

Aggressive secular humanist materialism has created a spiritual vacuum: “anything other” than Jesus. (i.e.) Spiritual but not religious

The battle is real:

Pope Francis

*“On this point there are no nuances. **There is a battle and a battle where salvation is at play, eternal salvation.** We must be on guard, on guard against deceit, against the seduction of evil”* Homily, October 13, 2013.

John Paul II

*“We are now standing in **the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has gone through.** I do not think that wide circles of American society or wide circles of the Christian community realize this fully. We are now facing the **final confrontation between the Church and the anti-Church, of the Gospel versus the anti-Gospel**”* 1976 speech to U.S. Bishops.

*“More than ever in the lives of Christians today, idols are seductive and temptations unrelenting: the **art of spiritual combat, the discernment of spirits,** the sharing of one’s thoughts with one’s spiritual director, the invocation of the Holy Name of Jesus and of His mercy must once more become a part of the inner life of the disciple of the Lord. This battle is necessary in order **not to be distracted or worried** (cf. 1 Cor 7:32,35), and to live in constant recollection with the Lord”* 2002 address during Apostolic visit to Azerbaijan and Bulgaria.

*“The **spirit of darkness is capable of showing God as an enemy of his own creature....** Man is challenged to become the adversary of God! The analysis of sin in its original dimension indicates that, through the **influence of the “father of lies,”** **throughout the history of humanity there will be a constant pressure on man to reject God,** even to the point of hating Him”* Dominum et Vivificantem 38.

Vatican II

*“For a monumental struggle against the powers of darkness pervades the whole history of man. **The battle was joined from the very origins of the world and will continue until the last day,** as the Lord has attested. **Caught in this conflict, man is obliged to wrestle constantly if he is to cling to what is good,** nor can he achieve his own integrity without great efforts and the help of God’s grace”* Gaudium et Spes 37.

<p><u>Attacks</u> Primary battlefield: the mind 1. Deception-Strongholds 2. Temptation 3. Accusation</p>	<p><u>Spiritual Weapons</u> 1. Belt of truth 2. Breastplate of righteousness 3. Shoes of the Gospel of peace 4. Shield of faith 5. Helmet of salvation 6. Sword of the Spirit</p>
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<p><u>The Adversaries:</u> Satan: <i>shaitan</i>, adversary, one who scatters across Devil: <i>diabolos</i>, accuser Demon: fallen angel Principalities-<i>arche</i>: leaders, beginners Powers-<i>dunamis</i>: active/dynamic principles Rulers of darkness-<i>cosmocrator</i>: ruler of the world/cosmos</p>	<p><u>The Home Team:</u> Us Holy Trinity Blessed Virgin Mary Angels and Saints The Church Our main gift: The Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation</p>
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Garbage attracts flies: Bitterness, unforgiveness, slander, taking advantage of people, sexual sin, occult etc.: openings to evil.

Take out the garbage!

We are to:

- **Love** (*1 Corinthians 13*)
- **Submit to God** (*James 4:7*)
- **Take every thought captive to Christ** (*2 Corinthians 10:5*)
- **Be transformed by the renewal of our mind** (*Romans 12:2*)
- **Scripture**
- **Sacraments**
- **Mission**
- **Pray** (*Ephesians 6:18*)

Real purpose of Spiritual Warfare: purification, sanctification, strengthening

Use the gift of discernment.

Pray, pray, pray! Ephesians 6:18

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