



Battle from the Beginning

Introduction:

Ephesians 6 comes to our minds when talking about the Christian and battle. So "I" (me, myself and I) must "be strong" "put on" "stand"... But, what if I don't pull the belt of truth tight enough, or the breastplate is not fully covering me, or I leave a buckler loose on the shoes or I don't hold the shield up high enough or my helmet gets off kilter? The devil has always been a deceiver with "schemes" of all varieties. The battle for your mind...my mind...the battle for the mind of men and women is a battle from the beginning.

I. The Beginning of _____

- A) Adam (Genesis 3:6, 9-12, 17-19)
- B) _____ (Genesis 3:1-6, 13)
- C) _____ (Genesis 4:1-9)
- D) Able (Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4)

II. The Beginning of _____ Ministry

A) Jesus' Testing from the Tempter
(Matthew 4:1-11)

1. The Setting (vs. 1-2).
2. What were the tests?

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What Were They Thinking?

Adam:

Eve:

Cain:

Christ's Contemplation

What was Satan's continuous question designed to engender doubt?

What was the foundation of Jesus' responses?

B) The Nature of the Testing

1. _____ nature (vs. 3-4).
2. _____ nature (vs. 5-7).
3. _____ nature (vs. 8-10).
4. The outcome (v. 11).

III. Beginning of _____ Christian Service

A) Battle to think like Jesus

1. Remember God's love and approval (Matthew 3:16-17).
2. You are His child (Ephesians 1:3-8).
 - Not "if" you are His child...
 - Romans 8:12-14
 - Galatians 3:26-29

B) Battle of overcoming stinkin' thinkin' from our past

1. Set your mind on the _____ and not the _____ (Romans 8:5-6).
 - Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."
 - Jesus was shown all the kingdoms and their glory (Solomon)
 - Matthew 5:27-28
2. _____ to temptation like Jesus.
 - "It is written..."
3. _____ the tempter.
 - "Be gone, Satan"
4. Avoid _____, see the commonality & look for _____ (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).

Philippians 4:6-8 ESV

"...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

IV. From the Beginning to the End of Our Christian Lives

- A) Lessons _____ from His word (1 Corinthians 10:11-13; Hebrews 11).
 B) Take the _____ given throughout the word of God.

1 John 2:12-14 ESV

"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. (13) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. (14) I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

- C) Offensive weapon in our hand "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 4:17).
 D) Ephesians 4:10
 "...in the strength of _____ might"
 _____ (Ephesians 4:18-20)

