

1. The church is the pillar and support of the truth,  
→ the great mystery of godliness  
= God came in the flesh  
= He was vindicated by the Spirit  
= He was preached among the Gentiles  
= He was believed on in the world  
= He was received up in glory  
→ the sound doctrines of the faith  
(1 Tim 3:15-16, 4:1)

2. Apostasy happens within the church when  
a) false teachers speak and teach perverse things, distortions of the sound doctrines  
b) people turn away from the truth preferring the lies, the doctrines of demons  
(2 Tim 3:13, 4:3-4; 1 Tim 4:1)

3. False teachers within the church  
- are deceitful workers  
- are evildoers  
- disguise themselves as servants of Christ and of righteousness  
- are in fact servants of Satan  
- follow Satan's example and do as he does  
(2 Cor 11:13-15; Phil 3:2;)

4. For this reason, our fight is not in the first place with the flesh and blood false teachers but against Satan and spiritual forces of darkness  
(Eph 6:12; Col 1:13; Eph 5:8)

5. Each believer individually and the church collectively, is in a spiritual struggle  
**3823 πάλη** *pale*  
= a wrestling match against strong opposition  
(Eph 6:12; 1 Tim 6:12)

6. Satan is the adversary seeking to devour  
**476 αντίδικος** *antidikos*  
= an opponent, an enemy  
- he is a murderer from the beginning  
→ he kills with lies  
- he is a liar, the father of lies  
→ he does not stand in the truth  
→ there is no truth in him  
- his ammunition, or his weapons are his lies  
→ they are the flaming arrows he fires at us; they are to be extinguished  
(1 Pet 5:8; Jn 8:44; Eph 6:16)

7. In order to deceive the unsuspecting among us he will disguise himself as an angel of light  
(2 Cor 11:13-15; Rom 16:18)

8. The struggle takes place in the mind; it is the battleground since the victory is in believing the truth and not turning away to the lie  
(2 Cor 11:3; 2 Tim 4:3-4)

9. We must not be ignorant of Satan's schemes  
**3540 νόημα** *noema*  
= a mental perception, a thought  
= an evil purpose  
**3180 μεθοδεία** *methodeia*  
= cunning arts, deceit, trickery  
= craftiness, wiles, strategies  
**3834 πανουργία** *panourgia*  
= a specious or false wisdom  
= superficially plausible but actually wrong  
= crafty scheming with the intent to deceive  
(2 Cor 2:11, 11:3; Eph 6:11)

10. Satan's strategy to deceive the church will be  
a) to cast doubt on what God has said  
- he will question it  
- he will contradict it  
- he will deny it  
b) to cast doubt on God's love and character  
c) to take advantage of every opportunity to act – when we sin we provide an opening for him to act  
(Gen 3:1-6; Eph 4:27)