

## Spiritual Warfare: The Enemies' Favorite and Most Effective Tactics (6:10-11)

<sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

### Summary:

- God's purpose is that we should "glorify Him" in our lives which simply means that I live in such a way that people can see who God is through my life
- Our enemies are intent on hiding or distorting the picture of God displayed in our lives
- The Evil Trifecta: The Devil, the World, and Our Flesh, all collaborating to defeat us.
- The Devil: Opposer, Deceiver, Tempter, and Hinderer
- The World: Cravings, Distractions, Wrestling
- The Flesh: Focusing on Myself

At the end of last Sunday's sermon you heard me say that Jesus was "hunted from the moment he was born..." and that the Advent signals one of the most intense seasons of spiritual warfare in our history.

### Revelation 12:1-6

I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. <sup>2</sup>She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth.

<sup>3</sup>Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. <sup>4</sup>His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

<sup>5</sup>She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne. <sup>6</sup>And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her...

## We Are Hunted

**Ephesians 6:11** ("Wiles" "Schemes" "Strategies")

- Translation of the Greek word *Methodia*
- **The Enemy's Methods:**
  - Patiently Stalking
  - Relentlessly Pursuing
  - Probing for Weakness
  - Probing for Inattention
  - Waiting for a Foolish Decision

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.

He prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

He is not Passive  
He is not Sloppy  
He is not Random

## Explicit

**Anger:** "...Gives the devil a foothold..." (Ephesians 4:26-27)

**Unforgiveness:** "Forgive...so that you don't give Satan the advantage" (2 Cor. 2:10-11)

**Pride:** "Becoming proud...the devil can use to bring him down...just like the trap that brought him down..."  
(1 Timothy 3:6-7)

**Control:** "But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ..." (2 Cor. 11:3)

**Self-Focused:** "Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns" (Matt. 16:23)

## Implicit

**Offense:** "Love does not demand its own way, it is not irritable, it keeps no record of being wronged..."  
(1 Cor. 13:5)

**Divisive:** "The Lord hates...[but this] an abomination to Him...one who spreads strife among brothers."  
(Proverbs 6:19)

## Sexual Sin:

Run from sexual sin! Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never "become one." There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love...(1 Cor. 6:17-18 The Message; See Proverbs 7)

**Greed, Fear, Lying, Critical Spirit, Maliciousness, Jealousy, Gossip, Slanderous, Vengeful, Disrespectful & Disobedient to Parents, ...etc.**

## He is NOT OBVIOUS

Genesis 3:1 "The serpent was more clever than any other..."

2 Cor. 11:14 "Satan does it all the time, dressing up as a beautiful angel of light."

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

**1 Peter 5:6-9**