



Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57
LESSON 22 – THE WAR IS WON
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Knowing Our Enemy

- ▶ Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- ▶ Principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual hosts of wickedness...
- ▶ Satan - the Father of Lies – a master deceiver who, as an angel of darkness is able to appear as an angel of light. He deceived Eve while disguised as a serpent in the Garden of Eden.

Knowing Our Enemy

- ▶ Satan “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). He is also involved in telling lies (John 8:44), influencing people to lie (Acts 5:3), snatches the gospel from unbelieving hearts (Matt. 13:19), holds unbelievers under his power (Eph. 2:2; 1 John 3:8-10; 5:19), traps and deceives unbelievers holding them captive to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26), tempts believers to sin (1 Cor. 7:5; Eph. 4:27), seeks to deceive believers (2 Cor. 11:3), and seeks to destroy believer’s faith (Luke 22:31).
- ▶ He wages war against the church, seeking to thwart the progress of ministry (1 Thess. 2:18; Eph. 6:11-17).

Knowing Our Enemy

- ▶ The Counterfeiter in Chief:
- ▶ Satan makes evil look good, making lies more attractive than truth.
- ▶ Satan mimics God while offering counterfeit substitutes:
- ▶ The False Trinity – Dragon/Antichrist/False Prophet
- ▶ The Kingdom of Darkness – Col. 1:13
- ▶ Angels – Matt. 25:41; 2 Cor. 11:14; 12:7
- ▶ The Throne – Rev. 2:13
- ▶ Churches – Rev. 2:9; 3:9
- ▶ Worship – Rom. 1:25; Rev. 13:4
- ▶ False Christs – Matt. 24:5, 24; Mark 13:22; 1 John 2:18, 22

Knowing Our Enemy

- ▶ False Prophets – Matt. 7:15; 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; 2 Peter 2:1
- ▶ False Apostles – 2 Cor. 11:13; Rev. 2:2
- ▶ False Teachers – 2 Peter 2:1
- ▶ False Believers – Matt. 13:38, 40; 2 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4
- ▶ False Gospels – Gal. 1:6-7
- ▶ False Doctrine – 1 Tim. 4:1
- ▶ False Miracles – Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 16:13-14
- ▶ False Communion – 1 Cor. 10:20-21

Satan's Power

- ▶ His power is certainly nowhere equal to God's power and sovereign rule.
- ▶ He is compared in power and ability to Michael the Archangel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7).
- ▶ He is a master schemer and tactician (2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3; Eph. 6:11; Rev. 12:9; 20:8; 1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26).
- ▶ He rules this world's sinful system (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 13:2, 4-5, 7) as the Prince of the Power of the Air, that is, ruler over the demonic host (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7, 9).
- ▶ He accuses believers before God (Rev. 12:10) and has the ability to perform false signs and wonders (2 Thess. 2:9-10; Rev. 13:13-14).

Satan's Power

- ▶ He has the power of death, but Christ has rendered him powerless for believers (Heb. 2:14).
- ▶ He has the power of deceit, but Christ has exposed him (2 Cor. 11:3, 14-15; 2 Cor. 2:11).
- ▶ He has sinned, murdered, and deceived from the beginning (1 John 3:8; 2 Cor. 11:3; John 8:44).
- ▶ His scheming is described as using snares or traps (1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26); strategies (2 Cor. 2:11); and schemes (methodia – Eph. 6:11).
- ▶ He attempts to lure us into sin by appealing to our flesh or pride, and by deceiving our minds (1 John 2:15-17).
- ▶ Satan's worst attacks are still under the direct power of God's sovereignty.

Satan's Target

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
- ▶ Satan manipulates the thinking by playing mind games, telling lies, making false accusations, and working counterfeit signs and wonders.
- ▶ A corrupt mind leads to corrupt living. What is more corrupt than thinking contrary to the Word of God?

Satan's Assaults

- ▶ 1. Disguise – Satan deceived Adam and Eve by appearing in the form of a beautiful and “crafty” creature, the Serpent. He can appear as an angel of light.
- ▶ 2. Dialogue – through discussion that steered Eve away from the Word of God and even found her adding to it, Satan talked her into thinking what was right was wrong and what was wrong was right.
- ▶ 3. Doubt – Eve was led to question what God had actually said and why He had said it. She doubted a perfectly holy and good God who had placed them in a perfectly good garden with only one restriction.
- ▶ 4. Denial – Satan fed Eve 5 lies to motivate her to deny God's Word. He told her she would not die, if they ate and did not die immediately then God was not reliable, her eyes would be open and she would be like God knowing good and evil, God's motives could not be trusted because He was withholding something from them, and Satan convinced Eve that he had her best interests at heart and was protecting her from the abuse of God.

Satan's Assaults

- ▶ 5. Deliberation – Eve decided she had to test what God said vs. what the Serpent said to discover the truth. She believed the fruit looked good, was good for food, and would make her wise.
- ▶ 6. Death – Adam and Eve's minds were affected immediately and they suddenly perceived evil. They knew they were naked and tried to cover themselves. Guilt and shame destroyed the purity of the Garden. Their sin lead to conflict, blaming one another and even God for what happened, and found them separated from God and their relationship with Him as it had been before. Because of their sin they began immediately to die and eventually did die because of the entrance of sin into the world.

The Believer's Victory

- ▶ 1 Cor. 15:54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- ▶ God's Protective Armor – Ephesians 6:10-20 – Put On Christ – Eph. 4:17-24
- ▶ Christ's Victory at the Cross – Jesus has already won – John 12:31; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 12:11
- ▶ The Overcomers Promise – we are promised that we will overcome the world, flesh, and the devil – 1 John 2:13; 5:4-5

The Believer's Victory

- ▶ Christ's Intercession for us – John 17:15, 20
- ▶ Christ's Protection – 1 John 5:18
- ▶ The Power of the Indwelling Spirit – 1 John 4:4
- ▶ The Knowledge of Satan's Schemes – 2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8
- ▶ Prayer – Matt. 6:13 (deliver us from evil); Eph. 6:12, 18
- ▶ Biblical Instructions – submit to God, resist the devil – James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:9
- ▶ Pastors who Strengthen and Equip the Church – 1 Thess. 3:2; Rev. 20:10
- ▶ Confidence (Faith) in Christ that He has Won the Victory! – Rev. 20:10

Satan's Condemnation

- ▶ Satan's original judgment immediately followed his attempt to lead one-third of the angels in revolt against God and His rule and reign. He was cast out of heaven and disqualified from serving God honorably. (Rev. 12:3-4, 9; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:4-21).
- ▶ Immediately after the Fall, Satan was cursed in the Garden of Eden to become the enemy of the woman and her Seed (Christ and all those in Him – Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20; John 16:11; Rev. 12:8-9).
- ▶ At the crucifixion, with the declaration "It is Finished" Christ sealed the fate of Satan and the demons, having crushed his head as His heel was pierced.

Satan's Condemnation

- ▶ During the Millennium, Satan will be bound (Rev. 19:11-21; 20:1-3).
- ▶ Satan's eternal judgment will find him and the demons cast into the everlasting lake of fire (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Shortly after he is cast into the fire, all of the lost will be sentenced to join him in everlasting torment at the Great White Throne Judgment (Mark 9:48; Rev. 20:14-15).
- ▶ Satan knows that he is defeated, his time is short, he is under the rule of our Sovereign God, and while this means we are victorious, it also means he is dangerous. Like a wounded animal, seeking to accuse, deceive, and discredit believers, he is intent on our destruction.

Christ is Victorious!

- ▶ How do we participate in Christ's victory over our Enemy?
- ▶ James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
- ▶ Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
- ▶ Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Christ is Victorious!

- ▶ Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"
- ▶ Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.