

Spiritual Warfare

We Have an Enemy and It's Not Each Other

Sunday, August 22, 2010

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Message Truth:

Step one in our warfare plan is to realize that we do have an enemy and that it is not one another. Jesus has and continues to pray for our spiritual protection and unity. Our unity is critically important to our ability to engage in spiritual warfare. In His Model Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray for protection from the evil one. In His High Priestly Prayer, Jesus also prayed for protection from the evil one as well as our spiritual unity. Each of us needs to understand our great need for protection, what it means to pray for protection from evil, and how we accomplish this protection. Today we will seek to understand the methods which Satan uses against us as he engages us (whether we are aware of it or not) in spiritual warfare.

Satan is in no way equal to God. God is all powerful (omnipotent), Satan is not. God is all-knowing (omniscient), Satan is not. God is everywhere at the same time (omnipresent), Satan cannot be. God is truth; Satan is the father of lies. God is without beginning or end. Satan is a created being whose end waits the providential time of God.

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*
John 10:10 (ESV)

⁴⁴ *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for **there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***
John 8:44

Methods of Satan's Attacks

● For the Unbeliever

1. By providing lies to which they may cling.
2. By making sin attractive and alluring.
3. By snatching away the Word before it takes root.
4. By promoting distorted views of the gospel.

⁴ *for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*
2 Corinthians 10:4 (NASB)

5. By raising up false teachers.

¹³ *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.*
2 Corinthians 11:13 (NASB)

Satan will always foster false religions and false teaching among Christians. He will even raise up false Jesuses.

● For the B_____

Whatever his tactics, Satan's ultimate goal for believers is a compromised and fruitless life beset by heresy and sin.

¹ But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,
1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NASB)

Satan continues to attack people once they become **believers**.

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
Ephesians 6:11 (NASB)

⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
James 4:7 (NASB)

The Enemy's S_____

T_____

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; . . . ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.
Ephesians 4:22,27

● **Flesh** {Lust of the Flesh}

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
Galatians 5:16

In response to the flesh, Scripture instructs Christians to:

- Recognize that we are no longer under the flesh's bondage.
- Walk in conscious submission to the Holy Spirit.
- Put to death (mortify) sinful desires.

● **Desires** {Lust of the Eyes}

⁹ People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.
1 Timothy 6:9

A_____

● **As Accuser of the Saints**

¹ Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.
Zechariah 3:1

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.
Revelation 12:10

When Satan's accusations go unanswered and come to be believed by an individual, they may lead to:

- Vain regrets and condemnation
- General guilt vs. specific conviction
- Second person "you" language instead of "I" language

S_____

● **Rebellion** {Pride of Life}

Satan will also engender **bitterness** in your heart if he can.

- **Idle Gossip and Busybodying**
- **Lies**

Satan can even get Christians to begin to accuse one another. This most often will occur in an effort to subvert biblical leadership in the church.