defeats? Is it time to study God's Word so you can fight your opposition biblically? Sincerity is not enough.

REMEMBER...

- Accusation or Conviction, B/B, General or Specific.
- Pronouns are important.
- Offensive prayer works.
- You must know the Word if you hope to use it in battle.
- According to Ephesians 6:16, being on the receiving end of fiery arrows from demonic archers is a nonnegotiable part of normal Christian living. Debilitating, deadly, demoralizing accusation is a daily reminder that we live on a battlefield and that spiritual warfare is real. However, allowing those arrows of accusation to hit and burn is an option or choice believers can accept or deflect, depending upon their response.

- Although demons have great strength, wisdom and cunning, according to Luke 10:18-20, Christians have been delegated authority through the Lord Jesus Christ over them and protection from them. Demons are not colleagues or spiritual equals, they are losers, and should be approached and treated as such.