How To Fight Satan

Intro: Peter describes Satan as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour; 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” So we as Christians must fight him. The question now is how?

I. WATCH AND PRAY.
  A. Mat. 26:41 “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
  B. Watch
      1. It is from the Greek γρηγορέω (gregoreuo)
      a. It is defined by Strong’s as “give strict attention to, be cautious, active.”
      b. It is in the present tense, thus keep on watching.
      2. Keep your eyes open.
      3. Know your adversary.
  C. Pray
      1. Jam. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
      2. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

II. QUOTE SCRIPTURE TO HIM.
  A. Mat. 4:1-11 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungry. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”
  B. Psa. 1:1-3 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scorner. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”
  C. Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

III. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD.
  A. Eph. 6:11-18 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins gird 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. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
  B. We are to fight:
      1. 1 Tim. 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”
      2. The Christian’s armor:
  C. Loins gird with truth
      1. This was a military belt around the waist to secure his protection and sometimes his sword.
2. John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

D. Breastplate of righteousness
1. The breastplate covered both the front chest area and the back.
2. God’s righteousness is revealed in the gospel; Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

E. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
1. Proper preparation must be made; Ezr 7:10 “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”
2. It is the gospel; Mrk 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
3. That gospel brings peace; Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

F. Shield of faith.
1. The shield was large enough to protect the entire body.
   a. In ancient battles some would dip their arrows in pitch and shoot them into the enemy camp to destroy the enemies camp.
   b. The church has many who hurl fiery darts to destroy it.
2. It is literally “the shield of the faith.”
3. “The faith” refers to God’s Word; Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

G. Helmet of salvation.
1. A helmet would protect the head.
2. Salvation:
   a. They already enjoyed initial salvation.
   b. Christians have hope of eternal salvation; 1 Thes. 5:8 “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

H. Sword of the Spirit—word of God.
1. The sword is primarily an offensive weapon.
2. The sword does no good in the sheath; we must throw the sheath away and enter the fight.
3. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

I. Praying always.
1. Prayer is to characterize our life.
2. 1 Thes. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

IV. DO NOT GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL.
A. Eph. 4:27 “Neither give place to the devil.”
1. Place is from the Greek τόπος (topos) meaning opportunity of occasion for acting.
2. 1 Thes. 5:21-22 “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

B. Instead Stand
1. Eph. 6:13 “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
2. It is a digging your heels in so you will not be moved.

V. RESIST THE DEVIL - DRAW NEAR TO GOD.
A. We are to resist Satan.
1. 1 Pet. 5:9 “Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”
2. Jam. 4:7-8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”
3. Resist
   a. It means to stand against.
   b. It was a military word used of those who placed themselves against the enemy and held their ground.

B. Draw Near to God
   1. This is a complete approach to God.
   2. Initially we draw near to God in obedience to the gospel, then in continued obedience to Him.

VI. LEARN SATAN’S DEVICES.
A. He comes clothed in:
   1. Pleasure
      a. Luke 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”
      b. 1 Tim. 5:6 “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”
      c. 2 Tim. 3:1-5 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unholy, without natural affection, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”
   2. Business; Mat. 13:22 “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he cometh unfruitful.”
   3. Worldly things
      a. 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
      b. Jam. 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
   4. Righteousness and Religion
      a. 2 Cor. 11:14-15 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”
      b. Acts 20:29-30 “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”

B. Satan blinds the mind of men.
   1. 2 Cor. 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”
   2. Prejudice; Mat. 13:15 “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”
   3. Party Spirit; Acts 13:45-46 “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”
   4. Lack of Knowledge
      a. Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
      b. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   5. Procrastination; Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”

C. Satan persecutes.
   1. Rev. 2:9-10 “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none
of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

2. 2 Tim. 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

D. Discouragement

1. Only time used in the New Testament is Col. 3:21 “Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”
   a. Used in reference to children become discouraged.
   b. Literally means to be dispirited, or no spirit or courage.
2. This is a tactic that Satan uses.
   a. Against individuals and congregations.
   b. He tries to make people think they are defeated and cannot make it.
3. As seen in the Old Testament.
   a. Because the way was hard; Num. 21:4 “And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.”
   b. By the speech and actions of others.
      (1) Num. 32:7-9 “And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them? Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadeshbarnea to see the land. For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them.”
      (2) Deu. 1:28 “Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.”

Conclusion: When we do these things, we will be able to effectively fight Satan in our lives.