



STAND
FIRM





“For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the **heavenly realms.**”

-Eph. 6:12

Beneath the surface appearance an
unseen spiritual battle is raging.

“There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counterclaimed by Satan.”

— C. S. Lewis

How we *stand firm* in our
Spiritual Battle

The Christian life must go beyond good intentions and attendance; we must know the battle we face and the spiritual armor we have been given.

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which we fall about the devil. One is to disbelieve in his existence. The other is to have an excessive and unhealthy interest in him.”

-C.S. Lewis

“No adequate understanding of human history, or of ourselves and our troubles, can be had until we recognize that evil is not simply the absence of good, but a dynamic and personal reality that is working to capture our minds and hearts, ...influencing us to reject God’s love and His rule.”

-Richard Halverson

“...much of the church’s warfare is fought by blindfolded soldiers who cannot see the forces that rage against them. When buffeted by an invisible opponent, they at times respond by striking each other.”

–Richard Lovelace

The unseen world affects the seen world more than we realize.

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To be effective in the seen world, we must see the unseen world.

How we *stand firm* in our
Spiritual Battle

Foundational Truths:

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Because the tomb is empty
Satan is a **defeated foe.**

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

-Col. 2:14

*“We fight from victory,
not for it.”*

Amy Carmichael

Foundational Truths:

We are victorious in Christ,
but we still must engage
in a spiritual battle.



“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, ... All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.”

-Eph. 2: 2-3

Our enemy doesn't cause everything, but he can take advantage of anything.

Foundational Truths:

To live in victory, we must learn to put on the full armor of God, which we already possess.

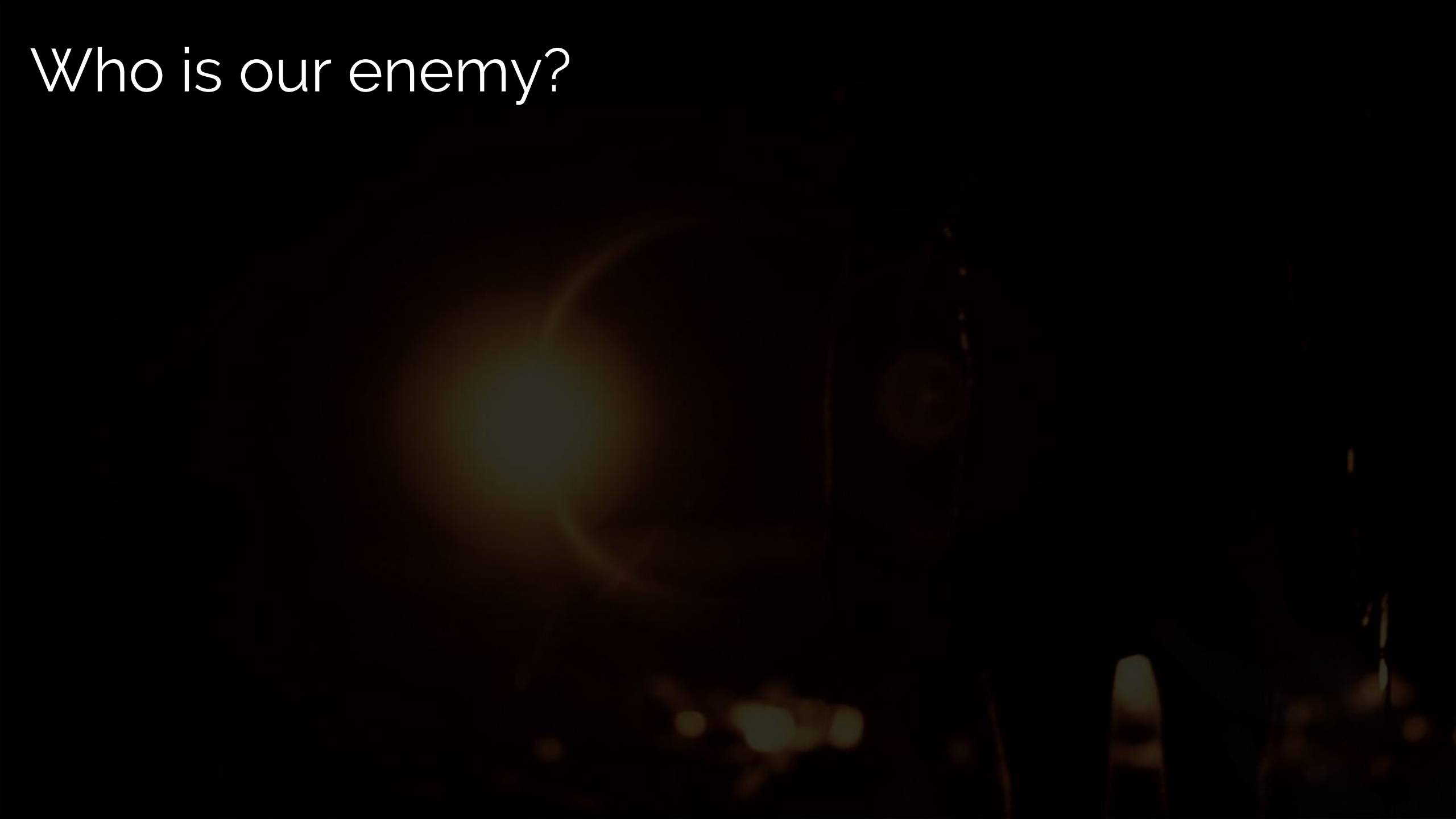
Key Questions:

Who is our enemy, and what are his schemes?

What is at stake?

And what is our part?

Who is our enemy?



Who is our enemy?

Satan and his demons

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Satan and his demons

They are **created** fallen angelic beings.

What are his schemes?

What are his schemes?

Lies that get us to doubt God
and His goodness.





What are his schemes?

Attacks come when we
are most vulnerable.

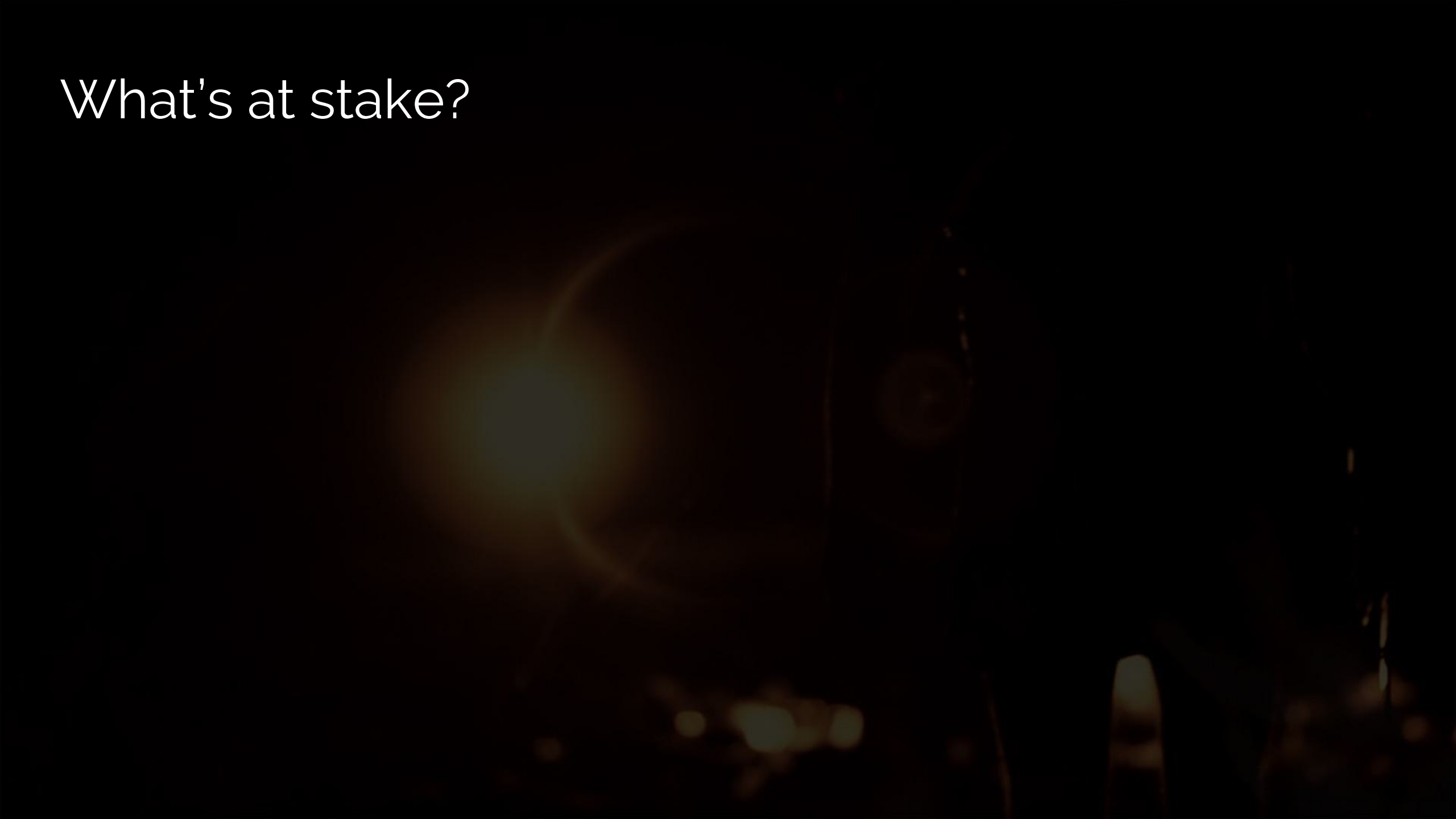
What are his schemes?

Attacks come when we
are most vulnerable.

“Be alert...Your enemy the devil prowls
around like a roaring lion looking for
someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:8

What's at stake?

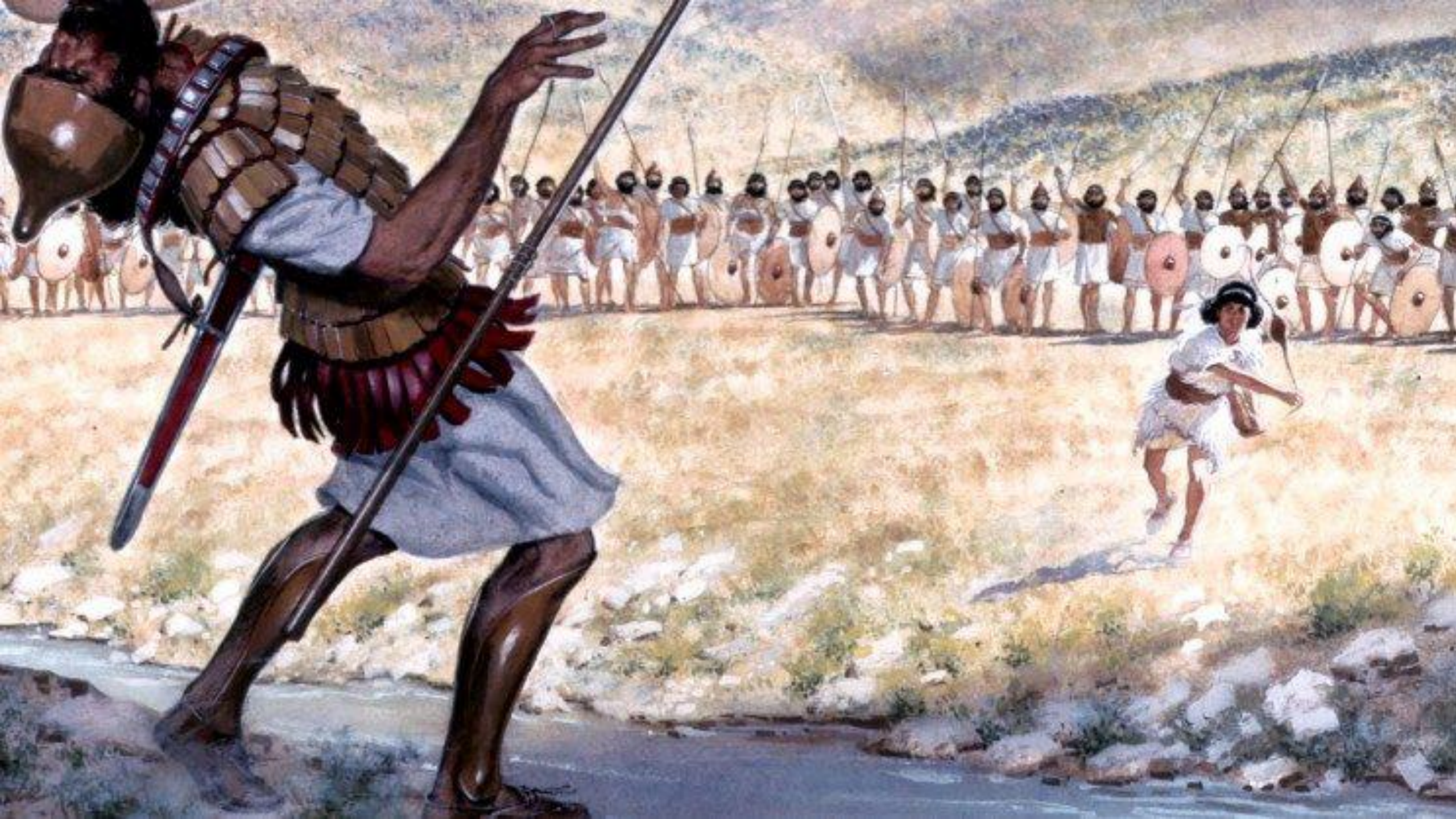


What's at stake?

Stand firm

What's at stake?

By standing firm we do not “move off” all the blessings Christ has provided for us in the Gospel.



What's at stake?

“For you once were darkness,
but now you are in the light of
the Lord. Live as Children of the
light.”

-Eph. 5:8

What's our part?

What's our part?

Put on the full
armor of God.

What's our part?

“Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and
in his mighty power.”

Eph. 6: 10

What's our part?

As we continue to submit to the Lordship of Christ, the Holy Spirit manifests the Armor of God in our lives.

How attentive are you to the spiritual battle you're in?

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Is there any area in your life you have given up ground to the enemy?

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Confession and repentance allow us to live in the victory he has already provided.