

## THE BULLY PRINCIPLE

When we are in a tremendous emotional turmoil, Satan puts up an equally tremendous fight to keep us in bondage. Our lives as a Christian is not without trials and testing but, realize this is a really good sign, for he knows that he has us no longer neatly tucked away in his grasp. We are fighting for our freedom. Satan's strong opposition is only an indication that he knows he is in danger of losing. Remember, in Jesus, we have the victory.

Don't be afraid of Satan. **2 Corinthians 2:11** tells us ... For we are not ignorant of his devices (a plan or scheme, esp. a malign [evil] one; to allow to do as one pleases). Don't cower to him and let him kick you all over the place. Don't let Satan do that to you! In response to this you may say, *"You don't know what he can do; there's no way I can fight him. He is too strong. I am afraid of what will happen to me."*

The bottom line is that we often want to stay off the front line of battle. "Maybe then Satan wouldn't notice me and someone else will fight the battle for me." WRONG! You need strong support, but the battle is yours (and the Lord's). You are never alone! "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of the powers of darkness (our enemies), for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you" (**Deuteronomy 31:6**).

So it's time to learn about **The Bully Principle**. We don't have to let Satan kick us around. We can stand up to him and resist him. He is strong, but he's also often just a big bully.

Maybe you never thought of Satan as a bully. You may remember the bully in school who delighted in being cruel to a smaller or weaker person? The bully never picks on a person his own size for fear of losing. He often teases, intimidates, and threatens without ever intending to carry out those threats.

Look at what Satan is doing to you now. He is taunting you with every threat and trick in the book. We have to admit, he is putting on a pretty convincing act. But Satan is not all-powerful. **John 14:26** says, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." The Holy Spirit is the believer's greatest asset and is essential for survival in this sinful world. The Holy Spirit is the believer's advocate.

Satan likes to make us think he is all-powerful. But we do have Jesus in us. Satan is on the outside. Satan stands on the outside and throws rocks at us, just like the bully at school. Major insight; I feel stronger! Can you really see that Jesus is alive inside you, and that Satan is only looking at you from the outside? Let Satan begin to shrink in size right before your eyes. Praise the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in which we gain freedom!

**The Secret behind the Bully Principle:** Satan comes creeping in and whispers such bully tactics as:

1. "You're not going to make it."
2. "You'll never win; things aren't going to change for you."

3. “*You* are too bad; you are dumb; no one will listen to you.”
4. “You might as well give up, loser.”
5. “You’re ugly; you’re too fat; no one can possibly like you.”
6. “You’ll never fit in; you have nothing good to offer.”
7. “You are a Christian; you’re not supposed to have these things in you life. Forgive and forget, what’s the big deal?”

Sound familiar? Now you have a choice to make. You can either say, “Yeah, you are right, Satan. It is no use....” OR you can exert your right as a child of God and say to Satan,

“I recognize you, Satan, for what you are—— a defeated foe at the cross of Jesus Christ. I will not bow down to you. I will use the power that Jesus Christ has given me through His word and through prayer to stand firm against you, your lies, and your cohorts. Be gone in Jesus’ name, now!”

Do you know what will happen when you talk to Satan like that? He’ll just slink off like the bully he is (**James 4:7**). Remember, when you have even the smallest fear, think of the bully principle and use it. Say,

“There is no way that I am going to let Satan bully me into quitting. There is no way that I will let Satan have any more power in my life. Not when I have come this far! Lies has bullied me around long enough. I am determined to stand my ground.”

Be aware! When the warfare becomes the heaviest and we feel the weakest, that’s when Satan likes to play the bully role, we need to say with every ounce of strength in us:

1. “Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world” (**1 John 4:4**).
2. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (**Rom. 8:31**).
3. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (**James 4:7**).
4. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (**Rom 8:1**).
5. “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.” (**2 Corinthians 4:16**).

Say these scriptures again and again. Be specific when using the word of God. Jesus did! He said, “**It is written...!**” When Satan tries to tell you negative lies to cause guilt, shame, anger and etc., quote specific scripture—always out loud!

When Satan would taunt you with fear and threaten to drive you crazy, say to him, “The word of God says, ‘God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind’” (**2 Timothy 1:7**).

Another bully tactic that Satan uses at night when you go to bed is the threat to torment you with nightmares (demon spirits). Come back at him with this scripture saying, “I will both lie down in peace and sleep, for You alone, oh Lord, make me to dwell in safety” (**Psalm 4:8**). Neat fact! Satan doesn’t seem to want to hang around when we quote the Word of God. He truly is a bully! He stands face-to-face with us in the heat of the battle as long as we are feeling defenseless, but as soon as we appropriate the sword of God’s Word, that old, mean, powerful devil becomes nothing but a bully—he turns tail and runs. Hide the Word of God away in your heart and as needed, the Holy Spirit will pull it forth.

**Night Skirmishes:** Anyone who has done hand-to-hand combat with Satan knows that the worst times of battle comes during the long, dark night hours. Satan fights his best at night. He loves darkness; he is the very **ruler of darkness**. Satan knows that at night we are asleep and our mind is not alert to the enemy’s approach—that is when he is at his best. Lauren began to have the most tormenting nightmares (a dream arousing feelings of intense inescapable fear, horror, and distress), reliving every pain of the past. There was not a moment’s peace to be found while she was sleeping. Every moment was filled with terror. Satan may have been a bully during the daytime, but when darkness fell he became the **master of deception**. It was difficult to fight his deception because the nightmares were so real; it was difficult to separate reality from imagination. He plays upon our fears and terror of the night.

At these times of difficult battle (in any situation) we should pray in the most **authoritative voice**, this prayer:

“Satan, I come against you in the name of Jesus Christ. I come against any evil spirit you send to do your bidding. I command your workers of iniquity to take your hands off my sister (or whomever) and depart from her. I bind and rebuke any curse of harm that you have sent upon her. Lord Jesus, I ask for the covering and the shielding of your blood over her mind and body. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

At times Satan will be relentless; he and the spirits who have been sent to do his bidding will not back off after the first prayer. They do not want to leave a person over whom they had free rein to torment and terrorize. They hope to wear you down. Oftentimes the powers of darkness will hang in there with a fierceness that will intimidate even the mature Christian warrior, but don’t give up! Don’t quit, keep praying. Prayer is not listed as a separate weapon of warfare, Prayer is to be constant (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**) as the Christian prepares for battle, engages in it, and rests from it. All kinds of prayer are to be offered through the power of the Holy Spirit. Trust that the Lord is with you and remember it is His battle too, fight it together as one—as partners. We are “Overcomers” in Jesus.

### **SATAN IS REAL!**

**Ephesians 6:12** tell us exactly who we fight against, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Christians, Satan is real (rather we want to believe that or not) and he does real things. Until we

recognize this fact (truth), we can't fight against him and his demonic emissaries. Spiritual warfare is real; the Lord contended with Satan, and so will we, but without fear.

**Psalm 18:1—3)** says, “I love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in Whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. My high tower. I call to the Lord, Who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.”

**Psalm 46:1-2, 10-11** says, “And God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the sea...Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

Learn to be a watchman over your own spirit and soul. When you see the evil one sneaking up, address him in the name of Jesus Christ. You sound the alarm, and pray:

“No, I spot you, and I see you for what you are. I reject you. I renounce you. I rebuke you. And I shatter and break your curses. I will allow no spirit that is not from God to remain around me. I am not subject to you, for Jesus has set me free. The Lord Jesus Christ is my Master, and I obey Him only. Go! I command you to leave my presence in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!”

When we began to fight using the power of prayer with the word of God, we will feel that we are in control not Satan; and he will flee. You may start out as a baby Christian in your battles, but as you continue to stay on the front lines and do battle (with the Lord always by your side) you will mature into a strong authoritative Christian. Don't be discouraged, but watch and learn how to use the word of God in prayer through other mature Christians. It doesn't happen overnight, but it will happen as you persevere in the faith.

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9** says, “We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We got knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.”

“That is why we never give up...we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us...the troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.” (**2 Corinthians 4:16,18**).

“I will lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety” (**Psalm 4:8**).

“Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom)” (**2 Corinthians 3:17**).

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### **Self-Assertions of Satan (Lucifer) in five direct quotations: Isaiah 14:13-14**

1. I WILL ascend into heaven.
2. I WILL exalt my throne above the stars of God.
3. I WILL sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north.
4. I WILL ascend abode the heights of the clouds.
5. I WILL be like the Most High.

Would Lucifer get away with such rebellion? NO! God always punishes sin, no matter where it is found. So God made a series of “I WILL” statements of His own in pronouncing judgment.

### **God’s :I WILL: statements:**

1. I WILL cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God.
2. I WILL destroy thee.
3. I WILL cast thee to the ground.
4. I WILL lay thee before kings.
5. I WILL bring thee to ashes.

### **The believer’s “I WILL” as we exert our right as a child of God in doing battle with Satan:**

1. I WILL NOT bow down to you
2. I WILL NOT cower, cringe or shrink away in fear.
3. I WILL NOT give you any place in my life.
4. I WILL NOT give in to your threats or destructive plans.
5. I WILL NOT listen to your lies.

Taken from *The Bully Principle*

PRAYER: “Satan, I resist you and every oppressive spirit in the name of Jesus. I resist fear, discouragement, self-pity, and depression. I speak the Word of truth, in the power of God and I give you no place in my life. I give no opportunity to you. I am delivered from oppression by the blood of the Lamb. My heart belong to Jesus, my Lord and Savior, and Him only will I serve.” Amen!