

WAR STRATEGY OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

(2 Cor.2:11) “In order that (hina) [negative purpose] no (me) advantage be taken of us (pleonekteo/ a.p.subj.1pl) by (hupo+abl.of agent) Satan (tou satanas/ abl.sm); **for we are not ignorant (agnoeo/ p.a.ind.1pl) of his schemes (ta noema/ aplm) [plan designed by mind for warfare/ strategy].”**

God has given us Satan’s game book with every scheme of offense and defensive so that WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS WAR STRATEGY IN ANGELIC CONFLICT.

In **2 Cor.10:3-5**, Paul gives a pep talk and strategy before going to war.

- Don’t fight in your flesh (2 Cor.10:3; Eph.6:10-12).
- Our weapons are not designed for the flesh (2 Cor.10:4a; Eph.6:13-17).
- Our weapons are for spiritual warfare (strateia) and are divinely powerful (2 Cor.10:4a).
- Our weapons are designed for:
 - Destruction of fortresses (2 Cor.10:4b)
 - And every speculation and lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God (2 Cor.10:5a)
 - And taking captive every thought (noema) to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor.10:5b).

This lesson will study four aspects of Satan’s strategies of warfare In the Angelic Conflict

1. One of Satan’s strategies of warfare involves attacking human volition.

This becomes very clear when you study Satan’s attack upon the first humans, Adam and Eve.

He is now confident that members of the human race can be persuaded to act against the revealed Will of God (Gen.2:17; 3:1-7).

Satan was able to keep them on their heels or on defense because they do not cycle the truth of the word of God by faith against every attack.

Paul instructs us to stand firm on defense (3 times) (Eph.6:11, 13, 14) [Reason for the full armor]

He instructs us to be patient to wait for opportunities to strike with confidence in categorical Bible doctrine and the Directive Will of God. (Matt.4:1-11) [The sword of The Spirit].

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve knew how to use the offense weapon, the “**sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**” (Eph.6:17b), but didn’t - What was their outcome?

2. A second Angelic Conflict strategy of Satan involves attacking belief system.

(Matt.13:19) “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and **does not understand it** (me suniemi /either unable or not willing to reach the truth), the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown In his heart. This is the one on whom seed sown beside the road.” (Heb.4:1-3, 11-12)

(2 Cor.11:3) “But I am afraid, lest as the serpent **deceived Eve by his craftiness**, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” (Gen.3:1; Rev.20:2)

Peter is an example of this doctrinal principle:

(Matt.16:21-23) “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; **You are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.**” (Col.3:1)

Satan attacked Eve’s beliefs directly but attacked Adam’s indirectly; apparently Satan couldn’t get Adam to do his will but got him to do his wife’s!

- Satan got to the serpent,
- the serpent got to Eve,
- and Eve got to Adam (1 Tim.2:14; Job 2:9-10; 1 Cor.7:4-5).

3. A third Angelic Conflict strategy is to maximize the lust of the mind while minimizing the risk and consequences of giving into those lusts.

(1 John 2:16) “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and **the lust of the eyes** and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

(Gen.3:6) “When the **woman saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and **ate**; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he **ate.**”

Satan told Eve five things (Gen.3:1, 4, 5). Satan parses truth and spins it his way. Can you separate the lies from the truth? (John 8:44) **The greater issue in the Angelic Conflict against Adam and Eve was God’s Truth more than God’s Tree.**

4. The fourth Angelic Conflict strategy involves getting the believer to exchange walking by faith for walking by sight.

(2 Cor.5:7) “For we walk by faith not by sight.”

(Gen.3:6) “When the **woman saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from s fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and she ate.”

Satan banked his war strategy on Eve and Adam not cycling the Word of God by faith without getting any anticipated tangible benefits from it, only divine discipline (Gen.3:7-19; Eph.4:22) [The “lust of deceit”]

(2 Cor.10:5) “**We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.**” (2 Tim.2:26)