

# ***Saints at War***

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In the last days, Satan the dragon will rise up in anger.

**Revelation 12:17.** And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 13:7-9.** It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

The apostle Paul states that,

**2 Corinthians 10:3.** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

Consider these “war zones” around the globe:

- In Muslim nations, the spiritual war taking place is a demonic assault on the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- In Europe, the conflict being waged against the church is a war of secularism. One by one, European nations are becoming totally secular states.
- In Sweden, the war taking place involves unbelief. One survey says only 20 percent of the Swedish population believes in God.
- In England, the war is one of apostasy. A nation that once was a light to the world, sending missionaries all over the globe, is rapidly closing many of its churches.
- In America, Satan’s war against the church is in the continual flood of sensuality and materialism. His weapons in this war are love of money and addiction to pleasure. His weapons are an all-out attack on family, marriage, children and perverted values.
- In America, we’re following in the footsteps of Europe, Sweden and England.

Right now, Satan’s powers of darkness throughout the world are rejoicing. Paul tells us,

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5.** The weapons of our warfare are ... mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations and arguments, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”.

There is another battlefield in this war: the *private war* of individual children of God. Every believer on earth faces his or her own private war. The Bible states,

**Ecclesiastes 3:8.** To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven ... A time of war, and a time of peace”.

These are wars of the flesh — I call them “Saints at War” — and they bring a burden you can’t share with anyone. Some call their private battle “my silent war.” They make you weep, and pound the wall with your fists, crying, “Why, God?”

1. Some face a *private war* caused by what the Bible terms “a season of heaviness.”

**1 Peter 1:5-6.** (We) are kept by the power of God ... though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold temptations [trials and adversities]”.

The Greek word for *heaviness* here suggests dejection.  
The prophet Ezekiel was asked about certain behaviors as well.

**Ezekiel 14:2-5.** And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts ... Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him ... because they are all estranged from Me by their idols."

Even King David, a man of great faith, testified, "My soul melts for heaviness" (Psalm 119:28). Peter says, we are to "rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

2. Some *private wars* are the result of "lusts that war in your members" (James 4:1). King David wrote in Psalm 38,

**Psalm 38:3-9.** ... I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You.

and especially in Psalm 69.

**Psalm 69:2-12.** ... Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully ... I became a byword to them. Those who sit in the gate speak against me, And I am the song of the drunkards.

James warned, "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?" (James 4:1).

Paul warns every follower of Christ when he writes, "Let him that thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). Jesus gave a similar warning to his disciples: "Pray that you enter not into temptation" (Luke 22:40). David writes, "He teaches my hands to war" (Psalm 18:34). David's example:

1. David *cried out* to the Lord.

"Oh, Lord, make haste! Help me quickly. I'm about to fall. Please, hurry and deliver me. Cause me to escape. Your Word promises you'll deliver me, so do it now" (see Psalm 70).

2. David *made* a decision:

Consider what David wrote in these Psalms: "Let God be magnified" (Psalm 70:4). "Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:3). "Let all those that seek thee ... say continually, The Lord be magnified" (Psalm 40:16).

3. David *cast himself* fully on the mercy of God.

Consider David's incredible testimony: If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul. (Psalm 94:18-19). David had learned, "The Lord will never allow my distress to overcome me. By his grace, my problems won't take me down." David wrote:

**Psalm 103:8-14.** "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger ... As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame ... we are dust."

Paul wrote, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Here is the final word on the subject from David himself:

**Psalm 46:9-10.** He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!