

# Surviving a Brute Force Attack

*Jim Campbell · Spotlight Magazine · August 2025*

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I'm about to make the computer nerds mad. I'm a wannabe expert... Yes, I'm the karate 'expert' who knows just enough kicks and punches to get my butt kicked, but even in our ignorance God can teach us.

Sometimes, a web page can endure a brute force attack by a hacker. That's where a hacker, or more likely a bot created or used by a hacker, just starts trying to log in to your account by trying common user names for website admins, editors and contributors and trying every possible combination of password to guess it. They are incredibly fast and they can be successful. One of the ways to help stave off this type of attack is to have a good security plugin or program that can detect if someone or something tries to login to your site with the same name or login, from the same computer, within a certain amount of time, and then it just simply blocks everything from that IP address for a certain amount of time or forever. Another way is to redirect that login attempt right back to an IP address on its own server, so in a sense, it tries to login and instead of logging into your webpage, it gets sent back to itself.

You know, our lives can be like that. We can be hit by a spiritual brute force attack... trial after trial after trial just hitting us all at once to make us fall or damage our relationship with others or God, just hitting us again and again until the "bot" finds the right combination to unlock us and break us.

James even writes about this, and says something that sounds almost crazy. He writes in the first part of his letter, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds." Kind of sounds like a brute force attack, doesn't it? Repeated attacks coming at you all at once. Then James says the reason we should count it all joy is "because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance," which will make you "mature and complete, not lacking anything."

What God is telling you is that when you feel the brute force attack coming over and over, recognize what it is. It's an attack, but you don't have to despair, because God's security plugin is that when they attack you, He's working on you to make you stronger. What we need to do is redirect the attack to joy. We remind ourselves that God has always come through. We list and give thanks for every time God has come through. We claim this verse and know that it may be unpleasant, but eventually, God will strengthen us, and we remember the words of James later in the same letter, "resist the devil and he will flee from you." A hacker will usually give up if unsuccessful for a period of time. We saw Jesus experience a brute force attack in the wilderness from Satan and eventually, without success, the attack stopped and the master

attacker moved on.

When we meet our attacks with faith and joy, and resist the attack in the power of God, it does test us, but when the attack is over, we are even stronger...and the hacker is left frustrated because instead of gaining something, he just helped us resist him more next time.