

Our Enemy Prowls: Resist him

Our focus should always be our Loving Father and becoming Christ-like, but we are also told to be aware, since there is an enemy actively seeking to destroy the work of God.

8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:8-9

God and His Enemy are complete opposites. Match the opposites names:

<u>SATAN</u>	<u>GOD</u>
Father of Lies, Liar	Friend
Adversary	God of Order
Brings Death	Life
Accuser	The Truth
Author of Confusion	Advocate

More Names

He is called Satan, the Devil (slanderer), Lucifer (son of the morning), Beelzebub (Lord of the flies – Matt.12:24), and Belial (lawless – 2 Cor.6:15), the evil one (1 John 5:19), the tempter (1 Thess.3:5), the prince of this world (John 12:31), the god of this age (2 Cor.4:4), the prince of the power of the air (Eph.2:2), the accuser of the brethren (Rev.12:10), and angel of light (false light – 2 Cor.11:14), a serpent (Rev.12:9), and a dragon (Rev.12:3).

Primer on the Enemy

- ❖ Satan's beginnings. See Is.14; Ezek.28
- ❖ At work against Jesus: Matt. 4:1-11
- ❖ Defeated through death and resurrection of Jesus: Rom. 16:20; 1 Cor.15:54-55; Heb.2:14
- ❖ Trying to wage war to the end Rev. 12:9,10
- ❖ Seven Old Testament books and every New Testament writer refer to Satan.
- ❖ Jesus referred to Satan (Matt.13:39; Luke 10:18; 11:18).
- ❖ **He uses intellect (2 Cor.11:3), emotions (Rev.12:17) and will (2 Tim.2:26.)**
- ❖ He is a created angelic being. He was created as part of the angelic realm (Eph.6:11,12) and was the highest in rank of them all (Ezek.28:12-14).
- ❖ **He is an enemy of righteousness. He is a murderer (John 8:44), a liar (John 8:44), and accuser (Rev.12:10) and our adversary (1 Pet.5:8).**
- ❖ **He is a limited creature. He is limited by God (Job.1:12).**
- ❖ **He is not God's equal (1 Jn 4:4).**
- ❖ **He is not omniscient, omnipotent or infinite in any way. Believers, with God's help, can resist him. James 4:7**
- ❖ **He works indirectly through the world (in which he has great freedom and power – (John 12:31; 1 John 5:19) and the flesh (Gal.5:19-21). The world, the flesh and the devil are not three separate enemies of the Christian. Rather Satan works through the evil world system (1 John 2:13-15) to exploit the fleshly nature that still wars within us (Rom.7:18; Gal.5:19-21).**

How does God's enemy harm an unbeliever?

- ❖ He blinds their minds to hinder their understanding of the gospel (2 Cor.4:4).
- ❖ When the gospel is heard or understood, he tries to hinder its effect (Luke 8:12).
- ❖ He uses persecution (Rev.2:10) and false religions (Rev.2:13) to hinder the gospel.

How does God's enemy wage war to believers?

- ❖ He tempts believers:
 - to pride – 1 Chron.21:1-8
 - to materialism – John 2:15; James 3:16
 - to immorality – 1 Cor.7:5
 - to lie – Acts 5:3
 - to discouragement – 1 Pet.5:6-10
 - to be unforgiving – 2 Cor.2:10,11
- ❖ He hinders the ministries of believers 1 Thess.2:18; Rev.2:10
- ❖ He promotes false teaching among believers 1 John 4:1-4
- ❖ He promotes anger, bitterness and division Eph.4:26,27; 2 Cor.2:5-11
- ❖ In spiritual realms. Eph. 6:10-12; 2 Cor.10:4,5

Some of the information above was gleaned from: Sid Litke , Th.M (http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=388)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Psalms 46 serves as the inspiration for this hymn, which is regarded as one of the classic Christian hymns. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was written by Martin Luther, who is considered the Father of the Protestant Reformation. Its strong and powerful verses echo the same spirit of faith as the Psalm. The music and words of this hymn were a battle cry to many martyrs during the Reformation. In fact, the first line from "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is etched on the tombstone of the great reformer.

Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) had strong convictions considering religion and music. In 1517, he nailed ninety-five theses to the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg, Germany. This action was considered to be the "Declaration of Independence" to liberal thinkers of that day. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was one of the major musical contributions of Martin Luther along with "Away In A Manger." Luther was also known for his doctrine that salvation is not based on works but by faith alone.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;

Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;

Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth is His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;

We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.

The prince of darkness grim - we tremble not for him;

His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them abideth;

The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;

The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

From: <http://www.gospelpiano.com/articles/hymn-stories-1-mighty-fortress.htm>

Psalm 48

1 Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

2 It is beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth.

Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.

3 God is in her citadels;
he has shown himself to be her fortress.

4 When the kings joined forces,
when they advanced together,

5 they saw her and were astounded;
they fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there,
pain like that of a woman in labor.

7 You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish
shattered by an east wind.

8 As we have heard,
so have we seen
in the city of the LORD Almighty,
in the city of our God:
God makes her secure forever. Sela

9 Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love

10 Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.

11 Mount Zion rejoices,
the villages of Judah are glad

because of your judgments.
12 Walk about Zion, go around her,
count her towers,
13 consider well her ramparts,
view her citadels,
that you may tell of them to the next
generation.
14 For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.