

Does Satan Ever Give Up?

It is folly to flail blindly at an adversary unseen. Shadow boxing may have its practical effect but that effort constitutes preparation for the real fight with a real opponent in the flesh; and training is not fighting (ask any veteran that has seen action). Therefore, a great deal of time should be spent in knowing your antagonist: what are his goals, how does he plan to execute the attack, what rules of engagement will he use (if any)? These and other issues should be addressed long before the first punch is thrown.

One scenario was amusing. The hubris of youth took offense and challenged what he perceived to be his older offender, only to be calmly warned to think things through. "If you attack me," cautioned his elderly foe, "It might be that you win the fight, but what have you accomplished? Where is the honor or pride in beating down an old man? However, if this old man happens to be a battle-scarred veteran, adept in defenses that you've never seen, and beats you to a pulp, how embarrassing will it be to wake up feeding through a tube and wondering how that old man served you up a scrambled brain?"

We must know our enemy; we must know who it is we are fighting (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). Satan is our enemy, not people, per se. We must always be ready to give an answer for why we believe what we believe, which implies that people observe in our life reasons to ask questions about our faith (1 Peter 3:15) and, having asked them, will expect to receive scriptural, logical and loving responses. Therefore, we must know the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15). Getting to know God as He is revealed in the Bible causes Satan much grief and he will never give up.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour..." (1 Peter 5:8). We must understand his nature (Mark 4:15; Luke 22:31), that he is the embodiment of evil (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9) and that he will never stop tempting us until he is cast into the Lake of Fire (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14). Beware, "lest Satan should take advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11).