

# **This Is War: Don't Give Satan An Opportunity**

**(I Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 4:20-32)**

## **Introduction.**

No matter the competition level, no matter the sport, and no matter the gender, sports coach consistently remind their players to play hard for ALL four quarters, both halves, or all nine innings of a sporting event.

Against a formidable opponent, a team must strive to never have a lapse of focus. To often, such let downs allow an opponent a window of opportunity that often turns into a defeat.

As Christians, we have a very formidable opponent – Satan. He opposes God and anything or anyone associated with God. While the war may be against God, you and I, by virtue of our relationship with God are targets of the enemy. His desire is to destroy your testimony, your effectiveness for God, and for you to live a defeated spiritual life.

Satan will find opportunity to harass, challenge, and tempt believers. However, we must not, by virtue of our own decisions give him an undue window of opportunity to assault our lives.

**Contextualize this sermon** in the This Is War Series

**Contextualize I Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 4:20-32.**

## **I. The Challenge To *Put On The New Man***

**A) Transformation (4:22, 24)**

**B) Methodology (4:23)**

### **C) Persistence (4:24)**

## **II. The Caution Against Unchecked Sin**

### **A) Lying (4:25)**

### **B) Improper Anger (4:26)**

(To become angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way is the challenge.)

### **C) Stealing (4:28)**

### **D) Filthy Speech (4:29)**

(If Satan can get us to talk freely about filthy things, it takes the edge off our conviction)

### **E) Unforgiving Spirit (4:31a, 32)**

### **F) Slander (4:31b)**

## **III. The Consequence of Unchecked Sin**

**Why is unchecked sin such a big deal?** Any sin that we harbor in our lives, that we know is there and yet we refuse to acknowledge and confess, will give Satan a beachhead for further attacks.

A) Grieve Holy Spirit

B) Give Satan an Opportunity

**1) Foothold (4:27)**

**2) Stronghold**

**3) Chokehold (4:17-19)**

## **Conclusion**

Feel like you are not making progress in your journey with God?

Carry a sense of defeat in your walk with God?

Struggle with the same ongoing sin issues that frustrate and cause despair in you walk with God?

Feel like you are consistently taking two steps forward and three steps backwards in you walk with God?

Maybe, you need to focus on one or more areas of your life in which the enemy has a foothold!

**We must never look upon any sin or questionable object as “a little thing.”**