

#24. ***“Strong Enough To Stand”***

REVIEW:

“Walking” is the general idea, but sometimes, ***standing*** is enough of a challenge!

WHY? The ***schemes of the devil...***

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

a) His name: Satan = adversary; devil=***accuser*** (34 X's in NT)

b) His nature:

John 8:44,45

"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.
"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

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He is a *“murderer”* and a *“liar”* and the *“father of lies”* and the *“father of many actual people.”*

I Peter 5:8,9
Revelation 12:9
John 10:10
I John 3:7-10

He *devours*; he *deceives*; he *destroys*; but he is *defeated!*

c) His origin: We ***don't know!*** (Isaiah. 14)

d) His abilities:

1 John 4:4 ...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

He is NOT *equal and opposite* to God: not as *powerful*; not as *present*; not as *knowing* and not at all *wise*

Exodus 15:6

"Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Psalms 139:1-10

O LORD, You have searched me and known me ... You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all...

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Even there Your hand will lead me...

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...

e) Our need:

1. **Resist him!** James 4:7; I Peter 5:9; Ephesians 6:13
i.e. "Give him no place" Ephesians 4:26,27
"Stand firm" Ephesians 6:11, 13,14

2. **But resisting him involves "a struggle:"**

i.e "wrestling from time to time"

From time to time?

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day...

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Luke 4:13

When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

3. **And resisting him successfully requires "a full set of armor"**

Preview: In every case, "**putting on the full armor of God**" means **understanding the truth** AND/OR **experiencing the power** that is ours in Christ.

So then, in order to stand, just as in order to "stand up and walk"...

- 1) **Faith:** Believe what you know to be true
- 3) **Action:** Get up and walk --- or here, struggle, fully armored, to stand firm
- 2) **Decision:** Make up your mind... So let's get ready for this!

A Question For This Week:

Am I really committed to put into practice what I believe to be true?