

The Tree Of Life
From the week ending 01/19/03
The Angelic Conflict, Part 11. Hebrews 7:23-25
The Faith Rest Drill

Ephesians 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

1 Jo 4:4 *Greater is He who is in you [the omnipotence of the Father indwelling us and the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit in the predesigned plan of God] than he who is in the world [Satan and his cosmic system].*

As we have seen in our review of Satan's game plan, any good plan has three major elements:

1. An objective.
2. A strategy.
3. Tactics.

God also has a game plan:

1. Objective: Win the angelic conflict by bringing many sons to glory.
2. Strategy: The Cross of Jesus Christ.
3. Tactics: The predesigned plan of God for the Church-age, including **10** problem-solving devices, **4** spiritual mechanics, **3** spiritual skills, **2** power options, and **1** top priority, Bible doctrine.

Satan's objective is to *take God's place*. He wants to be the king over heaven and earth. He wants to be "*numero uno*." His strategy is two-fold:

1. Promote worship of self.
2. Discredit God.

Dan 7:25 *He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

Satan continually schemes against and attacks believers.

2Co 2:11 *So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

Satan's tactical objective is prevent the believer from bringing glory to God in the angelic conflict and to prevent Jesus Christ from being glorified in the believer's life. His tactical strategy against the Church-age believer is to replace Bible doctrine circulating in the soul with **human viewpoint thinking** among positive believers.

Satan accuses believers; in **Rev 12:10** he is called "the accuser of the brethren." Satan accuses the believer *day and night* before the throne of God. However, the believer, though accused, stands perfectly righteous before God because of the imputed righteousness of Christ, which he received at the moment of salvation. The sins that Satan mentions are real; he knows that God is omniscient so there is no point in wasting His time by presenting lies. In the face of this attack, the man and woman after God's own heart never quit. Instead they gut it out by applying the appropriate problem-solving devices.

They use the shield of the faith-rest drill as Christian soldiers.

Psa 103:12 *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

As Christian soldiers they use the sword of doctrinal orientation.

Rom 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

As Christian soldiers they use the helmet of occupation with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 7:25 *He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

Our Lord keeps on interceding for us so that we will be completely delivered from the attacks and deadliness of the old sin nature, the world, and the kingdom of darkness.

We also noted the importance of reviewing over and over again the 10 problem-solving devices. Satan's plan is to accuse (with his fiery darts) through his strategy, which is human viewpoint thinking. The objective, as always, is to prevent the Lord Jesus

Christ from being glorified. Those accusations can lead to shame, guilt, stress in soul and eventually to life in Cosmic 1. However God has provided weapons to knock out all the tactics, the strategies, and the objectives of the satanic plan. The kingdom of darkness expects to see your soul “blow up”; instead, the tactic backfires in their face.

2Co 10:4 *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*

The Faith-Rest Technique

We will all face disasters, tragedies, and scares in our lives. We need simple, strong medicine to fight the fear. God provides a step-by-step technique for beating fear and getting back to thinking doctrine.

- Establish fellowship with God (the filling of the Holy Spirit) through Biblical confession of sin.
- Recover a relaxed mental attitude by claiming promises from the Word.
- Call up divine viewpoint thinking; concentrate on pertinent doctrines related to the issue at hand.
- Take control of the situation as you reach doctrinal conclusions.

2Co 12:10 *Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.***

Human viewpoint: “When I am weak, then I am stuck!”

Divine viewpoint: “When I am weak, then I am **strong!**”

Eph 6:16 *In addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish **all** the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

The large Roman body-shield measured about 4 feet high by 2 1/2 feet wide. It was usually constructed of alternating layers of bronze and oxhide (leather). Rome’s enemies often used arrows dipped in pitch which would be set aflame and fired at the Roman soldiers. Their hope was that the arrow would pierce the target, and the flaming pitch would spread rapidly, seriously injuring many soldiers. The metal could deflect flaming arrows, and the leather was treated to extinguish the burning pitch. The faith-rest drill, from beginning to end, prevents the work of Satan from becoming fruitful in our lives. The shield of faith can only be carried by the believer who has knowledge and spiritual strength gained from having his faith tested. Each day we all have small problems designed to train us for the day when we are going to have a large problem!

Our discipline in handling the daily difficulties of life teaches us how to overcome distractions and irritations by using the shield of faith. If you are facing a hopeless situation in your life, a situation where you’ve tried everything, and nothing works, and it is ruining your peace of mind, then God would like you to know that He has great plans for you, and He is up to something bigger than your problem. What He really wants you to learn is how to please Him, and that is by *faith*, **Heb 11:6**.

Faith is based on knowledge; it is not an emotion, and it is not automatic. Faith is a non-meritorious system of perception based on confidence in the authority and veracity of another. Faith is a **decision** to place your trust and confidence in the character and nature of another to come through for you; as a believer we put that faith, that knowledge based on Bible doctrine, in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith can also mean a system of doctrine or a creed perceived by faith, that which is believed.

Mat 17:20 *And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.”*

You already trusted Him to take care of the biggest problem—to change your **nature** and thereby your **destiny**. Now, don’t you believe He can change whatever else needs changing in your life?

The faith-rest drill is a versatile technique for overcoming any difficulty, problem, or disaster in life. by *faith* the believer applies doctrine logically while *resting* in God’s promises. One of the most gracious decisions God makes in His sovereignty is to allow tragedies and heartbreaks in our lives so that we will learn to lean on Him rather than on our own strength and resources. When you find yourself in these situations, you have two options:

1. Doubt God’s Word, and be totally miserable.
2. Believe God’s Word and enter into His rest.

God has given us promises and doctrines in the Bible. It's our job to:

1. Learn them.
2. Believe them.
3. Use them to solve our problems.

Psa 27:5 *For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle [promises]; In the secret place of His tent [doctrine] He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock [occupation with Christ].*