The Battle for Your Soul (Eph. 6:12)

**Introduction:**

***Eph. 6:12*** *–* The battle we face is a spiritual one.

1. **First Battlefield – *in the garden*** (Gen. 3:1-19)

***Job 38:6-7*** – Most of the angels gazed transfixed with wonder and worship at God’s creation.

***John 8:44*** – Satan uses deception to get people to fall.

***1 John 2:16*** – Temptation comes in three flavors: the pleasures of the body, the eyes, and the soul.

***Gen. 3:6*** – Satan tempted Eve with the potential for more and Adam with the possibility of loss.

***Gen. 2:16*** – God put a boundary around a single portion of His creation – the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

***Gen. 1:31*** – All of God’s creation including the forbidden tree was beautiful, and so was the barrier.

***Eph. 6:14*** – All Adam and Eve had to do in this battle was to hold their ground.

***Luke 4:13*** – Satan is persistent, so had Adam resisted temptation then, Satan wouldn’t have quit trying.

***1 Peter 5:8-9*** – Gaining the victory over Satan requires constant vigilance.

***Gen. 1:28*** – God designed Adam to rule the world.

***Eph. 2:2*** – Satan became the world’s ruler.

***John 10:10*** – Satan’s intense pleasure came from defrauding God and His children of theirs. He always offers what he is not able to give in hopes that we will release our grip on what God has provided.

***Gen. 3:16*** – Instead of killing man, God spoke of humanity’s future.

***Gen. 3:21*** – God’s mercy substituted the immediate death of an innocent animal in Adam’s place.

***Gen. 3:15*** – Though we’ve lost countless battles, God promised the final defeat.

1. **Second Battlefield – *in the wilderness*** (Matt. 4:1-11)

***John 1:14*** – The Father sent Jesus into the world to show His glory.

***Luke 2:16*** – Jesus didn’t appear to be much a threat when He lay in a cattle trough.

***1 Sam. 17:41-44*** – Satan, like Goliath, may have been offended when he saw who had come to defeat him.

***Matt. 4:1*** – The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to face temptation.

***Matt. 4:2*** – Jesus prepared for the battle through fasting.

***John 4:34*** – Jesus found nourishment from a source other than food.

***Mark 1Ma:13*** – Jesus’ only company in the wilderness was wild animals.

***Matt. 4:3*** – Satan’s first volley used the desires of the body: “Turn these stones into bread.”

***Psalm 1:2, 3*** – Jesus meditated on and lived the truth.

***John 14:6*** – Jesus was the truth.

***2 Tim. 2:15*** – Jesus knew when the truth was not being handled correctly.

***Matt. 4:5, 6*** – The 2nd temptation was Satan telling Jesus to throw Himself down.

***Psalm 91:11, 12*** – Satan’s words were a direct quote from the Bible.

***Matt. 4:8, 9*** *–* Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world if Jesus would worship Satan.

***Luke 4:13*** – Satan continued to tempt Jesus throughout His ministry.

***Heb. 4:15*** – Jesus never gave in to temptation.

1. **Third Battlefield – *at the cross*** (John 19:17-30)

***Job 1:7*** – Satan never rests, and temptation never ends.

***Matt. 4:11*** – Due to His fasting, Jesus was weak. He was still strong enough to win over Satan and temptation.

***Luke 22:31*** – Satan attempted to destroy Peter through temptation.

***Judges 16:16-17*** – Samson was not able to handle persistent temptation.

***Gen. 39:10*** – Joseph was able to handle persistent temptation.

***Mark 1:13*** – Satan tempted Jesus during the full 40 days Jesus was in the wilderness.

***Luke 4:13*** – Satan’s temptation of Jesus continued beyond the 40 day trial.

***Luke 19:10*** – Jesus came to retake people from Satan’s grasp.

***Matt. 11:5*** – Jesus freed people from physical and spiritual bondage to Satan.

***Mark 4:15*** – Satan worked to hamper Jesus’ work before it took root.

***2 Sam. 15:3-6*** – Like Absalom, Jesus worked to steal the hearts of the people so they would willingly give their allegiance to Him.

***John 15:13*** – Jesus, in love, would rather sacrifice His life for people than see them lost.

***Matt. 27:18*** – Because of their envy, the Pharisees were willing participants in Satan’s scheme.

***Matt. 16:23; 26:51-52*** – Peter, thinking he was doing right, became Satan’s emissary when he tried to stop Jesus’ sacrifice and when he struck a man in the Garden of Geth.

***Luke 10:17*** – Judas I. had been a participant in Jesus’ miracles.

***Luke 22:3; John 13:27*** – Satan entered Judas I.

***Matt. 26:14-16*** – Judas I. offered to betray Jesus.

***John 13:30*** – Judas I. went out into the darkness (literal and spiritual).

***Prov. 15:1*** – Battles are often won through submission rather than aggression.

***Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:16; 19:21*** – Jesus’ words are a powerful sword.

***John 18:5, 6*** – When Jesus said “I AM,” the soldiers fell backwards.

***John 18:38*** – Pilate was looking for truth and didn’t know Truth was standing before him.

***Luke 23:34*** – Jesus offered forgiveness to the soldiers.

***Luke 23:42-43*** – The thief on the cross realized Jesus had what he needed.

***Matt. 27:42*** – Jesus’ detractors didn’t believe He could save others since Jesus was hanging on a cross.

***Isaiah 55:8*** – The cross and the grave are the clearest examples that God’s way of thinking is not ours.

***Phil. 2:6*** – Jesus didn’t stand up for His rights as God.

***Isaiah 53:7*** – Jesus was quiet before His accusers.

***Luke 23:46*** – Jesus used His last breath to express His trust in the Father.

***Matt. 16:25*** – Winning is in submission not in aggression.

***Phil. 2:9-11*** – Jesus’ death and resurrection resulted in His exaltation.

***John 1:29*** – Jesus accomplished His mission through sacrifice; the Lamb that takes away sin.

1. **Fourth Battlefield – *at the end*** (Rev. 20:1-3)

***John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11*** – Though He left, Jesus promised to return.

***Rev. 13:1, 11*** – Satan assembles a team to help in the final battle.

***Rev. 6:8; 9:18*** – Satan’s actions in the Tribulation result in billions dying before they respond to Jesus’ call.

***Rev. 19:19*** – Those who reject Christ assemble for their last battle against Him.

***John 1:5*** – The darkness can never overcome the light.

***Rev. 7:3; 11:5*** – Jesus brings in two witnesses and 144,000 Jews to help fulfill His mission. He makes them immune to death.

***Rev. 1:18; 20:14*** – Jesus has authority over death.

***1 Cor. 15:55*** – Jesus defeated death through the cross and the resurrection.

***John 11:25; Rev. 12:11*** – Even for those who experience death, life soon follows.

***Rev. 12:9*** – God permanently expels Satan from Heaven.

***Rev. 20:2, 3*** – God expels Satan from earth.

**Conclusion:** I can hear a question you may be asking: “What does this epic struggle have to do with me?”

***Matt. 7:22-23*** – Satan’s most fearful deception is when he alleges we are on Jesus’ side when in fact, we are not.