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**“EXPECTING MIRACLES TO BE SEEN IN 2016”**

**AM I READY TO DO BATTLE WITH MY ENEMY? Pt. 2**

I Peter 5:1-10

**By: Manson B. Johnson, Shepherd-Teacher**

The readiness to do battle with our enemy calls for Christian planning. All Christians must intentionally have a plan of action to combat the enemy as they pursue Christ as their ultimate outcome and victory. Our tactics and strategies must be well understood and well-coordinated to stay in the winning circle.

“The terms **tactic** and **strategy** are often confused: **tactics** are the actual means used to gain an objective (goals), while **strategy** is the overall campaign plan, which may involve complex operational patterns, activity, and decision-making that lead to **tactical** execution.” (internet dictionary)

M. Jay Liebs, a marketing competitor, identifies several targets that must be fully understood in the business world. It is very similar to what armed forces use as they plan out a winsome victory while doing battle against an enemy.

**Mission** = the most important thing you and your team aim to accomplish
**Goals** = an end-game towards which actions and activities are focused
**Strategy** = the plan of attack
**Tactics** = the execution of the strategy (**[mjayliebs](https://disqus.com/by/mjayliebs/)** marketing blogger)

**The above restated to represent the Christian Church may look like the stack below:**

**Mission** = resist the devil and sin
**Goals** = be faithful to God
**Strategy** = engage more in local Christian spiritual networking activities
**Tactics** = attend SS/LTC regularly, attend prayer meetings regularly, daily Bible reading,

 walk in the spirit, follow Divine instructions, live within personal means and save

 money, volunteer for Christian missions, fast, tithe, assemble for worship often at

 Church, forgive others, love my neighbor as myself, grow in faith, stay in good health, etc.

**I Peter 5:1-10: Is God controlling your battles?**

Peter was one of the original disciples of Jesus Christ. While being a student and follower of Jesus’ earthly ministry Peter was often off target, out of line and outspoken. Peter often did not display the example of a confident Christian. Jesus had to often rebuke him for allowing Satan to control his thoughts, decisions and activities.

Today we have a chance to study from one of the letters from another Peter, a new Peter. Peter is writing to scattered and persecuted Christians. In this lesson today Peter warns these Christians of who they are and how they are to respond in the fighting matches of their faith. Peter reminds Christians that they keep in mind their mission and set higher goals. He encourages them to rely on strategies and tactics that can keep them in the winning circle of life.

How do you handle your daily battles? Are you equipped and ready to do battle with your enemy? How do you fight in your battles? All battles are not the same. Therefore, thorough planning must go into sizing up the enemy to get the crown of victory.

In the last lesson we looked at being equipped for battle. Today’s lesson is part 2 of part 1. To win over your enemy being properly equipped is not the only important task of fighting battles with the enemy. Strategies and tactics are also extremely important to win the fight against your enemy. As a Christian you must understand your mission and goals Christ has set for you as His disciple. You must also put in place spiritual actions that get the right outcomes for your winning circle of victories.

Peter reminds us as Christians what our mission and goals are in Jesus Christ. Then he lays out simple useable steps to incorporate? in our fight against the enemy.

1. In vv.1-3 what does Peter tell the spiritual leaders and teachers to do for the flock of God?

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1. In v.4 what does Peter state is the ultimate reward for the victories of our battles and Who presents the award to us? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. In v.5 identify at least 4 tactical words that a true believer can use in their fight.

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1. In vv.6-8 Peter says that God desires to control the true believer’s fighting activities. Identify 4 tactical activities that can be use by God that lead to assured victory. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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4. In v.9 Peter sums up the true believer’s target action in one word that is the best defense in battle with the enemy that bring victories. What is that word and what does it mean to you?

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1. In v.10 list the 5 outcomes Peter says we win when we **allow God to control the fight**.

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1. Think on these things: What is the battle that you are **fighting NOW**?
* Is your battle sickness?
* Is your battle the bottle?
* Is your battle sexual?
* Is your battle seeking a great mate?
* Is your battle spiritual weakness?
* Is your battle food?
* Is your battle aging?
* Is your battle worldly thinking?
* Is your battle profane language?
* Is your battle Pride?
* **ARE YOU WINNING THE BATTLE? LET GOD CONTROL THE FIGHT!**