

# The Bulwark

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## CIVIL DEFENSE DRILLS

During the Cold War people lived in abject fear of nuclear annihilation. Bomb shelters were installed in backyards across the country. Civil defense sirens were stationed in neighborhoods. Signs on the outside of buildings indicated if it housed a bomb shelter or not. Drills were performed in offices, manufacturing plants and schools. America would be ready if the Russians or any one else dropped “the bomb” on us.

Reflecting on those days, I can recall a moment, when hunkered below my desk at school with my hands over my head as instructed by my teacher; while looking around at the other students doing exactly as me, thinking “fat lot of good this will do”. What’s worse is I had the temerity to vocalize my thought and found myself on detention as a result. Looking back I can see the reasoning behind the drills and so forth. They provided a sense of security, albeit a false one.

A lot has changed since the 1950’s and 1960’s, but it would be naïve to say there are no longer any dangers. This holding true in the geopolitical sense as well society as a whole. Danger faces us in a very real spiritual way and that day by day, as result we need to be ever vigilant. “*Be of sober spirit, be on*

*the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.”* (1Peter 5:8)



The enemy was obvious in the Cold War, as Slim Pickens noted in the cult classic movie *Dr. Strangelove*, as be those pesky “Rooskies”. Paul in his letter to the brethren in Ephesus notes, “*our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*” (6:12) Formidable foes to be sure. However, bear in mind what Paul wrote to Timothy in his last epistle. “*For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*” (1:7)

“*What shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* (Romans 8:31) “*The Lord is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me?* (Psalms 118:6)

We must find our strength in God and to fully arm ourselves in a spiritual fashion. “*Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*” (Ephesians 6:11) Having done everything to stand firm (see Ephesians 6:13-17).

As the eighth chapter of Romans concludes, Paul asserts the following. “*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” In Christ there is found the blessedness of true security. Which is something that is far and away better than simply, “duck and cover.”

“*But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*” (Romans 8:37) Direct your thoughts on the type of victory we will enjoy; it is described, as “overwhelmingly”. (wbe)

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