

“War Strategies!”**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. In the comic strip **Peanuts**, one of **Snoopy's fantasies** portrays him as a **WWI** flying ace, carrying a **personal grudge** against the **Red Baron**.
 - 1.1.1. That prompted the singing group **The Royal Guardsmen** to write & sing **“Snoopy Vs. The Red Baron.**
 Ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty or more
 The Bloody Red Baron was rollin' up the score
 Eighty men died tryin' to end that spree
 of the Bloody Red Baron of Germany
- 1.2. What many don't realize is that *The Red Baron* **wasn't** made up by *Charles Shultz*.
- 1.3. The Red Baron was **Manfred von Richthofen** the celebrated World War I pilot who was responsible for shooting down **80** enemy aircraft.
How was he finally defeated on April 21, 1918? - He was chasing a **British plane** that was trying to **escape** the battle. As the Red Baron pursued his prey behind Allied lines, it was gunfire from either machine-gun nests on the ground, **or** another British pilot who had come to help that killed von Richthofen. They say he pursued the plane **“too long, too far, and too low into enemy territory.”**
 - 1.3.1. What some thought to be a fictitious story, was **really true!**
 - 1.3.1.1. (not about snoopy & his dog house)
 - 1.3.2. Some think **Satan**, & his ability to gun down his enemy is a fictitious story. One day everyone will know the truth of this enemy.
 - 1.3.3. Meanwhile, **do not fly** **“too long, too far, nor too low into enemy territory.”**
- 1.4. 1 Pet.5:8,9 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world**
- 1.5. **Q: What are the 2 worse errors you can make regarding the Devil?**
 - 1.5.1. He **doesn't exist!** **Or**, you give him **too much place!** (C.S.Lewis)
- 1.6. Paul takes time now to prepare his readers for the **spiritual conflict** of **life**.
 - 1.6.1. We have an enemy. He's powerful. And he's a master strategist in his warfare against us.
 - 1.6.2. We have an enemy. We can be powerful. We have a way to fight against him...**if we'll follow these 3 steps**...{answering **What/ How/Why**}
 - 1.6.3. **Outline: What:** To be Strong in the Lord - **How:** To Put on God's Armor - **Why:** To Stand against the Devil's Strategy.

2. **WHAT: TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD! (10)**

- 2.1. Q: How can we be strong in the Lord & live the Victorious life? (2 Chron.20:15)
- 2.2. **2 Extremes: Quietist & Pietists.**
 - 2.2.1. **Quietist** – Believe only way to live the Christian life is **passive surrender**. (e.g. “*Let go & let God!*”) [we have 3 commands in this section]
 - 2.2.2. **Pietists** – Emphasize self-discipline & holy living to the extreme of adopting legalistic standards for living.
 - 2.2.2.1. The 1st addresses **Gods** responsibility only.
 - 2.2.2.2. The 2nd addresses **Mans** effort only.
- 2.3. **In the power of His might** – **His might?** Yep! 😊
 - 2.3.1. This is God’s **inherent** strength. [**Inherent** = unable to be considered separately from the nature of something. Natural strength]
 - 2.3.2. Hence believers can be strengthened not only by **the person** of the Lord, **but also** by **His resources**. (How strong is God?)
 - 2.3.2.1. So we can say **no** to that temptation that comes our way!
- 2.4. **Depend on God:** On **His energy**, on **His power**, and on **His resources**.
 - 2.4.1. **Human effort is not enough!**
 - 2.4.2. **Strength & power** for the fight **must** come from God.
 - 2.4.3. **How?** Simply, remember your **Position** & your **Power**.
 - 2.4.3.1. **Position** – He has **seated us w/Christ in the heavenly places**.
 - 2.4.3.2. **Power** – Gods power is available to every believer.

3. **HOW: TO PUT ON GOD’S ARMOR! (11a)**

- 3.1. Q: Why do we need armor anyways? – Because we are **weak**, & **in danger**.
 - 3.1.1. **Phys** - Like in the game *rock/paper/scissors*...**Bullets** win over **flesh!**
 - 3.1.2. **Spiritually** – Satan’s attacks are **nuclear** against **our own strength!**
- 3.2. The **armor** - Maybe Paul is tied to a soldier during this prison epistle???
 - 3.2.1. The armor really is a symbolic description of **the Lord Himself**. The armor is **Christ** & what He is prepared **to be** & **to do** in each one of us.
 - 3.2.1.1. Each piece is “how to lay hold of **Him**” as in our defense against our enemy.
 - 3.2.2. It is not just Christ **available to** us, but actually **appropriated to** us!
 - 3.2.3. **“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”** – Rom.13:14.
- 3.3. **All** armor is necessary!
 - 3.3.1. It is necessary to include **all** the parts of the armor to **protect oneself completely** from the attacks of the enemy.
 - 3.3.2. **Don Stow** – come up & share on missing **one piece** of armor.
 - 3.3.3. In **football**, *receivers* would often **take out all leg pads**...not me!
- 3.4. **We wrestle not against flesh & blood!**– A sp conflict against the spiritual *Mafia!*
- 3.5. **“We are not fighting against men, we are fighting *for* them!”** Spurgeon

- 3.5.1. **Wait!** It sure seems like I am every day, struggling against **human** beings! [Does a boxer fighting against what he sees, **the boxing glove**, or what he can't see, **the fist** that is moving that glove?]
- 3.5.2. Since we fight against an invisible foe, we obviously need invisible armor. [That's why **Peter** couldn't fight the devil w/a sword in the garden]
- 3.5.3. You can only fight **spiritual warfare** w/**spiritual weapons**.
- 3.5.3.1. **Word of God & Prayer!**
- 3.5.4. **Wrestle** = means, *hand-to-hand* fight.
- 3.5.5. God gives Satan rules & boundaries.
- 3.5.5.1. Even **UFC**(Ultimate Fighting Championship) has **rules** (31 on their web site).
- 3.5.5.2. God gives Satan rules & boundaries.
- 3.5.5.3. On day Satan will **Tap-Out!** (A submission in combat sports)
- 3.6. **Take up** – Military term. **The last preparation & final step** necessary before actual battle begins.
- 3.7. Recently **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** ran an article about the **Alaskan Bull Moose**. The males of the species battle for dominance during the fall breeding season, literally going head-to-head with antlers crunching together as they collide. Often the **antlers**, their **only weapon** are broken. That ensures defeat. The heftiest moose, with the largest and strongest antlers, triumphs. Therefore, **the battle fought in the fall is really won during the summer**, when the moose eat continually. The one that consumes the best diet for growing antlers and gaining weight will be the heavyweight in the fight. Those that eat inadequately sport weaker antlers and less bulk. There is a lesson here for us. **Spiritual battles** await! Satan will choose a season to attack. **Will we be victorious, or will we fall?** Much depends on **what we do now—before the wars begin**. **The Bull-Moose principle: Enduring faith, strength, and wisdom for trials are best developed before they're needed.**

4. **WHY: TO STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL'S STRATEGY!** (11b-13)

- 4.1. **Stand** against the wiles of the Devil(11b) ; having done all to stand(13).
- 4.1.1. The song **Onward Christian Soldiers** was **not about** fighting to force non-Christians to convert, **but to overcome demonic principalities & powers** by God's prescribed methods. (Read last page)
- 4.2. **Stand** –[Military sense] “*to stand & hold out in a critical position in a battlefield*”¹
- 4.2.1. We are **not to attack** Satan, or **advance** against him; we are to **stand** or **hold** our territory, that Christ has conquered.
- 4.2.1.1. Like **Solomon**, who simply needed to “keep” what his Father David had fought for.

- 4.3. **Wiles** (scheming/craftiness/strategies) – [□□□□□□□□ / *methodeia*; method]

¹ LKGNT; Barth.

- 4.4. Just as an enemy will come up with a variety of schemes to try to gain victory in combat.
- 4.4.1. Examples: (ok, pretend your **Oliver North** on **War Stories**, what are some battle strategies???) Attack at night; attack when they're least expecting it; from a different direction they might not expect(N,S,E,W) from a different angle the might not expect(land, sea, air); hot & heavy; 2 different directions; confusion; etc.
- 4.4.2. **Being the ruler of darkness** he loves using **ignorance & lies** to further his cause (so don't help him!)
- 4.5. This is the call to an **intelligent, strategic** battle.
- 4.5.1. i.e. don't wear **green camo** worn in Vietnam, in desert combat! (kaki)
- 4.6. Purpose of the armor is to help us stand, **so** we don't lose the ground that Jesus won for us!
- 4.6.1. **We are to fight FROM** victory not **FOR** victory!
- 4.7. **Soon after 9-11** we were in "**Threatcon Delta**" (Normal, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta)
- 4.7.1. These are "**THREAT-CON**ditions" [Lowest to highest, state of alert]
- 4.7.2. **It's not practical** to always stay in **highest alert**.
- 4.7.3. Only by the grace of God it is not always **Delta** (can't imagine that?)
- 4.7.4. Not even **modern wars** fight w/great intensity at every moment.
- 4.7.4.1. **No truce** in invisible war.
- 4.7.4.2. **No armistice** in invisible war (a truce in a war to discuss terms for peace)
- 4.7.5. There are 100's of millions of battles being fought every day.
- 4.7.5.1. **The field of battle is where? In YOUR heart!**
- 4.8. **Having done all, stand** – having made all necessary **preparations**.
- 4.9. **End:** Prayer for Pastors & their wives regarding spiritual warfare.
- 4.9.1. Eric & Kim; Rick & Kathy; Larry & Donna; Me & Kel; Bill & Janet; Todd & Stephanie; Mike & Lori; Julie & Amanda(Dan/Armando Omaha conf)

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
 with the cross of Jesus going on before.
 Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
 forward into battle see his banners go!

Refrain:

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
 with the cross of Jesus going on before.*

At the sign of triumph **Satan's host** doth flee;
 on then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
 Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
 brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.
 (Refrain)

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
 brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
 We are not divided, all one body we,
 one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.
 (Refrain)

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
 but the church of Jesus constant will remain.
 Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;
 we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.
 (Refrain)

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
 blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
 Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,
 this through countless ages men and angels sing.
 (Refrain)