

*Fight :a parable* 28 February 2000

Our cat, Phil, is nearly 14, not very big and rather timid. His territory has been invaded by a bullying, younger, bigger cat from next door, called Bill. Bill even takes Phil's place under our car. We have heard some horrible growls and yowling and sounds of fighting during the night and had to treat Phil's wounds. Some nights we have had to bring Phil in. We have prayed that God would protect Phil, who likes to be out most nights, and to keep Bill out of our garden. During some nights we still heard the sounds and we thought God had not answered our continuing prayers.

Now we have realised that God has answered but done it in his own way. He has made Phil more courageous. Phil has stood his ground and won fights. My wife has seen Bill retreat against our wall as Phil has growled at him.

We also realised that this is a parable for us. The devil will always try to invade our ground and attack us until The Day of the Lord. There is no point in pretending otherwise. If he leaves us it is only for a season. God is training us to be better fighters, to be bold and courageous and as we stand and speak out God's word, Satan has to flee.