

"Learning to Fight the Devil"

Intro

The war behind the war

1 Timothy 6:11-12

"The reality that the advance of the gospel and the building of the church involve us in attacking and experiencing counter-attack in relation to real cosmic forces of darkness under the control of Satan who is also described as the god of this world" –David Devenish, *Demolishing Strongholds*, 25

The three fronts: _____, _____, & _____

The two generals: _____, & _____

What place should "spiritual warfare" have in our lives?

The Biblical Place

Spiritual Warfare from Genesis through Revelation

- Jesus' ministry began with "spiritual warfare" (Luke 4: 1-13) culminating at the Cross, where the greatest cosmic battle of all eternity occurred.

1. Our _____.

- Satan is known by several names (1 Chron. 21; Job 1-2; Zech. 3)

- In the New Testament, *Satan* appears 35 times, *the devil* 32 times, & *the evil one* 12 times
- Satan is a real angelic being who was cast out of heaven (Is. 14) & roams the earth (Job 1-2; 1 Peter 5:8). His power is subject to God's permission (Luke 22:31)

He is called the ruler of this present world system:

“the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4)

“the prince of this world” (John 14:30)

his purpose: opposition to the glory of God

- ⊕ Satan's opposition in unbelievers: 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:26; Heb. 2:14-15
- ⊕ Satan's opposition in believers: John 10:10

Since Satan cannot *prevent* our salvation, he can *interfere* with its effect.

The location of his attacks is our *fallen flesh*:

Rom 6:12 “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts”

Satan's strategy is to “push against” our forward motion in Christ to **slow** or **stop** us.

Resistance on the inside & outside.

Satan's two main weapons of resistance: _____ & _____.

Rev. 12:10

2 Cor. 11:3

Deception has two branches: *Lies and lures*

- a *lie* as the falsification of _____.
- a *lure* is the falsification of _____.

Satan is a liar: **John 8:44**

His lies can be personal and doctrinal: **1 Tim. 4:1**

How can I tell if he is lying to me?

1. *Is the content contrary to the Word of God?*

2. *How do you FEEL when you hear the thought?*

- Satan is also a “**lurer**”: he entices us in our minds, thoughts, desires, feelings so we will come under the influence of our feelings and thoughts.
- All of us experience the “normal” sins. However, we need to be aware that in every sin there is the potential of opening a window to Satan for some degree of influence which could become severe if not dealt with Biblically.
 - ❖ *Are you easily provoked to anger?*
 - ❖ *Are you wrestling unsuccessfully against lust?*
 - ❖ *Are you experiencing fear on too regular a basis?*
 - ❖ *Are there aspirations that seem to dominate you?*
 - ❖ *Do you have a struggle in submitting to authority?*
 - ❖ *Are you struggling with issues of self-control in eating or laziness?*
 - ❖ *Are you “unable” to forgive someone for a wrong done to?*
- Where there is a level of difficulty or resistance in dealing with sin, this might signal the activity of a strong hold. A stronghold is an area in which our usual fleshly weakness has become more empowered to the place where we are being overcome by its sin.

Eph 6:16 “the flaming arrows of the evil one”

How do we open up our window to Satan’s arrows?

Unrepented, continual, unresolved sin.

2. Our _____.

1 John 2:1

- ⊕ He is Sovereign over all: **Eph. 1;23**
- ⊕ He has broken Satan's authority Cross: **Col. 2: 15**
- ⊕ He has given us His Spirit of power: **2 Tim.1:7; 1 John 4:4**
- ⊕ He will complete that which He has begun in us: **Phil. 1:6**

3. Our _____.

How are we to respond to Satan's attacks?

1. By remembering our Advocate, that He is in us: **1 Cor 1:30**
2. Without fear: **2 Tim. 1:7**
3. By being obedient to God: **James 4:7; Col. 1:10; 1 John 1:9**
4. Remembering that we have been give spiritual weapons: **Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Cor. 10: 3-6**
5. Be resisting Satan: **James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9; Rev 12:11**
6. Being careful to give the glory to God with a humble and thankful heart: **James 4:10; Luke 10:20**

What will be the result of our Biblical response?

Satan WILL flee from us.

1 Cor. 15:57 *"thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*