**The Fighter’s Cloud**

The Cloud – part 4

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.* **Hebrews 12:1**

**The Fighters**

We are in constant battle in the spiritual realm; a reality that is clearly stated in the bible. The devil, however, would lead us to believe otherwise so that we can neglect our defenses.

3 enemies we fight: **The Devil, The Flesh and The World**

How do we know about the three enemies?

* 3 temptations of Christ
* We are body, soul and spirit
* *For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*. **1 John 2:16**

The saints of the cloud were able to overcome these temptations daily and gave us the way of victory over them.

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* **2 Timothy 4:7**

*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* **1 Timothy 6:12**

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* **Ephesians 6:10-13**

**The Angels: Fighters against the devil**

* *“Through the intercessions of the seven archangels and the heavenly orders; O Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins.”* **St. Basil Liturgy**
* *The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.* **Psalm 34:7**
* *For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.* ***Psalm 91:11-12***
* *(The angels) Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?* **Hebrews 1:14**

Book of Daniel

*But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me … No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.* **Daniel 10:13,21**

**The Martyrs: Fighters against the world**

Martyrs were offered the world (positions, promotions, money etc.) They either took this stuff or suffered severe persecution. But they refused the things of this world and even refused to keep their faith a secret, but rather always declared their savior.

St. George, prince of Martyrs, stood against severe persecution and many rulers.

* Was killed 7 times and came back to life
* Converted many

*“Pray to the Lord on our behalf, O* ***struggle-mantled martyrs****, Cosmas his brothers and their mother, that He may forgive us our sins.”* **Midnight Praises**

**The Heroes of Repentance: Fighters against the flesh**

*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* **Galatians 5:17**

**Example: St. Moses the strong (black) and St. Mary of Egypt**

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