

THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL BATTLE

(Job 1:6-12, 20-21)

As believers in Christ, we are engaged in a spiritual battle against the evil forces of Satan (Eph. 6:12). The Christian life is therefore not a playground, but a spiritual battleground. The real struggles in our life are fought in the spiritual, supernatural and invisible domain. How are we then to fight this spiritual warfare? How should we respond to the relentless assaults and attacks of the evil one? Reflecting from the life of Job, we will consider two vital principles which should serve as our rules of engagement in our Christian warfare.

1. We need to know our _____.

Unknown to Job himself, Satan sought to devour him and discredit his faith in God. The word Satan means opponent or adversary. Satan is the chief opponent of God and God's people. He is the ancient foe who seeks to frustrate and ruin everything that God does (Job 1:6-7). Job 1:7 indicates Satan's activity which is '*roaming through the earth.*' The word *roaming* implies Satan's monitoring of the lives of the believers with the intent of uncovering their sins and failures (1 Pet. 5:8). Satan's evil aggression against God and His people is manifested in three ways: *he accuses the individual Christian* (Job 1:8-11; Rev. 12:10); *he attacks the family* (Job 1:13-19; 2:9; 19:17,19) and *he assaults the church of the Lord* (Acts 5:3; 2 Cor. 11:3-4,13-14).

2. We need to know our _____.

The knowledge and worship of God in the midst of intense suffering demonstrates the believer's utter confidence and trust in God who alone could grant him/her victory over Satan. The more we know God and His characters, the wiser we become in responding to Satan's assaults against our faith, our family and our church. In the midst of his tragedies, Job chose to worship the Lord for he knew what kind of God he loved and served (Job 1:20-21). The God of Job is *the God who is sovereign over Satan* (Job 1:12; 2:6; Col. 2:15; Rom. 8:37); He is *the God who grants us saving faith which perseveres* (Job 1:8;13:15; Eph. 2:8-9; James 5:11; 2 Thess. 3:3; James 1:2-3; 1 Pet. 1:6-7) and He is *the God who guarantees our redemption in Christ* (Job 19:25-26; Rom. 8:31-39).

Concluding Reflection:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!" (Rom. 8:35-39)