



FIGHTING

THE BATTLE

YOU'RE IN THE FIGHT

- "Do not give the devil an opportunity," writes the apostle in Ephesians 4:27. We already have many disadvantages in our fight against Satan, so it would behoove all of us to limit what we give him to "work with". "Make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts" (Romans 13:14). Essentially, do not make it easier for sin to creep in; give it no room.
- James 4:7 - "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
- Sadly, we often take it for granted that the decisive moment in the battle will be obvious to us, as if there is always going to be some bold black line of demarcation with the words "THIS IS YOUR LIMIT."

YOU'RE IN THE FIGHT

- Remember that the devil is clever enough to know that sin is based on only a few basic elements. While we focus way too much on how sin functions, he is tricking us into consuming the elements of sin. Keep in mind Jesus' warnings in Matthew 5!
- Anger and murder are functionally different, but the same on an elemental level. Same with lust and adultery.
- Immodesty's basic sinfulness is found in all manner of appearance.
- Drunkenness has only artificial lines that serve to deceive us.
- Sexual activity outside marriage dwells in fabricated grey areas.

HERE'S THE POINT

We are in a fight for our spiritual lives and the devil wants nothing more than to confuse us about where the battle lines are drawn. He hopes we fall for the trap of thinking that the decisive moment to act is always later and that we are not really in any grave danger.

Satan is subtle and charming, and will take advantage of any opening we give him. So how do we limit the devil's opportunities? How do "make no provision for the flesh" and "resist the devil?" In other words, how do we keep ourselves in the fight?

STACKING FAITHFULNESS

2 Peter 1:5-10 – Individually, the virtues listed are not enough to achieve victory. But when one gives birth to another, and another, and each works in harmony, they render us useful and fruitful in God's service. Peter goes on to say that "as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble" (2 Peter 1:10). Victory is found not in one moment of glorious triumph, but in the routine affirmation of simple, Godly truths, displayed in our daily lives.

- Ignoring the dangers all around us
- A lot of empty-calorie friendships
- Being a loner
- An inaccurate view of unbelievers
- An inaccurate view of myself
- Thinking the entire reward is here
- Believing the fantasy

LIMITING THE DEVIL'S OPPORTUNITIES