

Defense Against Defeat Part 2

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 6:10-16.

B. Confusion and indifference are the marks of the devil's work in our lives.

C. The devil works in us through our feelings and the workings of our minds by implanting doubts.

D. The mark of a Christian is that he rejoices in everything.

1. We are not to be surprised in attacks.

2. God allows these attacks.

3. God uses these attacks in His overriding will.

4. We are not to complain, but to put on the whole armor of God.

E. The armor is symbolic. There are things as Christians that we have already done and should continually remind ourselves of: girding our loins with truth, putting on the breastplate of righteousness, preparing our feet with the gospel of peace.

II. The arrows of the evil one.

A. Even though we have these things, the devil invades our thinking with his "flaming arrows" that are incongruous with what the Christian already has.

B. These evil thoughts seem to arise from ourselves.

C. These things are always an attack concerning doubts, righteousness and peace.

III. How to combat the arrows of the evil one.

A. Take the shield of faith.

1. This is not the same as belief.

2. Faith is acting on belief—it is decision, action and resolution believing that Christ is the truth, righteousness and peace and then doing something about it.

3. Too many are defeated because they accept their feelings as facts.

4. Christ is adequate, so we must not give in to the devil's lies.

5. The presence of doubt demonstrates that faith is there—refuse to give in and the doubts will clear.

6. We are designed to triumph though—not just get through.

B. Put on the helmet of salvation.

Application questions:

1. What is the proper response the Christian should have when he faces difficulty? How do Christians often respond negatively?

2. What are the lies that the devil wants a believer to think concerning evil thoughts?

3. How does the shield of faith take the Christian back to his proper roots? Describe a time when this principle helped you or others after they faced doubt and trial.
