

BE AWARE OF THE SPIRITUAL FORCES AT WORK IN OUR MARRIAGES

Genesis 3:12 The woman You gave me -- God gave us this husband or wife.

Matthew 19:5 & 6 Husband and wife are one flesh. Do not let anyone separate them.

II Kings 6:8-23 We need our eyes opened spiritually (to spiritual world).

Snare of the Devil

I Timothy 3:1-7 NLT

It is a true saying that if someone wants to be an elder, he desires an honorable responsibility.

For an elder must be a man whose life cannot be spoken against. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exhibit self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home and must be able to teach.

He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, peace loving, and not one who loves money.

He must manage his own family well, with children who respect and obey him.

For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

An elder must not be a new Christian, because he might be proud of being chosen so soon, and the **Devil will use that pride to make him fall** {fall into the condemnation incurred of the devil}.

Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will **not fall into the Devil's trap and be disgraced** {NASB - Not fall into the reproach and the snare of the devil}.

Verses 7 So **do not fall into the devil's trap and get disgraced**

I Timothy 4:1 Do not be unbelieving (fall away from the faith) by paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.

I Timothy 5:14 & 15 Give the enemy no occasion. Do not turn aside to follow Satan.

II Timothy 2:14 Don't wrangle (strive) about words.

II Timothy 2:22-26 NLT

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights.

The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people.

They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth.

Then they will come to their senses and **escape from the Devil's trap**. For they have been **held captive** by him to do whatever he wants.

Flee youthful lusts; be patient when wronged; gently correct those opposed. Why? So they may escape the snare of the devil where they have been held captive.

II Timothy 3:1-7 NLT

You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.

For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.

They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good.

They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that.

They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by many desires.

Such women are forever following new teachings, but they never understand the truth.

Proverbs 20:3

Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel. NASB

Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor; only fools insist on quarreling. NLT

Keep away from strife and quarreling. They come on us suddenly. We get caught up in the moment and forget we are in a spiritual battle. (Example: man in van)

Psalms 91:3 NASB

For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper And from the deadly pestilence.

Proverbs 1:17 NASB

Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net In the sight of any bird;

Proverbs 7:23 NLT

awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart. He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost him his life.

II Peter 2:4-9 The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation.

Jude 24 God is able to keep you from stumbling.

Joy

Psalm 119:110-112 NASB

The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not gone astray from Your precepts.

I have inherited Your testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.

I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, even to the end.

John 15:10 & 11; 16:22-24 No man (or woman) can take your joy. Certainly your spouse cannot do so.

The Accuser

Revelation 12:10 We do not want to accuse our husband or wife and do the devil's job.

Be Strong; Stand Firm

Ephesians 6:10-14 NASB

Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, **take up** the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

I Corinthians 16:13

Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. NASB

Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong. NLT