

Spiritual Warfare: Who We are Fighting

Part 2 of The Invisible War

10Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. —
Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB)

Five Basic Truths about Spiritual Warfare:

3.) Our foe is _____ and his goal is to destroy us and discredit the cause of Christ.

Eph. 6:12

He is powerful and _____. _____ is one of the greatest weapons of our enemy.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. —1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)

But Michael, the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” —Jude 9 (NASB)

Is Satan for real?

- Authority of the Bible — Genesis 3:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Revelation 12:9
- Testimony of Christ — 25 References, Matthew 4
- Reality of Demons – He’s their “prince.” — Luke 11:15

Who is Satan?

A created spirit — Colossians 1:16, Job 1:6-7

An angel — Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:7

A cherub — Ezekiel 28:14

Highest of all created beings — Ezekiel 28:14, Jude 9

Where did he come from?

Created perfect — Ezekiel 28:12 -13

Had heavenly estate — Jude 6

Guardian of God's glory — Ezekiel 28

Occasion of his sin = power and beauty — Ezekiel 28

Nature of his sin = pride — 1 Timothy 3:6, Isaiah 14:13

Cause of his sin = personal free choice — Habakkuk 1:13, James 1:13

Satan's Five "I Will" Statements (Isaiah 14:13-14)

1. I will ascend to heaven.
2. I will raise my throne above the stars of God.
3. I will sit on the mount of the assembly.
4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.
5. I will make myself like the Most High.

His Goal: To _____ everything meaningful to God.

4.) **We must _____ our foe, but not fear him – become acutely aware of his "methods," but not be preoccupied by them.**

—Ephesians 6:11

- Paul agrees to forgive a brother along with the Corinthian church

“so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan;
for we are not ignorant of his schemes.” —2 Corinthians 2:11 (NASB)

Satan's names reveal his _____ .

- Prince of the World—John 12: 31
- Satan (adversary)— 1 Peter 5:8
- Devil (slanderer)
- Lucifer (son of the morning)
- Beelzebub — Matthew 12:24
- Belial — 2 Corinthians 6:15
- Evil one — 1 John 5:19
- Tempter — 1 Thessalonians 3:5
- Prince of this world — John 12:31
- Accuser of the brethren
- Representations include:
 - Serpent —Genesis 3
 - Dragon — Revelation 12:3
 - Angel of Light — 2 Corinthians 11:14

Satan attacks God's people & program, the Church, by ...

- False philosophies — Colossians 2:8
- False religions — 1 Corinthians 10:19
- False ministers — 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- False doctrine — 1 John 2:18
- False disciples — Matthew 13
- False morals — 2 Thessalonians 2:7

Satan attacks God's people by ...

- Directing governments — Daniel 10:13
- Deceiving men — 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Destroying life — Hebrews 2:14
- Persecuting the saints — Revelation 2:10
- Preventing service — 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- Promoting schisms — 2 Corinthians 2:10-11
- Planting doubt — Genesis 3:1-2
- Provoking sin:
 - Anger — Ephesians 4:26-27
 - Pride — 1 Timothy 3:6
 - Worry — Matthew 13:22
 - Self-reliance — 1 Chronicles 21:1
 - Discouragement — 1 Peter 5:6-8
 - Worldliness — 1 John 2:16
 - Lying — Acts 5:3
 - Immorality — 1 Corinthians 5:1-2
- Producing sects/cults — 1 Timothy 4:1

Satan's power is _____ .

- He is created, therefore not omniscient or infinite
- He can be resisted by the Christian — James 4:7
- God places limitations on him — Job 1:12

Application – “Balance” and wisdom are crucial in our assessment of spiritual opposition. To assign too much or too little credit to the reality of demonic activity is to error greatly.

5.) As believers in Christ, we do not fight “for” victory, we fight _____ victory. In Christ's power we are invincible!

—Ephesians 6:10

Promises from God concerning Victory over Satan

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them;
because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:4 (NASB)

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory
that has overcome the world – our faith. 5And who is the one who overcomes the world,
but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5 (NASB)

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb
and because of the word of their testimony, and
they did not love their life even to death.

Revelation 12:11 (NASB)

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:7 (NASB)

Summary:

- 1.) Satan is a _____ foe. — John 12:31
- 2.) Jesus _____ the work of the devil. — Colossians 2:14-15
- 3.) We are _____ in Christ. — 1 Corinthians 15:55-58
- 4.) We have the _____ and resources to resist Satan and demonic attacks. — 1 John 4:4
- 5.) We must _____ how to put on the “full armor of God” to experience in daily living the victory we already possess. — Ephesians 6:13-17

Think It Over

1. Someone once said, “The best crime Satan ever perpetrated as to convince the world he does not exist.” Do you agree? Why or Why not?

2. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 5:8, “Be alert and of sober mind Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” What does Peter describe Satan as? How does his strong warning change how you view Satan? (A definition of Sober is to be Self-Controlled.)

3. We learned in Chip’s teaching that Satan’s names reveal his strategies. Which of Satan’s names and strategies stand out to you? Why?

4. Satan strategically attacks God’s people and God’s program. Quickly review the ways Satan attacks God’s people. Which areas do you think the church is most prone to attack? Why?

5. Which of the four victory promises from God gives you the most hope? Why?

Live it Out

Write out James 4:7 and 1 John 4:4 on notecards and memorize these verses!

Chip tells us, "You're in a battle, and the battle is for your soul. God wants to use you like no one else in the world. He's uniquely put you in a place and given you gifts. The enemy wants to distract you and get you thinking about everything or anything that keeps you from being a daughter or a son who's becoming more and more like Christ."

1. What is Satan's game plan to distract and defeat you? How are you going to fight back in victory?
2. Looking at the List "Satan Attacks God's People By...", which of these has he used or is currently using in your life. Look up the verse listed with his strategy. What truth from the scripture can you wield as a sword against him? (These would also be excellent verses to memorize!)
3. Share with a trusted friend what you are learning, and ask for their help in keeping you alert, sober minded, and accountable.
4. Our Identity in Christ Continued...
Read Ephesians 1:3-14, Make a list of EVERYTHING you are "in Christ" and "in Him."

Read the passage a second time and either underline or list "every spiritual blessing" in the passage.

Pray: Father, You have given me all these spiritual blessing through faith in Jesus Christ. Help me to understand what they mean to me as I live my life.

