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## **Spiritual Warfare: Standing Firm**

### **The Fall, the Fallout, and the Fight**

**Every spiritual battle begins with believing or rejecting God's Word. Victory comes by remaining rooted in Christ, walking in the Holy Spirit, and standing on the truth of Scripture.**

#### **I. THE FALL**

**Genesis 3:1–7** - The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, ***“Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”*** 2 ***“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,”*** the woman replied. 3 ***“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’ ”*** 4 ***“You won’t die!”*** the serpent replied to the woman. 5 ***“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”*** 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

#### **II. THE FALLOUT**

**Genesis 3:7–13** - 8 **When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees.** 9 **Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”** 10 **He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”** 11 **“Who told you that you were naked?”** the Lord God asked. **“Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”** 12 **The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”** 13 **Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?”** **“The serpent deceived me,”** she replied. **“That’s why I ate it.”**

**Romans 5:12 reminds us: - 12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.**

#### **.III. THE FIGHT**

## **How Do We Keep from Being Deceived?**

### **A. Know the Shepherd's Voice**

**John 10:27–28 - 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.**

### **B. Walk in the Holy Spirit**

**John 14:26 - 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.**

**John 16:13 - 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.**

**Galatians 5:16 - 16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.**

**Galatians 5:25 - 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**

### **C. Guard Your Mind**

**2 Corinthians 10:3–5 - 3 We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. 4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.**

### **D. Stand on the Word of God**

**Ephesians 6:17 - 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

**Psalms 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

### **E. Resist the Enemy**

**James 4:7 - 7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith...**

**Spiritual warfare is first and foremost a battle for the mind and heart. The believer stands firm not by fearing the enemy, but by abiding in the truth of God's Word and in the victory of Jesus Christ.**