

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:11

We just finished celebrating Easter which is the greatest victory on Earth. The question that follows Easter deals with our ability to follow Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is their Lord and Savior because of His Crucifixion and Resurrection. If that is your faith, then you are called to follow Him by being obedient to God. The question that follows is... "are you prepared to stand firm against the strategies of the devil?" One of the greatest strategies that the devil uses is discouragement. Even after a great victory, a person can struggle with discouragement.

Remember when Elijah, an Old Testament prophet, achieved a great victory over the false prophets on Mt. Carmel? He called on God to bring down fire to burn his sacrifice on an altar. It was an amazing story of victory. However, soon Elijah was running for his life and entered a great depression. Just like Elijah, your greatest challenge may not come from physical enemies, but from the spiritual and emotional world. Therefore, scripture teaches you to use the tools that God has given you to protect yourself.

Believe in the truth of God. Understand that you are created and loved by God. Study God's word so that you will recognize truth from deception. Learn that your relationship with Jesus has placed you in a right relationship with God the Father. Christians have been provided all the tools needed to overcome the emotional and spiritual attacks from the devil. I believe the issue for many of us is that we do not realize that the discouragement we are experiencing is a strategy being used against us. Therefore, recognize that there is a spiritual battle and rely on your faith, prayer, and the word of God to overcome. Don't let Satan use discouragement to cause you to forget that Jesus has already won the war.

Read Ephesians 6:10-20