

Do you sense that there is a **battle** being waged for your heart and for your mind?

Do you have any idea how to engage the conflict?

Do you believe in a literal 'Satan' who is a supernatural deceiver, hater, liar, murderer and accuser?

The New York Times

by Gustav Niebuhr

Is Satan Real? Most People Think Not

Polls tend to show that Americans are a largely religious people, with something close to 95 percent claiming a belief in God, and large numbers saying they think that Heaven exists, and so too do angels.

But the people who respond to those polls appear to have an easier time personalizing religious concepts of good than of evil. Events like the Salem witch trials notwithstanding, *this is a nation inclined more to theological optimism than to pondering literal representations of faith's dark side.* For evidence, one might look to a recent finding by the Barna Research Group, market researchers in Oxnard, Calif., who reported last week that nearly two-thirds of Americans do not believe in the Devil as a living entity.

In a nationwide telephone survey of 1,007 randomly selected people earlier this year, Barna's pollsters asked whether they agreed that Satan is "not a living being, but is a symbol of evil."

Sixty-two percent agreed with the statement, while 30 percent disagreed; the remaining 8 percent had no opinion.

The results echo a survey Barna did two years ago, in which people were asked whether they thought hell existed as an actual location, "a place of physical torment." Only 31 percent said they thought it did. Do you sense that there is a **battle** being waged for your heart and for your mind?

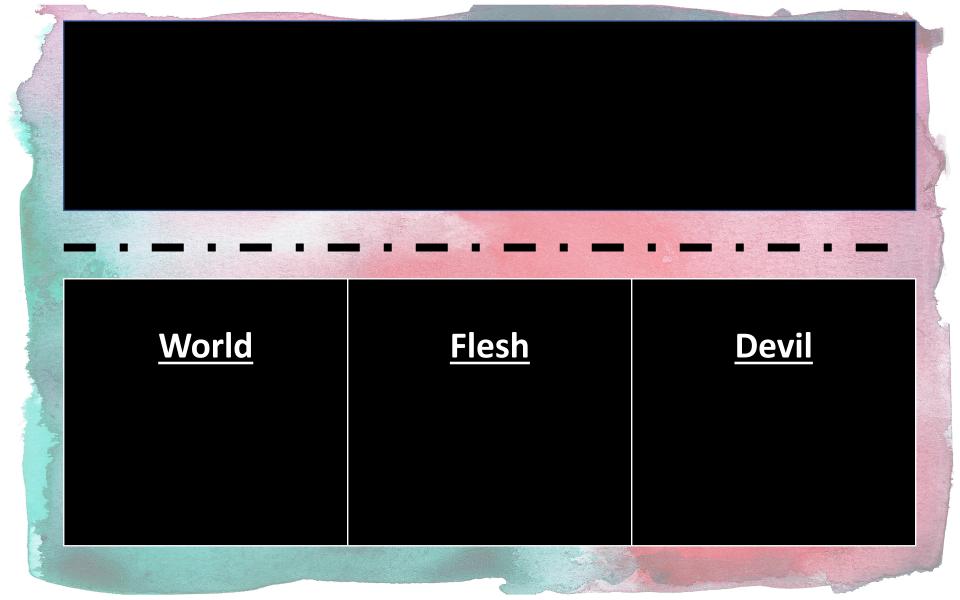
Do you have any idea how to engage the conflict?

Do you believe in a literal 'Satan' who is a supernatural deceiver, hater, liar, murderer and accuser?

Do you experience *a wrestling* within you about "right" and "wrong" and which to choose?

Do you struggle with some habitual sin without victory?





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¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

- ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but *be filled with the Spirit*,
- ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,
 ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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- Husbands and wives
- Parents and children
- Employers and employees

Ephesians 6:10-13

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

- **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
- 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,

but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

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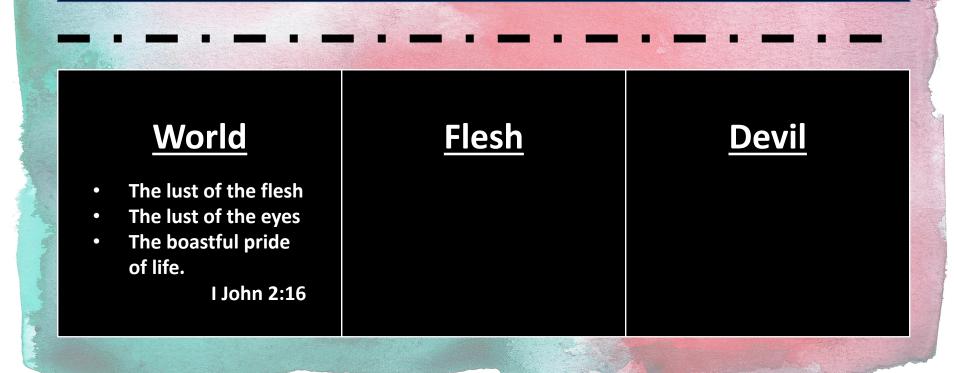


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- The lust of the eyes
- The boastful pride of life.

I John 2:16

Flesh

Devil

There in nothing good that dwells in the flesh.

Galatians 5:16-17

<u>World</u>

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- The lust of the eyes
- The boastful pride of life.

<u>Flesh</u>

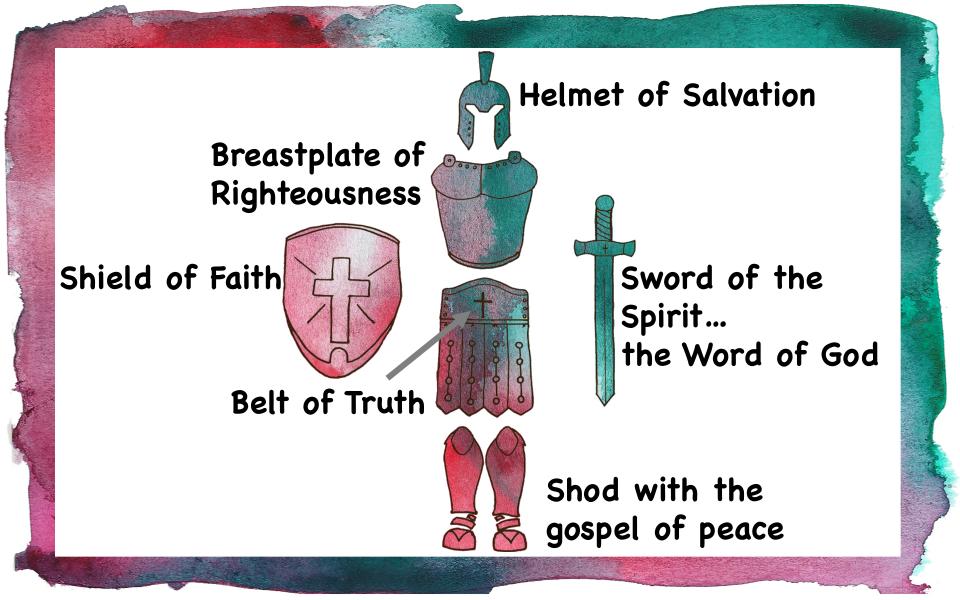
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<u>Devil</u>

Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. I Peter 5:6-9

I John 2:16

Galatians 5:16-17







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As you wrestle with spiritual conflict you need to remember that your power and your victory does not come from yourselves but from the authority of Christ in your life.

Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

I John 4:4