

WINNING IN THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

The human race was created in the image according to the likeness of God, but inferior to angels (Gen.1:26-27) (G.U.A.M) [God / Universe / Angels / Man]

Satan led 1/3 of the angles in a rebellion against God and His plan in eternity past (Isa.14:12-15; Ezek.28:11-19; and Rev.12:1-9). As a result, they were cast out of the third heaven to earth (Luke 10:18-20).

(Ps.8:5) “You have made him a little lower than **God** and crown him with glory and majesty!” (Hebrew)

(Heb.2:7) “But You have made him for a little while lower than the **angles**; You crowned him with glory and honor.” (quotes Septuagint/ LXX)

<p>This lesson will study <u>two aspects</u> of Winning in Angelic Conflict</p>
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1. In our lesson text, Paul gives six key spiritual weapons of warfare in Angelic Conflict.

He listed the Roman infantry’s type of weapons used in defense (5) and in offense (1).

Paul issued **five commands** directed towards the Church Age Believer’s volition for winning in Angelic Conflict.

- **Warrior enlisted:** “Finally, **be strong** (endunamoo/ p.p. impv.2pl) [only present] in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” (Eph.6:10; 1 Cor.16:13; 2Tim.1:12-14).
 - **Can’t be fought in flesh and win** – only in the lord and in the strength of His might.
- **Warfare enemy:** “**Put on** (enduo/ a.m. impv.2pl) the full armor of God, so that **you will be able to stand firm** against the schemes of devil.” (Eph.6:11) “**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against** the rulers, against the powers, against world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph.6:12)
 - **Can’t be fought without proper spiritual equipment and training to win.**
- **War mentality:** “Therefore (Eph.6:12), **take up** (analambano/ a.a.impv.2pl) the full armor of God, so that you **will be able to resist** (anthistemi/ a. a.infin) in the evil day, and having done everything, **to stand firm** (histemi/ a.a.infin).”
- **Weapons for fighting:** “**Stand firm** (histemi/ a.a.imp.2plv) therefore (Eph.6:13), having girded your loins with truth, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**. In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you **will be able** to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” (Eph.6:14-16)
 - **Retreat is not an option! (there is no armor for your back, the warrior behind you will cover it).**

Stand firm is used three time with **Full Armor** and “**you will be able**”

(Eph.6:12) [put on] - (Eph.6:13) [take up] - (Eph.6:14) [stand firm]

- **Warrior going to war:** “And **take** (dechomai/ a.m. impv.2pl) the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is of the evil one.” (Eph.6:17/ 6:12)
 - **No offense without them.**

2. **We will use a classic biblical story of David and Goliath to illustrate Paul’s illustration of “Winning in Angelic Conflict” from (Eph.6:10-17), taken from (1 Sam.17:1-51).**

The Philistines had gathered their armies for **warfare against** Israel at Socoh of Judah. Israel was on one mountain and the Philistines on another mountain with the valley of Elah between them (1 Sam.17:1-3).

Every day **Goliath of Gath** would come out dressed in Philistine warfare. He was nine feet tall, His bronze helmet weighed 125 pounds, he had bronze greaves on his legs and a javelin on his back, a spear with an iron head weighing 15 pounds, and a shield bearer walking ahead of him!

Every day he would defy God and Israel and challenge them to fight him one-on-one in a winner-take-all battle! And every day, Saul and the Israelites stood down, dismayed and terrified.” (1 Sam.17:4-11)

Then a Bethlehem shepherd boy named David showed up with goodies from home for his brothers on the front lines.

Goliath described David as only a boy, ruddy and handsome and then cursed David, Israel, and then called on all of his gods to curse Israel’s God, saying: “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and to the beasts of the field.” (1 Sam.17:41-44)

King Saul described David, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been fighting man from his youth.” (1 Sam.17:33)

David’s oldest brother described David, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.” (1 Sam.17:28)

Then David described himself to Saul as a man who knows how to exercise the faith cycle having fought and won against a lion and a bear (1 Sam.17:34-37). **“The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”** (vs.37)

Then David described himself to Goliath as a boy who knows how to exercise the faith cycle, (1 Sam.17:45-47) David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.**”

Then David walked-his-talk regarding the exercise of the faith cycle (1 Sam.17:48-51) As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. So, David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. **When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.**

One sling, One stone, by One LORD! THE BATTLE IS ALWAYS THE LORD’S (1 Sam.17:47)