

IT BEGAN IN HEAVEN - SOON IT WILL CLIMAX

The Christian Warfare Against Sin

BE ON GUARD - WE ARE AT ITS CENTER

In this battle, there is not only continual warfare,—if faithful, there is also continual victory!

This is a subject you never hear about in Protestant churches or our own liberal ones. They may mention Ephesians 6:11-17 and the Christian's armor, but that is all. They do not mention the day-by-day battle between good and evil angels around you, and your battles with the devil.

But, through continual submission and obedience to Christ, you and I can have the victory! He died on Calvary and intercedes for us in the Sanctuary above, to guarantee it—if you and I will do our part!

HOW THE WARFARE BEGAN

A stupendous war began in heaven. Here, in a very few excerpts, we learn how it began:

“Before the entrance of evil, there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial . . . **The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness.** God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service. **But there was one that chose to pervert this freedom.**”—*Great Controversy, 493.*

“Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, ‘Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.’ Ezekiel 28:17. ‘Thou hast said in thine heart, . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . . I will be like the Most High.’ Isaiah 14:13,

14. **Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself.** Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, **he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator.** Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, **this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.**

“Now the perfect harmony of heaven was broken. Lucifer's disposition to serve himself instead of his Creator aroused a feeling of apprehension when observed by those who considered that the glory of God should be supreme.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets, 35-36.*

“He [Lucifer] had been near the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light enshrouding the eternal God had shone especially upon him. **He thought how angels had obeyed his command with pleasurable alacrity. Were not his garments light and beautiful?** Why should Christ thus be honored before himself?

“He left the immediate presence of the Father, dissatisfied and filled with envy against Jesus Christ. Concealing his real purposes, he assembled the angelic host. He introduced his subject, which was himself. As one aggrieved, he related the preference God had given Jesus to the neglect of himself. **He told them that henceforth all the sweet liberty the angels had enjoyed was at an end.** For had not a ruler been appointed over them, to whom they from henceforth must yield servile honor? He stated to them that **he had called them together to assure them that he no longer would submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs;** that never would he again bow down to Christ; that he would take the honor upon himself which should have been conferred upon him, and

would be the commander of all who would submit to follow him and obey his voice.”—*Story of Redemption, 14-15.*

“There was contention among the angels. **Satan and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God.** They were discontented and unhappy.”—*Early Writings, 145.*

“**In heavenly council the angels pleaded with Lucifer.** The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. **God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself.** But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets, 36.*

“**All the powers of his master mind were now bent to the work of deception,** to secure the sympathy of the angels that had been under his command.”—*Great Controversy, 496.*

“**Many of Lucifer’s sympathizers were inclined to heed the counsel of the loyal angels** and repent of their dissatisfaction and be again received to the confidence of the Father and His dear Son. **The mighty revolter then declared that he was acquainted with God’s law, and if he should submit to servile obedience,** his honor would be taken from him. No more would he be intrusted with his exalted mission. He told them that himself and they also had now gone too far to go back, and he would brave the consequences, for to bow in servile worship to the Son of God he never would; that God would not forgive, and now **they must assert their liberty and gain by force the position and authority which was not willingly accorded to them.**”—*Story of Redemption, 16-17.*

“**The loyal angels hastened speedily to the Son of God and acquainted Him with what was taking place** among the angels. They found the Father in conference with His beloved Son, to determine the means by which, for the best good of the loyal angels, the assumed authority of Satan could be forever put down. The great God could at once have hurled this archdeceiver from heaven; but this was not His purpose. He would give the rebellious an equal chance to measure strength and might with His own Son and His loyal angels. **In this battle every angel would choose his own side and be manifested to all.** It would not have been safe to suffer any who united with Satan in

his rebellion to continue to occupy heaven. **They had learned the lesson of genuine rebellion against the unchangeable law of God,** and this is incurable. If God had exercised His power to punish this chief rebel, disaffected angels would not have been manifested; hence, God took another course, for He would manifest distinctly to all the heavenly host His justice and His judgment.

“**It was the highest crime to rebel against the government of God.** All heaven seemed in commotion. **The angels were marshaled in companies,** each division with a higher commanding angel at its head. **Satan was warring against the law of God.**”—*Story of Redemption, 17-18.*

“**All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father to have each case decided.** It was there determined that Satan should be expelled from heaven, with all the angels who had joined him in the rebellion.”—*Early Writings, 146.*

“**Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels,** and exclaimed, ‘These are with me! Will you expel these also, and make such a void in heaven?’ **He then declared that he was prepared to resist the authority of Christ and to defend his place in heaven by force of might, strength against strength.** Good angels wept to hear the words of Satan and his exulting boasts.”—*Story of Redemption, 18.*

“**The discord which his own course had caused in heaven, Satan charged upon the government of God.** All evil he declared to be the result of the divine administration. He claimed that it was his own object to improve upon the statutes of Jehovah. **Therefore God permitted him to demonstrate the nature of his claims, to show the working out of his proposed changes in the divine law.** His own work must condemn him. Satan had claimed from the first that he was not in rebellion. **The whole universe must see the deceiver unmasked.**”—*Patriarchs and Prophets, 42.*

“**Satan . . . claimed that angels needed no law but should be left free to follow their own will,** which would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty; and that to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did. The condition of the angels, he thought, needed improvement. Not so the mind of God, who had made laws and exalted them equal to Himself. **The happiness of the angelic host consisted in their perfect obedience to law.**”—*Story of Redemption, 18-19.*

“Satan’s rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin. The working out of Satan’s rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. **It would testify that with the existence of God’s government and His law is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy intelligences,** to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin and suffering its punishments.

“To the very close of the controversy in heaven the great usurper continued to justify himself. **When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator’s law.**”—*Great Controversy*, 499.

“Then there was war in heaven. The Son of God, the Prince of heaven, and His loyal angels engaged in conflict with the archrebel and those who united with him. The Son of God and true, loyal angels prevailed; and **Satan and his sympathizers were expelled from heaven.** All the heavenly host acknowledged and adored the God of justice. **Not a taint of rebellion was left in heaven.**”—*Story of Redemption*, 19.

“Satan stood in amazement at his new condition. His happiness was gone. He looked upon the angels who, with him, were once so happy, but who had been expelled from heaven with him. Before their fall not a shade of discontent had marred their perfect bliss. Now all seemed changed. Countenances which had reflected the image of their Maker were gloomy and despairing. **Strife, discord, and bitter recrimination were among them.** Previous to their rebellion these things had been unknown in heaven. **Satan now beheld the terrible results of his rebellion. He shuddered, and feared to face the future and to contemplate the end of these things.**”—*Story of Redemption*, 24-25.

“This great change of position had not increased his love for God, nor for His wise and just law. **When Satan became fully convinced that there was no possibility of his being reinstated in the favor of God, he manifested his malice with increased hatred and fiery vehemence.**”—*Story of Redemption*, 27.

“After Satan and those who fell with him were shut out of heaven, and he realized that he had forever lost all its purity and glory, he repented, and wished to be reinstated in heaven. He was willing to take his proper place, or any position that might be assigned him. But no; heaven must not be placed in jeopardy. **All heaven might be marred should he be taken back; for sin originated with him, and the seeds of rebellion were within him.** Both he and his followers wept, and implored to be taken back into the favor of God. But their sin—their hatred, their envy and jealousy—had been so great that God could not blot it out. It must remain to receive its final punishment.”—*Early Writings*, 146.

“Their high and happy state had been held upon condition of obedience to the law which God had given to govern the high order of intelligences. But no provision had been made to save those who should venture to transgress His law.”—*Story of Redemption*, 18.

“But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. **Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God’s glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God’s love.**

“Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. **There was no more that God could do to save him.** But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan’s sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God’s love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.”—*Desire of Ages*, 761-762.

“When Satan became fully conscious that there was no possibility of his being brought again into favor with God, his malice and hatred began to be manifest. **He consulted with his angels, and a plan was laid to still work against God’s government.** When Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful garden, Satan was laying plans to destroy them. **In no way could this happy couple be deprived of their happiness if they obeyed God.** Satan could not exercise his power upon them unless they should first disobey God and forfeit His favor.”—*Early Writings*, 146.

“The news of man’s fall spread through heaven. Every harp was hushed. The angels cast their crowns from their heads in sorrow. All heaven was in agitation . . . **Satan triumphed. He had made**

others suffer by his fall. He had been shut out of heaven, they out of Paradise.”—*Early Writings, 148-149.*

“**The same spirit that prompted rebellion in heaven still inspires rebellion on earth.** Satan has continued with men the same policy which he pursued with the angels. **His spirit now reigns in the children of disobedience.** Like him they seek to break down the restraints of the law of God and promise men liberty through transgression of its precepts.”—*Great Controversy, 500.*

CHRIST FOUGHT THE WAR TO EMPOWER US TO WIN IT ALSO

The fall of mankind was complete. But Christ came to earth, through great suffering, to personally engage in warfare against Satan, so we could be empowered to also win it.

“**Not only man but the earth had by sin come under the power of the wicked one, and was to be restored by the plan of redemption.** At his creation Adam was placed in dominion over the earth. But by yielding to temptation, he was brought under the power of Satan. ‘Of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.’ 2 Peter 2:19. **When man became Satan’s captive, the dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror.** Thus Satan became ‘the god of this world.’ 2 Corinthians 4:4. He had usurped that dominion over the earth which had been originally given to Adam. But Christ, by His sacrifice paying the penalty of sin, would not only redeem man, but recover the dominion which he had forfeited. All that was lost by the first Adam will be restored by the second.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets, 67.*

“**Mighty issues for the world were at stake in the conflict between the Prince of light and the leader of the kingdom of darkness.** After tempting man to sin, Satan claimed the earth as his, and styled himself the prince of this world. **Having conformed to his own nature the father and mother of our race, he thought to establish here his empire.** He declared that men had chosen him as their sovereign. Through his control of men, he held dominion over the world. **Christ had come to disprove Satan’s claim. As the Son of**

man, Christ would stand loyal to God. Thus it would be shown that Satan had not gained complete control of the human race, and that his claim to the world was false. All who desired deliverance from his power would be set free. The dominion that Adam had lost through sin would be recovered.”—*Desire of Ages, 114-115.*

“After Satan had ended his temptations, he departed from Jesus for a little season. **The foe was conquered, but the conflict had been long and exceedingly trying,** and Christ was exhausted and fainting . . . Angels were filled with amazement and awe, as they knew **the world’s Redeemer was passing through inexpressible suffering to achieve the redemption of man . . .** The warfare with the power of darkness had been long and intensely trying to Christ’s human nature in His weak and suffering condition . . . **The cost of the redemption of the race can never be fully realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer, by the throne of God.** And as they have capacity to appreciate the value of immortal life, and the eternal reward, they will swell the song of victory and immortal triumph . . .

“**Although Satan had failed in his strongest efforts and most powerful temptations, yet he had not given up all hope that he might at some future time be successful** in his efforts. He looked forward to the period of Christ’s ministry, when he should have opportunities to try his artifices against Him.”—*Confrontation, 56.*

“**Christ thus entered upon His life of conflict to overcome the mighty foe, in bearing the very test which Adam failed to endure,** that through successful conflict He might break the power of Satan and redeem the race from the disgrace of the fall.”—*Confrontation, 37.*

WE MUST PERSONALLY ENGAGE IN THIS WARFARE

In order to receive eternal life, everyone on earth must fight an unceasing battle with Satan. But, through Christ’s enabling grace, we can be overcomers and have the victory!

This is an extremely important truth, which we want to carefully consider.

“**We do not understand as we should the great conflict going on between invisible agencies,**

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PART TWO OF FOUR

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

the controversy between loyal and disloyal angels. Over every man, good and evil angels strive. This is no make-believe conflict. It is no mimic battle in which we are engaged. **We have to meet most powerful adversaries, and it rests with us to determine which shall win.** We are to find our strength where the early disciples found theirs.”—*Evangelism, 704.*

“The work committed to the disciples would require great efficiency; for the tide of evil ran deep and strong against them. **A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them.**”—*Acts of the Apostles, 31.*

“**The warfare between good and evil has not grown less fierce than it was in the days of the Saviour.** The path to heaven is no smoother now than it was then. **All our sins must be put away.** Every darling indulgence that hinders our spiritual progress must be cut off. The right eye or the right hand must be sacrificed, if it causes us to offend. **Are we willing to renounce our own wisdom, and to receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child?** Are we willing to part with our self-righteousness? Are we willing to sacrifice the approbation of men? **The prize of eternal life is of infinite value.** Are we willing to welcome the Holy Spirit’s aid, and co-operate with it, putting forth efforts and making sacrifices proportionate to the value of the object to be obtained?”—*Messages to Young People, 56.*

“Simple faith, with the love of Christ in the soul, unites the believer to God. **While toiling in battle as a faithful soldier of Christ, he has the sympathy of the whole loyal universe. The ministering angels are round about him to aid in the conflict,** so that he may boldly say, ‘The Lord is my helper,’ ‘the Lord is my strength and my shield’; I shall not be overcome. ‘By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.’”—*Testimonies to Ministers, 147-148.*

“Jacob ‘had power over the angel, and prevailed.’ **Through humiliation, repentance, and**

self-surrender this sinful, erring mortal prevailed with the Majesty of heaven. He has fastened his trembling grasp on the promises of God, and the heart of infinite love could not turn away the sinner’s plea. . . **Let no one despair of gaining the victory. Victory is sure when self is surrendered to God.**”—*1 Bible Commentary, 1095.*

“Many are leaning upon a supposed hope without a true foundation. The fountain is not cleansed, therefore the streams proceeding from that fountain are not pure. **Cleanse the fountain, and the streams will be pure.** If the heart is right, your words, your dress, your acts, will all be right. True godliness is lacking. I would not dishonor my Master so much as to admit that a careless, trifling, prayerless person is a Christian. No; **a Christian has victory over his besetments, over his passions.** There is a remedy for the sin-sick soul. That remedy is in Jesus. Precious Saviour! **His grace is sufficient for the weakest; and the strongest must also have His grace or perish.**

“I saw how this grace could be obtained. **Go to your closet, and there alone plead with God:** ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.’”—*1 Testimonies, 158.*

“**God’s Word is the spiritual food by which the Christian must grow strong in spirit and in intellect, that he may do battle for truth and righteousness.** The Bible teaches that every besetting sin must be put away, that **the warfare against evil must be waged until every wrong is overcome.** The human agent must place himself as a willing student in the school of Christ. As he accepts the grace freely offered him, the presence of the Saviour in the thoughts and in the heart will give him decision of purpose to lay aside every weight, that the heart may be filled with all the fullness of God.”—*Counsels to Teachers, 448-449.*

“You are in the most critical period of your life history. **If you arouse the energies of the soul and direct them to securing things of eternal interest,** and if you make everything subordinate to this, you will make a success of perfecting Christian character. **You may all engage in the spiritual warfare against besetting sins, and you may, through Christ, come off victors.** But it will be no child’s play. **It will be a stern warfare, involv-**

ing self-denial and cross bearing. The danger is that you will not fully realize your backslidings and your perilous condition. Unless you view life as it is, cast aside the brilliant fancies of imagination, and come down to the sober lessons of experience, you will awake when it is too late. You will then realize the terrible mistake you have made.”—3 *Testimonies*, 43.

“**We fight in a warfare**, not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, and against spiritual wickedness in high places. See Ephesians 6:12. **In life’s conflict we must meet evil agencies that have arrayed themselves against the right.** Our hope is not in man, but in the living God. With full assurance of faith we may expect that He will unite His omnipotence with the efforts of human instrumentalities, for the glory of His name. **Clad with the armor of His righteousness, we may gain the victory over every foe.**”—*Prophets and Kings*, 111.

“**There is no encouragement given to any of the sons or daughters of Adam that they may become victorious overcomers in the Christian warfare unless they decide to practice temperance in all things.** If they do this they will not fight as one that beateth the air.

“If Christians will keep the body in subjection, and bring all their appetites and passions under the control of enlightened conscience, feeling it a duty that they owe to God and to their neighbors to obey the laws which govern health and life, they will have the blessing of physical and mental vigor.

“**They will have moral power to engage in the warfare against Satan, and in the name of Him who conquered appetite in their behalf they may be more than conquerors** on their own account. This warfare is open to all who will engage in it.”—4 *Testimonies*, 35-36.

“God’s people are called upon to rally without delay under the bloodstained banner of Christ Jesus. **Unceasingly they are to continue their warfare against the enemy, pressing the battle even to the gates.** And everyone who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty. Everyone should be willing to be or to do anything in this warfare. When church members put forth earnest efforts to advance the message, they will live in the joy of the Lord and will meet with success. **Triumph always follows decided effort.**”—7 *Testimonies*, 30.

“**We should accustom ourselves to lift the thoughts often to God in prayer.** If the mind wan-

ders, we must bring it back; by persevering effort, habit will finally make it easy. **We cannot for one moment separate ourselves from Christ with safety. We may have His presence to attend us at every step**, but only by observing the conditions which He Himself has laid down.

“Religion must be made the great business of life. Everything else should be held subordinate to this. All our powers, of soul, body, and spirit, must be engaged in the Christian warfare. **We must look to Christ for strength and grace, and we shall gain the victory as surely as Jesus died for us.**”—*Messages to Young People*, 115.

“The Christian life is a battle and a march. But the victory to be gained is not won by human power. **The field of conflict is the domain of the heart. The battle which we have to fight—the greatest battle that was ever fought by man—is the surrender of self to the will of God**, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love. The old nature, born of blood and of the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up.

“He who determines to enter the spiritual kingdom will find that all the powers and passions of an unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Selfishness and pride will make a stand against anything that would show them to be sinful. We cannot, of ourselves, conquer the evil desires and habits that strive for the mastery. **We cannot overcome the mighty foe who holds us in his thrall. God alone can give us the victory. He desires us to have the mastery over ourselves, our own will and ways.** But He cannot work in us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the faculties and powers given to man. Our energies are required to co-operate with God.”—*Mount of Blessing*, 141-142.

“**The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man**—the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. Desires for goodness and purity are right, so far as they go; but if we stop here, they avail nothing. Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. **They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him.**

“God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for

God's service. **But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will;** then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. **Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ.**

"Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in the life. **By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power.** We receive strength from above to hold us steadfast. A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God."—*Ministry of Healing* 176.

"Wrongs cannot be righted, nor can reformations in character be made, by a few feeble, intermittent efforts. **Sanctification is the work, not of a day, or of a year, but of a lifetime. The struggle for conquest over self, for holiness and heaven, is a lifelong struggle.** Without continual effort and constant activity there can be no advancement in the divine life, no attainment of the victor's crown.

"The strongest evidence of man's fall from a higher state is the fact that it costs so much to return. **The way of return can be gained only by hard fighting, inch by inch, every hour.** By a momentary act of will, one may place himself in the power of evil; but it requires more than a momentary act of will to break these fetters and attain to a higher, holier life. The purpose may be formed, the work begun; but its accomplishment will require toil, time, and perseverance, patience and sacrifice.

"Beset with temptations without number, **we must resist firmly or be conquered.** Should we come to the close of life with our work undone, it would be an eternal loss."—*8 Testimonies*, 312-313.

"**The temptations of Satan are greater now than ever before, for he knows that his time is short** and that very soon every case will be decided, either for life or for death. It is no time now to sink down beneath discouragement and trial; we must bear up under all our afflictions and trust wholly in the Almighty God of Jacob. The Lord has shown me that His grace is sufficient for all our trials; and although they are greater than ever before, yet **if we trust wholly in God, we can overcome every temptation and through His grace come off victorious.**

"**If we overcome our trials and get victory over the temptations of Satan, then we endure the trial of our faith,** which is more precious than

gold, and are stronger and better prepared to meet the next. But if we sink down and give way to the temptations of Satan, we shall grow weaker and get no reward for the trial and shall not be so well prepared for the next. In this way we shall grow weaker and weaker, until we are led captive by Satan at his will. **We must have on the whole armor of God and be ready at any moment for a conflict with the powers of darkness. When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonize with Him in prayer.** He will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy."—*Early Writings*, 46.

"**Yield not to the power of the tempter.** He will come as a strong man armed, but give him no advantage. Nerve yourselves for duty, and dispute every inch of ground. **Instead of retreating, advance; instead of becoming weak and nerveless, brace yourselves for the conflict.** God calls on you to engage with all your powers against sin in every form. Put on the whole armor of God, and keep your eye steadily fixed on the Captain of your salvation; for there is danger ahead. Follow no false colors, but watch the banner of our holy faith, and be found where that waves, even though it be in the thickest of the fight. **Soon the warfare will be over and the victory won, and if you are faithful you will come off more than conquerors** through Him that has loved you. The glorious prize, the eternal weight of glory, will then be yours."—*5 Testimonies*, 309.

"**If the heart is not kept under the control of God,** if the Holy Spirit does not work unceasingly to refine and ennoble the character, **the old habits will reveal themselves in the life.** Men may profess to believe the gospel; but unless they are sanctified by the gospel their profession is of no avail. **If they do not gain the victory over sin, then sin is gaining the victory over them.**"—*Christ's Object Lessons*, 50-51.

"**Victories are not gained by ceremonies or display, but by simple obedience** to the highest General, the Lord God of heaven. **He who trusts in this Leader will never know defeat.** Defeat comes in depending on human methods, human inventions, and placing the divine secondary."—*6 Testimonies*, 140.

"God was the strength of Judah in this crisis, and **He is the strength of His people today.** We are not to trust in princes, or to set men in the place of God. We are to remember that human be-

ings are fallible and erring, and that **He who has all power is our strong tower of defense. In every emergency we are to feel that the battle is His.** His resources are limitless, and apparent impossibilities will make the victory all the greater.”—*Prophets and Kings, 202.*

“In comparison with the millions of the world, God’s people will be, as they have ever been, a little flock; but **if they stand for the truth as revealed in His Word, God will be their refuge.** They stand under the broad shield of Omnipotence. God is always a majority. When the sound of the last trump shall penetrate the prison house of the dead, and the righteous shall come forth with triumph, exclaiming, ‘O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?’ (1 Corinthians 15:55)—standing then with God, with Christ, with the angels, and with the loyal and true of all ages, the children of God will be far in the majority.

“**Christ’s true disciples follow Him through sore conflicts, enduring self-denial and experiencing bitter disappointment;** but this teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they are led to look upon it with abhorrence. Partakers of Christ’s sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory.”—*Acts of the Apostles, 590.*

“We are soldiers of Christ; and those who enlist in His army are expected to do difficult work, work which will tax their energies to the utmost. **We must understand that a soldier’s life is one of aggressive warfare, of perseverance and endurance.** For Christ’s sake we are to endure trials. We are not engaged in mimic battles. **We have to meet most powerful adversaries;** for ‘we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.’ Ephesians 6:12. **We are to find our strength just where the early disciples found their strength: ‘These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.’ Acts 1:14.**”—*6 Testimonies, 140.*

“Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. **A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the**

powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected.

“**Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character.** If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. **If you will not, then you cannot overcome.** The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons, 331.*

“Let our young men **institute a warfare against every habit that has the least danger of leading the soul from duty and devotion.** Let them **have stated seasons for prayer,** never neglecting them if it can possibly be avoided. If they go out to battle with their vicious habits indulged as before they professed fellowship with Christ, they will soon fall an easy prey to Satan’s devices. But **armed with the Word of God, having it treasured in heart and mind, they will come forth unharmed by all the assaults of the foes of God or man . . .**

“In the name of God lift your banner for truth and righteousness—the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. You need the perfect armor of truth now, the sword of the Spirit, whose edge will never be blunted, but will cut its way through sin and unrighteousness.”—*My Life Today, 315.*

“Henceforward Christ’s followers were to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own . . .

“**The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. Not one that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy’s power.** The Saviour is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. **With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us.**”—*Desire of Ages, 490.*

“**The Christian’s life should be one of faith, of victory, and joy in God.** ‘Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**’

The Christian Warfare Against Sin

PART THREE OF FOUR

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

1 John 5:4.”—*Great Controversy*, 477.

“Your knowledge of God and of His attributes has been lessened since you have begun to theorize regarding His nature and prerogatives.

“The church is now engaged in a warfare that will increase in intensity on the very point on which you have been misled. Not one pillar of our faith is to be moved. **Not one line of revealed truth is to be replaced** by new and fanciful theories.”—*Medical Ministry*, 96.

“The work of conquering evil is to be done through faith. Those who go into the battlefield will find that they must put on the whole armor of God. The shield of faith will be their defense and will enable them to be more than conquerors. **Nothing else will avail but this—faith in the Lord of hosts, and obedience to His orders.** Vast armies furnished with every other facility will avail nothing in the last great conflict. Without faith, an angel host could not help. **Living faith alone will make them invincible and enable them to stand in the evil day,** steadfast, unmovable, holding the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end.”—*Counsels to Teachers*, 182-183.

“God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armory where we may equip for the struggle. Our loins must be girt about with truth. Our breastplate must be righteousness. **The shield of faith must be in our hand,** the helmet of salvation on our brow; and with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, we are to cut our way through the obstructions and entanglements of sin.”—*Acts of the Apostles*, 502.

“Obedience to every word of God is another condition of success. Victories are not gained by ceremonies or display, but by simple obedience to the highest General, the Lord God of heaven. He who trusts in this Leader will never know defeat. **Defeat comes in depending on human methods, human inventions, and placing the divine secondary.** Obedience was the lesson that the Captain of the Lord’s host sought to teach the vast armies of Israel—obedience in things in which they could see no success. **When there is obedience to the voice of our Leader, Christ will conduct His**

battles in ways that will surprise the greatest powers of earth.”—*6 Testimonies*, 140.

“If there is ever one time above another when men need to preserve their connection with God, it is when they are called to bear special responsibility. **It is not safe for us, when going into battle, to cast away our weapons.** It is then that we need to be equipped with the whole armor of God. Every piece is essential.”—*7 Testimonies*, 190.

“Christ rejoiced that He could do more for His followers than they could ask or think. He spoke with assurance, knowing that an almighty decree had been given before the world was made. **He knew that truth, armed with the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit, would conquer in the contest with evil;** and that the bloodstained banner would wave triumphantly over His followers. **He knew that the life of His trusting disciples would be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories,** not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter.”—*Desire of Ages*, 679.

“The soul that is constantly looking unto Jesus will see His self-denying love and deep humility, and will copy His example. Pride, ambition, deceit, hatred, selfishness, must be cleansed from the heart. With many, these evil traits are partially subdued, but not thoroughly uprooted from the heart. Under favorable circumstances they spring up anew and ripen into rebellion against God. **Here lies a terrible danger. To spare any sin is to cherish a foe that only awaits an unguarded moment to cause our ruin.**”—*5 Testimonies*, 175.

“The inhabitants of unfallen worlds and of the heavenly universe are watching with an intense interest the conflict between good and evil. They rejoice as Satan’s subtleties, one after another, are discerned and met with ‘It is written,’ as Christ met them in His conflict with the wily foe. Every victory gained is a gem in the crown of life. In the day of victory all the universe of heaven triumphs. The harps of the angels send forth the most precious music, accompanying the melody of the voice.”—*6 Bible Commentary*, 1088.

“When the Spirit of God controls mind and heart, the converted soul breaks forth into a new song; for he realizes that in his experience the

promise of God has been fulfilled, that his transgression has been forgiven, his sin covered. He has exercised repentance toward God for the violation of the divine law, and faith toward Christ, who died for man's justification. 'Being justified by faith,' he has 'peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Romans 5:1.

"But because this experience is his, the Christian is not therefore to fold his hands, content with that which has been accomplished for him. He who has determined to enter the spiritual kingdom will find that **all the powers and passions of unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Each day he must renew his consecration, each day do battle with evil.** Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these he is to be ever on guard, striving in Christ's strength for victory."—*Acts of the Apostles*, 476-477.

"Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It **is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ.** Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. **It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome.** We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome . . . Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience."—*Acts of the Apostles*, 560-561.

"When self is hid in Jesus, we are shielded from the darts of the enemy."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 908.

"Some feel their need of the atonement, and with the recognition of this need, and the desire for a change of heart, a struggle begins. **To renounce their own will, perhaps their chosen objects of affection or pursuit, requires an effort, at which many hesitate and falter and turn back. Yet this battle must be fought by every heart that is truly converted.** We must war against temptations without and within. We must gain the victory over self, crucify the affections and lusts; and then begins the union of the soul with Christ. As the dry and apparently lifeless branch is grafted into the living tree, so may we become living branches of the True Vine. And the fruit which was borne by Christ will be borne by all His followers. **After this union is formed, it can be preserved**

only by continual, earnest, painstaking effort. Christ exercises His power to preserve and guard this sacred tie, and the dependent, helpless sinner must act his part with untiring energy, or Satan by his cruel, cunning power will separate him from Christ.

"Every Christian must **stand on guard continually, watching every avenue of the soul where Satan might find access.** He must **pray for divine help and at the same time resolutely resist every inclination to sin.** By courage, by faith, by persevering toil, he can conquer. But let him remember that **to gain the victory Christ must abide in him and he in Christ.**"—*5 Testimonies*, 47.

"If Christians would bring all their appetites and passions under the control of enlightened conscience, feeling it a duty they owe to God and to their neighbor to obey the laws which govern life and health, they would have the blessing of physical and mental vigor; **they would have moral power to engage in the warfare against Satan;** and in the name of Him who conquered in their behalf, they might be more than conquerors on their own account."—*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, pages 39, 40.

"Everyone is to keep himself separate from the world, which is full of iniquity. **We are not to walk with God for a time, and then part from His company** and walk in the sparks of our own kindling. **There must be a firm continuance, a perseverance in acts of faith.** We are to praise God; to show forth His glory in a righteous character. No one of us will gain the victory without persevering, untiring effort, proportionate to the value of the object which we seek, even eternal life."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 511.

"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but **the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.**"—*Steps to Christ*, 43.

"The most complete system that men have ever devised, apart from the power and wisdom of God, will prove a failure, while **the most unpromising methods will succeed when divinely appointed and entered upon with humility and faith.** Trust in God and obedience to His will are as essential to the Christian in the spiritual warfare as to Gideon and Joshua in their battles with the Canaanites. By the repeated manifestations of His power in behalf of Israel, God would lead them to have faith in Him—with confidence to seek His help in every

emergency. **He is just as willing to work with the efforts of His people now and to accomplish great things through weak instrumentalities. All heaven awaits our demand upon its wisdom and strength.** God is 'able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.' Ephesians 3:20."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 554.

"If they would discard unprofitable amusements and indulgence of appetite, their minds would be clear for the pursuit of knowledge. They would thus gain a moral power that would enable them to remain unmoved when assailed by temptation. It is a continual struggle to be always on the alert to resist evil; but **it pays to obtain one victory after another** over self and the powers of darkness."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 87.

"So long as we are in the world, we shall meet with adverse influences. **There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed.** If Christ dwells in us, we shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. **Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self, and grow into a noble heroism.** This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. **Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful, unless we become coworkers with Him.** Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory."—*Ministry of Healing*, 487.

"Paul knew that his warfare against evil would not end so long as life should last. Ever he realized the need of putting a strict guard upon himself, that earthly desires might not overcome spiritual zeal. With all his power he continued to strive against natural inclinations. **Ever he kept before him the ideal to be attained, and this ideal he strove to reach by willing obedience to the law of God.** His words, his practices, his passions—all were brought under the control of the Spirit of God."—*Acts of the Apostles*, 314-315.

"Angels are ever present where they are most needed, with those who have the hardest battles with self to fight, and whose surroundings are the most discouraging. Weak and trembling souls who have many objectionable traits of character are their special charge. That which selfish hearts would regard as humiliating service, ministering to

those who are wretched and in every way inferior in character, is the work of the pure, sinless beings from the courts above."—*Ministry of Healing*, 105.

"Those who become followers of Christ find that new motives of action are supplied, new thoughts arise, and new actions must result. But they can make advancement only through conflict; for there is an enemy who ever contends against them, presenting temptations to cause the soul to doubt and sin. There are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. Appetite and passion must be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit . . . **But while there are constant battles to fight, there are also precious victories to gain;** and the triumph over self and sin is of more value than the mind can estimate."—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, 20.

"Will man take hold of divine power, and with determination and perseverance resist Satan, as Christ has given him example in His conflict with the foe in the wilderness of temptation? **God cannot save man against his will from the power of Satan's artifices.** Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. **In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame.** And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. **Man must do his part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him.** Man must be a coworker with Christ in the labor of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ of His glory."—*4 Testimonies*, 32-33.

"He [Christ] knows the necessities of those who, compassed with infirmity and living in a world of sin and temptation, still desire to serve Him. He knows that the messengers whom He sees fit to send are weak, erring men; but to all who give themselves wholly to His service He promises divine aid. His own example is an assurance that **earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith—faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work—will avail to bring to men the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle against sin.**"—*Acts of the Apostles*, 56.

"They need to cherish the truth as an abiding principle, that it may sanctify the soul. The creating, transforming power of God's Holy Spirit

will make them copartners with Jesus Christ. **Yoked up with Christ, they can be more than conquerors** through Him.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 328.

“**You lose much by not studying with greater earnestness and care the life of Christ. There you . . . may see the victories which you have to gain . . .** that you may win the precious white robe of a spotless character, and stand at last without fault before the throne of God.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 371.

“**The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world.** The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom. **He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His followers choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast.**”

“Through all our trials we have a never-failing Helper. **He does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation, to battle with evil,** and be finally crushed with burdens and sorrow. Though now He is hidden from mortal sight, the ear of faith can hear His voice saying, Fear not; I am with you.”—*Desire of Ages*, 483.

“He [Paul] knew that at every step in the Christian pathway they [his converts] would be opposed by the synagogue of Satan and that they would have to engage in conflicts daily. **They would have to guard against the stealthy approach of the enemy, forcing back old habits and natural inclinations, and ever watching unto prayer.** Paul knew that the higher Christian attainments can be reached only through much prayer and constant watchfulness, and this he tried to instill into their minds. **But he knew also that in Christ crucified they were offered power sufficient to convert the soul and divinely adapted to enable them to resist all temptations to evil.** With faith in God as their armor, and with His Word as their weapon of warfare, **they would be supplied with an inner power that would enable them to turn aside the attacks of the enemy.**”—*Acts of the Apostles*, 307.

“The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is that they try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished idols.

“**After the union with Christ has been formed, it can be preserved only by earnest prayer and untiring effort. We must resist, we must deny,**

we must conquer self. Through the grace of Christ, by courage, by faith, by watchfulness, we may gain the victory.”—*5 Testimonies*, 231.

“Battles are to be fought every day. **A great warfare is going on over every soul, between the prince of darkness and the Prince of life.** There is a great battle to be fought, . . . **but you are not to do the main fighting here. As God’s agent you are to yield yourselves to Him, that He may plan and direct and fight the battle for you, with your co-operation.** The Prince of life is at the head of His work. He is to be with you in your daily battle with self, that you may be true to principle; that passion, when warring for the mastery, may be subdued by the grace of Christ; that you come off more than conqueror through Him that hath loved us. Jesus has been over the ground. He knows the power of every temptation. **He knows just how to meet every emergency, and how to guide you through every path of danger.**”

“He who has given His precious life because He loved you, and wanted you to be happy, will be a Captain who will always be mindful of your interest.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 160.

“**We cannot overestimate the value of simple faith and unquestioning obedience.** It is by following in the path of obedience in simple faith that the character obtains perfection.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 71.

“The cause of God demands men who can see quickly and act instantaneously at the right time and with power. If you wait to measure every difficulty and balance every perplexity you meet you will do but little. **You will have obstacles and difficulties to encounter at every turn, and you must with firm purpose decide to conquer them, or they will conquer you.**”—*3 Testimonies*, 497.

“**One victory it is positively essential for you both to gain, the victory over the stubborn will.** In this struggle you can conquer only by the aid of Christ. You may struggle hard and long to subdue self, but you will fail unless you receive strength from on high. By the grace of Christ you can gain the victory over self and selfishness. **As you live His life, showing self-sacrifice at every step, constantly revealing a stronger sympathy for those in need of help, you will gain victory after victory.** Day by day you will learn better how to conquer self and how to strengthen your weak points of character. The Lord Jesus will be your light, your

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strength, your crown of rejoicing, because you yield your will to His will.”—7 Testimonies, 49.

“When the barriers are once broken down, step after step is taken in the wrong direction. Satan presents flattering worldly prospects to those who will depart from principle and sacrifice integrity and Christian honor to gain the approbation of the ungodly. His efforts are too often successful. **He gains the victory where he should meet with repulse and defeat.**”—4 Testimonies, 577.

“Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His experience testifies to the power of importunate prayer. **It is now that we are to learn this lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith.** The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are **those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God,** when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power.

“Those who are unwilling to forsake every sin and to seek earnestly for God’s blessing, will not obtain it. But all who will lay hold of God’s promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, 203.

“The true Witness presents encouragements to all who are seeking to **walk in the path of humble obedience, through faith in His name.** He declares, ‘To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.’

“These are the words of our Substitute and Surety. **He who is the divine Head of the church, the mightiest of conquerors, would point His followers to His life.** His toils, His self-denials, His struggles and sufferings, through contempt, through rejection, ridicule, scorn, insult, mockery, falsehood, up the path of Calvary to the scene of the crucifixion, that they might be encouraged to **press on toward the mark for the prize and reward of the overcomer.** Victory is assured through faith and obedience.”—7 Bible Commentary, 966.

“The Holy Spirit waits to soften and subdue

hearts; but they are not willing to open the door and let the Saviour in, for fear that He will require something of them. And so Jesus of Nazareth passes by. He longs to bestow on them the rich blessings of His grace, but they refuse to accept them. What a terrible thing it is to exclude Christ from His own temple! What a loss to the church!

“Good works cost us a sacrifice, but it is in this very sacrifice that they provide discipline. These obligations bring us into conflict with natural feelings and propensities, and in fulfilling them we gain victory after victory over the objectionable traits of our characters. **The warfare goes on, and thus we grow in grace. Thus we reflect the likeness of Christ** and are prepared for a place among the blessed in the kingdom of God.”—6 Testimonies, 262.

“‘And repent.’ **The life we live is to be one of continual repentance and humility. We need to repent constantly, that we may be constantly victorious. When we have true humility, we have victory.** The enemy never can take out of the hand of Christ the one who is simply trusting in His promises. If the soul is trusting and working obediently, the mind is susceptible to divine impressions, and the light of God shines in, enlightening the understanding. What privileges we have in Christ Jesus!”—7 Bible Commentary, 959 [italics ours].

THE BATTLE IS NEARING ITS END

Just now, before Christ’s Second Advent, we are about to enter upon the final stage of this battle of the ages. Here are the issues over which it will be fought:

“The great conflict that Satan created in the heavenly courts is soon, very soon, to be forever decided. Soon all the inhabitants of the earth will have taken sides, either for or against the government of heaven. **Now, as never before, Satan is exercising his deceiving power to mislead and to destroy every unguarded soul. We are called upon to arouse the people to prepare for the great issues before them.** We must give warning to those who are standing on the very brink of ruin. God’s people are to put forth every power in combating Satan’s falsehoods and pulling down his

strongholds. **To every human being in the wide world who will give heed, we are to make plain the principles at stake in the great controversy—**principles upon which hangs the eternal destiny of the soul. To the people far and near we are to bring home the question: ‘Are you following the great apostate in disobedience to God’s law, or are you following the Son of God, who declared, “I have kept My Father’s commandments”?’

“This is the work before us; for this our publishing institutions were established; it is this work that God expects at their hands.”—*7 Testimonies*, 141-142.

“We have only a little while to urge the warfare; then Christ will come, and this scene of rebellion will close. Then our last efforts will have been made to work with Christ and advance His kingdom. Some who have stood in the forefront of the battle, zealously resisting incoming evil, fall at the post of duty; others gaze sorrowfully at the fallen heroes, but have no time to cease work. They must close up the ranks, seize the banner from the hand palsied by death, and with renewed energy vindicate the truth and the honor of Christ. As never before, resistance must be made against sin,—against the powers of darkness. **The time demands energetic and determined activity on the part of those who believe present truth.** They should teach the truth by both precept and example.”—*Christian Service*, 84.

“The conflict that we are passing through is the last we shall have in this world. We are now in the midst of it. Two parties are striving for the supremacy. **In this conflict we cannot be neutral. We must stand either on one side or on the other.** If we take our position on the side of Christ, if we acknowledge Him before the world in word and work, we are bearing a living testimony as to whom we have chosen to serve and honor. In this important period of earth’s history, **we cannot afford to leave any one in uncertainty as to whose side we are on.**”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 370.

“With strong arms and brave hearts go forth into the conflict which all must enter, a conflict that will grow more and more severe as we approach the closing struggle.”—*6 Testimonies*, 471.

“There is a prospect before us of a continued struggle, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. In this situation worldly policy will urge an

outward compliance with the laws of the land, for the sake of peace and harmony.”—*5 Testimonies*, 712.

“Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God’s wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? **Now is the time for God’s people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching.** To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, **to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test.** At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader.”—*5 Testimonies*, 136.

“Let us arouse! The battle is waging. Truth and error are nearing their final conflict. Let us march under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, and fight the good fight of faith, and win eternal honors; for the truth will triumph, and we may be more than conquerors through Him who has loved us. **The precious hours of probation are closing. Let us make sure work for eternal life,** that we may glorify our heavenly Father, and be the means of saving souls for whom Christ died.”—*Christian Service*, 77.

A VIEW OF THIS FINAL BATTLE

The warfare begun by Satan in heaven, and continued for 6,000 years on earth, is about to end. Here is a brief overview of it:

“From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan’s purpose to overthrow the law of God. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator, and **though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth.** To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God’s law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued. **Whether this be accomplished by casting aside the law altogether, or by rejecting one of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same.** He that offends ‘in one point’ manifests contempt for the whole law; his influence and ex-

ample are on the side of transgression; he becomes 'guilty of all.' James 2:10.

"In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus become incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures. **The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering**—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.

"The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work."—*Great Controversy*, 582.

"Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition."—*Prophets and Kings*, 625.

"Not all in this world have taken sides with the enemy against God. Not all have become disloyal. There are a faithful few who are true to God; for John writes: 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12. **Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken,** that those things that cannot be shaken may remain."—*9 Testimonies*, 15-16.

"Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds of the earth. Terrible destruction is forbidden to come in full . . . while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.

"Angels are holding the four winds, which are represented as an angry horse seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path.

"A terrible conflict is before us. We are nearing the battle of the great day of God Almighty. That which has been held in control is to be let loose. The angel of mercy is folding her wings, preparing to step down from the throne and leave the world to the control of Satan. **The principalities and powers of earth are in bitter revolt against**

the God of heaven. They are filled with hatred against those who serve Him. And soon, very soon, will be fought the last great battle between good and evil. The earth is to be the battlefield—the scene of the final contest and the final victory."—*My Life Today*, 308.

"There are only two parties in our world, those who are loyal to God, and those who stand under the banner of the prince of darkness. Satan and his angels will come down with power and signs and lying wonders to deceive those who dwell on the earth, and if possible the very elect. **The crisis is right upon us.** Is this to paralyze the energies of those who have a knowledge of the truth? Is the influence of the powers of deception so far reaching that the influence of the truth will be overpowered?

"The battle of Armageddon is soon to be fought. He on whose vesture is written the name, King of kings and Lord of lords, leads forth the armies of heaven on white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and white."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 982.

"Every form of evil is to spring into intense activity. Evil angels unite their powers with evil men, and as they have been in constant conflict and attained an experience in the best modes of deception and battle, and have been strengthening for centuries, **they will not yield the last great final contest without a desperate struggle. All the world will be on one side or the other of the question.** The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps . . .

"The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us, and **the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle. Solemn events before us are yet to transpire.** Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded, vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth. Scenes of stupendous interest are right upon us."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 982.

"Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle. On one side stands the Creator of heaven and earth. **All on His side bear His signet. They are obedient to His commands.** On the other side stands the prince of darkness, with those who have chosen apostasy and rebellion."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 982-983.

"The powers of evil will not yield up the

conflict without a struggle. But Providence has a part to act in the battle of Armageddon. When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation eighteen, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from slumber, and the armies of the living God will take the field.”—*7 Bible Commentary*, 983.

SATAN TRIES TO RENEW THE BATTLE

After the millennium, Satan will try to renew the battle. He little realizes that it ended at the Second Advent; for, by that time, every one had made their decision as to which side they would stand.

“Then Jesus and the holy angels, accompanied by all the saints, again go to the city, and the bitter lamentations and wailings of the doomed wicked fill the air. **Then I saw that Satan again commenced his work. He passed around among his subjects, and made the weak and feeble strong, and told them that he and his angels were powerful.** He pointed to the countless millions who had been raised. There were mighty warriors and kings who were well-skilled in battle and who had conquered kingdoms. And there were mighty giants and valiant men who had never lost a battle. There was the proud, ambitious Napoleon, whose approach had caused kingdoms to tremble. There stood men of lofty stature and dignified bearing, who had fallen in battle while thirsting to conquer.

“As they come forth from their graves, they resume the current of their thoughts where it ceased in death. They possess the same desire to conquer which ruled when they fell. Satan consults with his angels, and then with those kings and conquerors and mighty men. **Then he looks over the vast army, and tells them that the company in the city is small and feeble, and that they can go up and take it, and cast out its inhabitants, and possess its riches and glory themselves.**

“Satan succeeds in deceiving them, and all immediately begin to prepare themselves for battle. There are many skillful men in that vast army, and they construct all kinds of implements of war. **Then with Satan at their head, the multitude move on.** Kings and warriors follow close after Satan, and the multitude follow after in companies. Each company has its leader, and order is observed as **they march over the broken surface of the earth**

to the Holy City. Jesus closes the gates of the city, and this vast army surround it, and place themselves in battle array, expecting a fierce conflict.”—*Early Writings*, 293.

“Jesus and all the angelic host and all the saints, with the glittering crowns upon their heads, ascend to the top of the wall of the city. Jesus speaks with majesty, saying, ‘Behold, ye sinners, the reward of the just! And behold, My redeemed, the reward of the wicked!’

“The vast multitude behold the glorious company on the walls of the city. And as they witness the splendor of their glittering crowns and see their faces radiant with glory, reflecting the image of Jesus, and then behold the unsurpassed glory and majesty of the King of kings and Lord of lords, their courage fails. A sense of the treasure and glory which they have lost rushes upon them, and they realize that the wages of sin is death. They see the holy, happy company whom they have despised, clothed with glory, honor, immortality, and eternal life, while they are outside the city with every mean and abominable thing.”—*Early Writings*, 293-294.

AN ETERNAL VICTORY

Do not become fainthearted; for, in the strength of Christ, you will overcome. As you persevere, look to the bright future that will be yours when Jesus returns for you.

“Now the church is militant. Now we are confronted with a world in darkness, almost wholly given over to idolatry . . . But the day is coming when the battle will have been fought, the victory won. The will of God is to be done on earth as it is done in heaven . . . All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving—the robe of Christ’s righteousness. All nature, in its surpassing loveliness, will offer to God a tribute of praise and adoration. **The world will be bathed in the light of heaven.** The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold greater than it is now. **The years will move on in gladness. Over the scene the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in proclaiming, ‘There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be any more death.’**”—*Child Guidance*, 568.