

Why we must fight back

The enemy knows it's defeated and its final place in the lake of fire, but that doesn't stop it from trying to attack Christians. We must have a somewhat similar mindset, knowing that our victory is already in Christ, but continuing to fight back against the enemy to make sure it doesn't gain a foothold. Below we will look at a few verses that prove that we must also fight while continuing our relationship and servitude in Christ.

1 Peter 5:8-9 — “Be sober and alert. Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour. **Resist** him, strong in your faith, because you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are **enduring** the same kinds of suffering.”

Ephesians 6:11-13 — “Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand against** the schemes of the devil. For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to **stand your ground** on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.”

From the above verses, *resist, endure and stand your ground* show up, telling us our lives in Christ will have retaliation from the enemy to try to discourage or hinder us in our faith. That is when we must remember our position in Christ as a place of victory, rather than trying to fight the enemy on our own understanding. We face *tactics* of the enemy every day, yet **modern churches don't even acknowledge the warfare and authority** portion of our life in Christ. We know our lives aren't rainbows and sunshine all the time, and recognizing there's an enemy responsible for the hardships and sin in the world is almost never acknowledged. That then allows the enemy to attack more and leave young(in faith) Christians wondering why it happened and what they are supposed to do.

Luke 10:19 - Look, I have **given you authority** to tread on snakes and scorpions and on the full force of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you.

Luke 21:36 - But **stay alert** at all times, praying that you may have **strength to escape** all these things that must happen, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Verses telling us we have authority over the enemy and to stand against the enemy\ worldly distractions weren't placed there just for the church in those times. The authors received from God messages to encourage the church but also help it remember that our lives contain spiritual warfare since we made the choice to live in Christ.

2Cor 10:4-5 - for the weapons of our **warfare** are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for **tearing down** strongholds. We tear down arguments and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every **thought** captive to make it obey Christ.

The context here is Paul telling us to fight back against strongholds(*ochurōma* or false arguments of his opponents) that are against the truth of God. These arguments would be coming from others at the time (probably manipulated by the enemy) to try to sow confusion. So we have proof here that the enemy attacks the mind to get people to try to do its will on the earth.

We're only hurting ourselves by not recognizing our authority in Christ over the enemy. Continue to have your focus on Christ, but don't be surprised when the enemy tries to attack. We know the tactics of the enemy already, but the enemy won't wait for us to use our authority against them. God has already won the overall battle, but we must still be his physical ligaments on the earth to witness and continue to hold the enemy at bay until His return.