

VIOLENCE IN THE KINGDOM

Scripture:

Matthew 11:12

1 Timothy 6:12

Revelation 3:11

Introduction

Psychologists engaged in research with white rats recently found that when living conditions for the rats became crowded, the rats reacted violently.

It is only normal for the Christian to react with spiritual violence when Satan begins to oppress. God expects the Christian to take immediate offensive action against the Devil.

I. The church and the Christian are under constant seige

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist stedfast in the faith....

1 Peter 5:8-9a

A. Satanic heirarchy opposes God's work

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:12

1. Through oppression

2. Through unbelief

3. Through assault on righteousness

B. The Christian wars through the Spirit

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:14-16

- I. The church and the Christian are under seige
- B. The Christian wars through the Spirit
And take the helmet of salvation, and
the sword of the Spirit, which is the
word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

- II. Satan would wrest eternal life from you
I therefore so run, not as uncertainly;
so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:
But I keep under my body, and bring it into
subjection: lest that by any means, when I
have preached to others, I myself should be a
castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27

- A. He would destroy your spiritual life
 - 1. By destroying your confidence in God
 - 2. By diverting attention from Christ
- B. Christian has power over Satan

Behold I give you power to tread on
serpents and scorpions, and over all the
power of the enemy: and nothing shall by
any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19

- C. Christian obliged to resist Satan
Resist the devil, and he will flee
from you.

James 4:7

- III. Satan would rob you of your reward
Every man's work shall be made manifest:
for the day shall declare it, because it shall
be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try
every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath
built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he
shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be
saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

III. Satan would rob you of your reward

- A. By satisfaction with the status quo
1. Not being filled with the Spirit
 2. Not moving in the Spirit

B. By lethargy

1. Inactivity instead of aggressiveness.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James 2:26

2. Unconcern about the lost

Conclusion

God has equipped us for victory. When we begin to walk in the Spirit, we will begin to oppose Satan. As we do battle, we will oppose Satan with such spiritual violence that we will be triumphant.

Now thanks be to God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14