

Are you willing to pick a  
**FIGHT**  
with **EVIL?**



# fight

kenny luck

president and founder of Every Man Ministries;  
men's pastor at Saddleback Church

**God's man**  
series

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P R E S S

FIGHT

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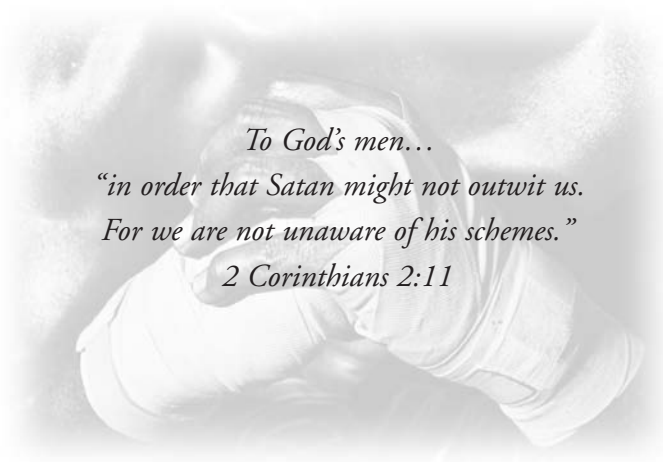
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*To God's men...*

*"in order that Satan might not outwit us.  
For we are not unaware of his schemes."*

*2 Corinthians 2:11*

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part 1

# **facing evil**



# ignorance is incompetence

It is a very human and natural response to fear the unknown. For a believer to keep himself in the dark about Satan's person and work is a dangerous mistake.

—MARK BUBECK

I don't know of any book that actually *invites* you to begin picking more fights with evil.

And yet you're holding it.

Aside from what that says about you, I'm well aware that holding this book may cause some men to feel like Hal, the deer from *The Far Side* comic with the bull's-eye birthmark on his chest. Fact is, you and Hal *do* have this birthmark issue in common. You've been marked and labeled in the spiritual world just by virtue of your birth. If you claim the family name of Christian, you are being hunted to be destroyed.

And yet a lot of us are denying this dance to the death even exists. We've heard of the battle and may even be aware of it to some extent, but it's all to little practical effect. We've been duped and made to forget that, unlike Gary Larson's deer, the hunted God's man can actually turn the tables on evil and become the hunter. We have the power and ability to send the hunter packing! It's all a matter of perceiving the spiritual reality and understanding the source of authority.

Most believers are aware of the "right answers" when it comes to the familiar idea of waging spiritual warfare. And yet we're failing at practical application. We look at the cosmic conflict between good and evil more like a Harry Potter movie—it's a tossup as to which side will prevail until the final frame. And it's this perspective when applied to the *real world* of spiritual attack that breeds insecurity, hesitation, vacillation, and harm to both believer and the cause of Christ.

I, for one, am loath to take on *that* reputation. I trust you're with me.

## **No Interest or Just No Stomach?**

We will have struck a deep blow to our enemy if our concept of the spiritual battle moves forcefully from being an afterthought to a way to believe and behave. Based on the attitudes I encounter in men worldwide regarding evil, *I would want us for an opponent if I were Satan.*

The painful, sad reality is that the underworld has the upper hand on the ground level of this war with God's men. I'll address this later in the book in detail, but for now let's just say we've been assuming the submissive position of a scared pooch, or been freely giving permission (by our inaction) to evil to trample over our lives and the world with impunity. A reality check is in order.

It's time to look in the mirror and not be satisfied with what we have become in the midst of the great war for our King. We must make peace with the fact that we are spiritually enabled, empowered, and equipped to make war on the Enemy and *do something*. We are commissioned to inflict losses, unmask and thwart plots to kill, and deliver those in bondage to darkness into the freedom of the sons of light.

Satan knows who you are. Get that. Then, as every God's man must do on a more urgent basis, you need to accept what that means. What's *that*, you say? Simple: You cannot ask for a hall pass to get out of this fight. You must also stop living in ignorance and denial. Instead, you need to understand and get to know Satan's ways. Why? Because you are in play à la Jason Bourne. You are an asset on assignment to neutralize evil wherever and whenever it rears its insidious head. You are to be feared by the Enemy, not laughed at.

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accept what that means.*

When I signed on to write the God's Man series, there was a deep sense of foreboding every time I pondered the third book (this one). I was, all at once, deeply convicted and committed to stimulating more intelligent and intentional kingdom warfare *and* intensely aware of what I would be asking for—troubles of another kind. Devilishly bizarre dreams, personal attacks, marital roadside bombs, harassing thoughts, family traumas, conflicts with church members, a double root canal, and a tsunami of satanic diversions are just a sampling of the mortar and artillery rounds that have been lobbed my way. While some of these are just natural

events, the negative emotions that come with them are what the Devil loves to cultivate and exploit in a believer. Every excuse to discourage me, Satan took. He doesn't play fair and is the king of low blows. He waits to kick men in the teeth when they're down. Magnifying emotions to create insecurities, heighten fears, and defeat us without a bullet being shot are the things Satan is best at. He must rely on playing mind games—a sign of insecurity and no real power. Nonetheless, he's allowed to mess with us.

He is doing the same thing with you *right now*.

Repeatedly the message from Satan was, "I know who you are and what you intend to do." A little preemptive retaliation is consistent warfare doctrine among sovereigns who feel that the security of their networks or borders is *about to be compromised in some way*. These shots across the bow were intended to say, "Do you really want this? You might want to reconsider." Throughout this time God's Spirit has said, "Reconsider this!" like we read in the fourth chapter of Luke's Gospel when Jesus quit listening and started rebuking evil suggestions and ploys. Well, my friend, I am still here dialoguing with you on these pages, and Satan still knows where I live. Boo-ya!

I wanted you to know a little thunder has been rolling my way, but I expected this. I knew all hell would break loose before, during, and after my decision to focus an entire manuscript on outing the Devil and equipping you to effectively confront and defeat him. I knew the Devil loathes being discovered the way any terrorist would be incensed at the man who blew his cover. I knew that the Great Pimp has a big ego matched only by that noxious chip on his shoulder toward believers. I knew that anyone who actively pulls his masks off to expose his presence is asking for a double helping of ire and indignation.

And yet many days what kept me going was *you*. Yes, you—the God’s man reading these words. The reason you have this book in your hands is because *you* have been called by your King for this hour. You are being asked to join the company of other mighty men to be the tip of the spear in the war against evil. Just the word *fight* resonated with your soul and spirit. You are cognizant of the smell of war in your own life, and you see it in your world. *That* willingness to fight is being affirmed by God’s Spirit. Your training as a disciple is ready to go the next level. *Your* strong, confident, and fully surrendered presence is going to be needed. Your quickening to the battle is at hand.

I know this feeling well.

Writing *Fight* was unnerving *and* necessary for me. Reading *Fight* will be the same for you. The realities and truths you will confront in these pages will both unnerve you and compel a necessary faith response. More bluntly, from this time forward you will need to change the way you address the challenges of life to account for evil and its presence in and around you. In effect, you are being handed a pair of night-vision goggles (another topic we’ll take on later), and you will see “movement” of evil that was previously hidden. You will feel the apprehension one experiences when he is considering war. Satan wants you to feel the fear. God will replace that fear with Himself.

These are how all rites of passage feel to a surrendered God’s man. God’s men are filled with spiritual tension because something is actually at stake. There is the tension you feel when your faith collides with the reality of your responsibility to it. *Risk* dealt with this. Then there is the tension of becoming the man you were created to be versus the man you thought you ought to be. *Dream* addressed this issue in your life. Then there is the rite of passage most men do not have the stomach to address: facing

the reality and tension of dealing directly with evil. *Fight* will stretch you again and again to *see, engage, face, call out, and demolish* evil with confidence and skill *through* Christ. So men wearing spiritual skirts need not apply. Jesus didn't own one, and as His representative possessing His authority, neither should you. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8). Take heart, you have an excellent Mentor.

But let's stow the macho talk for a second and get down to the sweat and blood of what's to come.

## Your Attitude and Your Stand

Your attitude about evil reflects your stand against evil.

The great men of faith understood this, and as God's man, so must you. To help you with this, we need to think about evil and our fight with it in uncomplicated terms that are consistent with Scripture and practical to apply. We need to think better before we can fight better. The "We've got Jesus, yes we do. We've got Jesus, how about you?" approach is as effective as it sounds. The Bible does not support it, though it might work at Vacation Bible School. In fact, the more emotional you are in warfare, the sooner you die. So in the interest of living to fight another day, let's replace emotional and unsuccessful strategies with intelligent and intentional ways of thinking about and fighting evil. For starters, let's wipe the board clean of what we think we know about evil and resolve to stick to Scripture's direction and plan for how we are going to prepare for the fight.

On the whiteboard in my office you will see this written at the top: INFORMATION WITHOUT APPLICATION IS HALLUCINATION. As in the other books in this series (*Risk* and *Dream*), the overriding objective is real-time

application of spiritual truth. That means it's time to embrace these five *Fight* principles in order to change your attitude and, consequently, your personal stand against the evil powers of this present age. You will be pushed, in increasing ways, to

Face the Reality of Evil

Integrate Intel on the Enemy

Grow Progressively More Aware of Evil

Handle Your Weapons with Consistency and Confidence

Take the Fight to Evil

These are the core tactics connected to owning the night and not letting evil hide under the cover of deceptive masks.

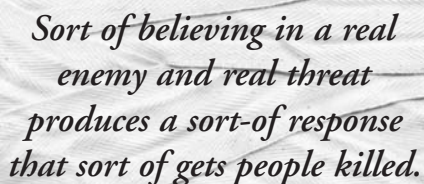
### ***1. Face the Reality of Evil***

There was a time before September 11, 2001, when counterterrorist agencies possessed good intelligence about a group called Al-Qaida. We knew who their leader was and where he was, we knew where their training facilities were, we knew how to “touch” them, and we knew the United States was the object of their Islamofascist brand of hatred. And yet, with so many other higher-priority issues, international and domestic crises, and lack of “actionable intelligence,” we didn't assign enough attention to this character Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network. The world knows the rest of the story.

Granted, foresight is always 20/40, or worse. You can see some things, but not much of it clearly. You can discern a good portion of the picture,

but the small details and facts are a little fuzzy. Hindsight, on the other hand, is *always* 20/20, or better. The pain or trauma acts like window cleaner. We learn from our mistakes; we evaluate and assess what went wrong. Between foresight and hindsight is a crucial lesson in the battle with evil: *when all you have is fuzzy foresight, you must focus more attention and resources on the Enemy who wants your head on a platter.* If you do, your hindsight will be much less painful.

Of all the lessons America learned from the 9/11 terrorist attack, the biggie was that we simply did not connect the threats with the reality of such a large-scale operation on our own soil. We believed the terrorists were out there, but we acted like we “sort of” believed the intel. Sort of believing in a real enemy and real threat produces a sort-of response that sort of gets people killed. We no longer sort of believe in terrorists who



*Sort of believing in a real enemy and real threat produces a sort-of response that sort of gets people killed.*

want to kill us. We have been baptized by fire into a new reality regarding the lethal intentions, scope, and scale of global terrorism.

Satan unequivocally wants you dead or at least neutralized (living but not a threat). For God’s man the most tragic mistake you can make is to sort of believe in evil, its existence, and its specific designs on your life. When God’s men approach the reality of evil this way, we send a clear message to our enemy. What we are saying is that intellectually and mentally we believe there is an evil ringleader guiding plots against us, but practically, we act as though he has nothing to do with what befalls us. We behave like all our problems have natural causes and solutions; none have supernatural causes and divine solutions. We end up responding to problems that require supernatural responses with human wisdom and natural solutions. We are firing water pistols at an armed destroyer.



While we may not be disbelievers in evil or overbelievers (where the Devil is behind everything bad that happens), functionally we are sort-of believers, and God's men are getting killed. The casualties among even our best fighting men tell the whole story. Blood is being spilled. Because we do not account for evil in the right way, it has its way in our lives and in the world. Low-priority status on evil creates a dysfunctional and fatal vulnerability. Jesus never taught His men this. He spoke openly of how the Thief, Killer, and Destroyer would actively oppose Him in the present. In fact, Jesus directly said that God's people would live side by side with evil forces and people until He returned.

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?"

"An enemy did this," he replied.

The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?"

"No," he answered, "because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn." (Matthew 13:24–30)

The owner's servants acted surprised to see those evil weeds among the good wheat. The looks on their faces said, "That is not supposed to be here." Their expectations were off. The wheat plants (us) are going to have to contend for survival among the weeds (evil). For those who deny the side-by-side existence of evil with man in this present age, Jesus'

words will not encourage you. However, they might help you embrace the first key principle: facing and embracing the reality that evil doesn't just appear now and then when bad things happen, *it is all around you*. The good seed are the sons of the kingdom. The bad seed are the sons of the Evil One. The field is the world. In this “not yet” time between eternities, there is no separation of God's people from evil; it's a mixed bag. There is no escaping it. So how are we supposed to live as God's men during this “not yet time” with a clear and present evil among us? At a minimum, we need to act more consistently with reality. That's God's position.

Face it: Satan has been watching film on you. He's relentless. Get that one firmly planted in your brain. Even *after* getting taken to the shed by the Son of God, the Bible says that “he left him *until the next opportunity came*” (Luke 4:13, NLT 2004). Satan is not just relentless but a relentless opportunist. He *never* rests. This is the big pink elephant parked in the middle of the church today, and there are only two options in dealing with it: live in reality or live in fantasy. One attitude is very comfortable, and the other is uncomfortable. But when it comes to being God's man, discipleship and discomfort are very closely connected.

Being with Jesus in the first century meant regular discussions about Satan and engaging evil forces. Imagine: for the disciples, being with Jesus was for the specific intention of gaining the authority and training to cast out demons! The Gospels, the book of Acts, the pastoral epistles, and John's vision in Revelation all talk about evil making its play in the life of the believers. The norm for a New Testament God's man is to regularly recognize and deal with evil.

Today this kind of fearlessness is completely absent. Spiritual warfare is considered too “out there,” misinformation, or someone else's calling.

The Bible calls Satan “the ruler of this world.” Thinking wrongly about him, or not at all, gives him his greatest tactical advantage.

Hitler said, “What luck for rulers that men do not think.” Where do you think *that* thought came from? It’s time to snap out of it.

## ***2. Integrate Intel of the Enemy***

My friend Bill (not his real name) works in a counterterrorism center. Here’s the stated mission of his team in their handbook:

To integrate...threat intelligence and provide for intake, analysis, fusion, synthesis, and dissemination of that information.... The center converts the information into operational intelligence to detect, deter, and defend against terrorist attacks...within the seven counties assigned to this unit.<sup>1</sup>

Bill’s whole job is to integrate, analyze, and synthesize threat intelligence so that he can identify patterns, trends, and what he calls “potentials,” which might indicate an emerging threat. When Bill gets a “hit” and the information coalesces into an emerging threat, he supplies the relevant and actionable intelligence to prepare a preemptive response to the threat.

The next time you hear about the threat level being raised to Orange or Red by Homeland Security, think about the men and women like Bill who focus solely on sifting through complicated and convoluted data to get a threat picture. Then think about having the personal courage to act on that data without hesitation or trepidation. This is what a counterterrorism agent is trained to do. They are good at putting together the pieces of suspicious activity related to terrorist plots.

God's man and Bill have this in common: both are tasked with integrating intelligence on terrorist threats. Then they must have the courage to sound the alarm and put a preemptive response in motion. Intelligence provides the clues and smells they need.

In fact, in helping the Corinthians, the apostle Paul acted just like the spiritual counterterrorism expert we are describing. As he gathered information about all the conflicts among believers over various issues, he saw an emerging pattern and trend as he analyzed the data. Lo and behold, the fingerprints of the Evil One were popping up in his mental database. Finally, after various roadside bombs had gone off in Corinth with the intent to divide and destabilize believers, Paul integrated and then acted on that analysis to combat the terrorist threat against the body like a true terrorism liaison officer (TLO). He supplied actionable intelligence for the believers.

The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, *in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.* (2 Corinthians 2:9–11)

*Translation:* Based on the intel, we know who's *really* behind this and we're going to take the necessary steps (join in forgiving people) to stop this terrorist threat. The sledgehammer application is this: If you are *unaware*, you will be *outwitted* by evil. If you are outwitted, people around you get hurt, and the cause of the kingdom suffers. The reverse scenario is equally valid. If you are actively integrating your intelligence and matrixing that intel with what you know to be true about how evil

operates, you will preempt and shut down the Devil's terrorist schemes against you, other believers, the church, and the world. Here's the scary part: we have the actionable intel straight from Jesus Himself, the terrorist playbook exposed in the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit available to help discern and coordinate the tactical pieces. And yet we are unwilling and/or failing to integrate these resources in order to take preemptive action against the Great Terrorist and his schemes.

God's man is duty bound to integrate the intel God has provided. Versus what? Neglecting, dismissing, or being ambivalent about it. God hasn't provided Satan's file to us for nothing. We need to learn everything we can about him and his methods of operation. Then we need to raise our threat level to Red and keep it there.

### ***3. Grow Progressively More Aware of Evil***

Predators thrive on their prey being unaware of their presence. Spiders spin translucent webs. Sharks have sensors running the length of their bodies that detect an unsuspecting "lunch" before the lunch detects the shark. Alligators and crocodiles rely on stealth and stillness while their prey unwittingly walks into their viselike jaws. Birds of prey fall out of the sky with talons fanned out and ready to clench. In all these cases, the victims do not see their end coming.

Other times in nature you see the exact opposite. Birds spot predators and call out a warning. Monkey or baboon troops have a sentry network and give the universal "get outta here, predator is in the house" yell that activates the flight response of the group. Other animals use their sense of smell, sonar, visual awareness, or other God-engineered warning systems to avoid an untimely end. Most animals know whose menu they're on, who represents a threat, and when things aren't right—hopefully in time

**fight fact**

*Just as unaware and unproductive go hand in hand, awareness of evil is synonymous with effectiveness against evil. In war, intel goes before bullets or bombs.*

to act. When you are a potential meal at any moment, let's just say you develop a little sensitivity to certain characters and factors occurring in your environment.

The wild-kingdom metaphor is one God thought we should learn from. God's man needs

to grow an aggressive awareness of evil and its opportunistic method of eating believers alive. "Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up" (1 Peter 5:8–9, MSG). Heady. Alert. Guard up. Any other attitude toward the active and present threat of evil is, by default, suicidal. This might be termed an aggressive awareness based on the recognition of reality. When you are not awake and aware, you are asleep and vulnerable. A reactive strategy usually means you're too late. Too late means you find fangs in the back of your neck. This style of spiritual living might be

*"The history of failure in war can almost be summed up in two words, too late."*

labeled an indifferent laziness rooted in ignorance or apathy or both. An unaware, unprepared God's man is a biblical oxymoron. Key word: moron.

Bend over a watering hole in front of a salivating lion and watch what happens.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur had a propensity for noting the obvious when it came to fighting wars, winning battles, and avoiding defeats. D. Mac's wisdom is telling for every God's man. "The history of failure in war can

almost be summed up in two words, too late. Too late in comprehending the deadly purpose of a potential enemy. Too late in realizing mortal danger. Too late in preparedness. Too late in uniting all possible forces for resistance. Too late in standing with one's friends."<sup>2</sup>

It's not too late...yet.

#### **4. Handle Your Weapons with Consistency and Confidence**

Ever gone paintballing? Here's some advice: don't go with a marine.

My friend Paul is a retired Devil Dog and marine F-18 pilot. For Paul's fortieth birthday his wife paid for a group of us to kidnap and transport him down to his old stomping grounds at Camp Pendleton for some war games with his buddies. *Games* is a bad word for what transpired. *Duck shoot* would be more accurate—especially for the birthday boy. No man relishes the sheer enjoyment of peppering your backside with colored buckshot more than Paul. Quite a few of us were the privileged targets of his experienced marksmanship. When technical expertise is married with tactical awareness in one man, *don't* hand him an air rifle that fires a projectile five hundred fifty feet per second! Or at least make sure he is on *your* team. You get hit in your privates, don't know where he is, and then hear him laughing at you! At the end of the day we had a welt pageant courtesy of the shooter. Here is another Fight Fact:

A nation can purchase the most technically advanced weapons on the planet, but if its soldiers do not realize those weapons' capabilities, they have wasted millions and hurt their cause.

#### **fight fact**

*Training with weapons breeds accuracy with weapons. The untrained will always pay a price.*

That basic law of warfare holds true for God's man and the arsenal of weapons God has provided for him to combat and defeat evil. Modern spiritual warfare is no different from the old-fashioned kind, because the eternal and spiritual weapons we use against evil do not change. Spiritual weapons do not evolve to match the battlefield conditions. A man's *resolve* to be intimate with them and use them skillfully does *evolve* and determines victory or defeat.

Jesus is our ultimate trainer in the art of spiritual battle. His weapons are our weapons, passed through the ages to men of faith. The goal is to handle them skillfully. Versus what? Versus clumsily and incompetently. In our hearts we know confidently understanding our arsenal will mean a confident mentality and stance under fire. With a real, supernatural showdown looming with a highly trained enemy, only arrogance and stupidity would cause a God's man to reach for self-prescribed wisdom and solutions. "We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:3–4, NLT 1996).

The weapons God has supplied are to be *used* against evil. Not just used before meals, when calamities strike, or to make your life more comfortable and pain free. Mighty weapons need to be placed into the proper hands because, *properly handled*, they pack quite a punch. You don't hand firearms to children or immature novices. They don't know what they are holding, and they underappreciate the danger. That makes me pause. God's man appreciates the danger, is intimate with his weapons, and knows why he possesses them: to resist, rebuke, repel, and vanquish evil with righteous intent.

Only use and familiarity make you dangerous with a weapon.



### **5. Take the Fight to Evil**

Reality demands responses, and some things need to be said now about choosing this fight. The days of being emotionally distant and ambivalent toward evil are over. With knowledge comes responsibility, and with responsibility comes some new choices that will uncover our commitment to fight or renew our willingness to fight harder and longer. My brother, the facts go like this: You are about to embark on the greatest crusade known to men and angels. Heaven is watching, and the hopes and prayers of your brothers march with you. Locking arms with other brave soldiers in Christ serving on other fronts, you will be called to bring about the destruction of evil plots against the good, the elimination of the stranglehold of Satan over the lives of others, and the advancement of the kingdom of God.

This undertaking will not be trouble free or painless. Your enemy is intelligent, skilled, and personally driven by his cause. He will fight viciously. But God's Spirit declares this is a new day for men He is making new. The tide is turning, and the days of living in defeat and despair have been replaced with the full commitment of God's men who are willing to fight in the open, hand to hand. Our collective focus on exposing, isolating, and moving aggressively against evil will change and reduce evil's capacity to wage war. We have overwhelmingly superior weaponry placed at our disposal and rising numbers of skilled warriors locking arms. God's men are on the march, and we are resolved to accept nothing less than a full victory, even if that means our very lives.

God has full confidence in your loyalty to His cause and your abilities to fight for Him when you are called upon by circumstances and the commission of Christ. Your King has declared to you, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me"* (Matthew 28:18). It's time we get that

## facing evil

and deal with evil the right way—expose it, engage it, and keep it on the run *through* Christ.

To become God's man, you will

Face the reality of evil head on

Integrate the intelligence God has provided in Scripture

Grow progressively more aware of Satan's presence

Handle your weapons with skill and dangerous intention

Take the fight to the Enemy

As you read, watch for the image of the fighter's hands. When you see the hands, remember, it's a place of application. That's your signal to stop, pause, examine yourself, and reflect on a spiritual principle. In the chapters ahead you will find that the biggest battle you will fight with the Enemy is in your own head. Discipline your mind, because the attacks upon it will increase. The true spirit of fighting as God's man is allowing yourself to be directed by God and applying what He shows you. Every application will require your surrender in order to secure your victories. Ready yourself.

A new thunder is coming.