



Man Your Battle Stations

By Vincent M. Newfield

There are many “battle stations” in life—areas where we regularly come in contact with the unseen enemy of our soul, Satan. He has studied mankind for nearly 6,000 years. He knows our weaknesses and attempts to feed on them every chance he gets. What can we do? We can prepare ourselves with God’s protection before we enter the devil’s den of distress.

Entering the Fire

I remember my dad telling me about his days as a fireman. He said that when the alarm in the firehouse sounded, it was a call to every member to man their battle stations. They were about to enter a raging inferno. No one knew exactly what they’d face once they got there. But what they *did* know was that there would be fire, smoke and plenty of heat.

To prepare for what they *knew* was coming, my father and his fellow firemen clothed themselves with garments of proven protection. This included special fireproof gloves, boots, a hat, and a coat. Before entering a building to save a life, he strapped on a special oxygen mask and tank, a face protector, and held an axe in his hand to cut through hard areas. My point: He was provided with protective equipment and he used it. Had he not used it, the fire would have destroyed him.

What Flicks Your Bic?

As believers, we too face fires every day. They occur in many places, but I want to talk about areas where there are large concentrations of people. Think about this: As Christians, you and I have given place to the fire of God’s Holy Spirit. We carry Him with us wherever we go.¹ Where there’s a large concentration of believers, there’s a greater manifestation of God’s presence.

Similarly, people who have *not* accepted Christ have given place to **unholy** spirits—many times unknowingly. The more a person gives place to wrong spirits, the stronger the manifestation of those spirits will be. Ever met someone on the street who was “burning with anger?” You can see it in their eyes and on their face. Now picture ten, twenty or fifty angry people together in one place. What do you think the atmosphere will be like? You guessed it...fury fills the air.

This principle can be applied to any ungodly spirit. Every day people entertain and carry with them spirits of lust, greed, anxiety, fear, gluttony—you name it.² We must be aware of what’s out there, so that we can protect ourselves and help others.³ These people need what we have. They’re like individuals trapped in a house on fire, and God wants to send us to shine His light on the *exit sign* so they can escape the flames.

Overcoming Hot Spots Close to Home

Wherever there are large concentrations of unbelievers, there are unholy fires of impure desires. Therefore, we need to protect ourselves and be ready to give a reason for the hope that’s in us.⁴ Maybe you’ve gone to an all-you-can-eat restaurant and sensed an unquenchable desire to overeat. Maybe you’ve been shopping and felt an uncontrollable urge to buy things. Or maybe you’ve been at an amusement park, a ballgame or the beach and your eyes were magnetically drawn to people improperly dressed, causing a cataclysmic conflict with lust in your mind. You’re not alone.

Over the years, I’ve learned to pray for protection over myself and my family before going to places like these. Now, I don’t mean spending hours on my knees reciting a prayer in “King James” jargon. I simply mean lifting up a heartfelt request to the Father for His power and protection before leaving home, in the car or upon arrival. I encourage you not to stick your head in the sand and ignore the attack you’re feeling. *Man your battle stations*—know what your weapons are and how to use them. Ask God to show you what spirits you’re up against, and use the weapons He’s provided to pulverize the enemy!

(1) See Matthew 28:20. (2) See 1 Corinthians 10:20. (3) See 2 Corinthians 2:11. (4) See 1 Peter 3:15.

Sidebar:

So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet.

—Ephesians 6:11, 13, The Message