

## Spiritual Warfare: The Nature of Our Enemies (6:10-13)

<sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <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. <sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil.

### Summary of Last Week's Message:

- Be careful of the extremes.
- Spiritual warfare must be understood in the context of God's purpose.
- 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 devil is against us, the world all around us, and the flesh is within us all collaborating to defeat us.

## His Nature

**Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:17; Revelation 12:7-9, 12**

"How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. <sup>13</sup> For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. <sup>14</sup> I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.'

"Your heart became filled with pride because of all of your beauty. Your wisdom corrupted by your love of splendor."

There was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. <sup>8</sup> And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. <sup>9</sup> This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels...so the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.

## The Nature of His Strategies

*[Don't let] Satan outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes* **(2 Cor. 2:11).**

## Opposer

- "Devil" [diabolos] which means "to oppose"
- Seeks to Embarrass/Mock God with our failures and choosing sin (Job 1 & 2)

Luke 8:11-12

The seed is God's word. <sup>12</sup> The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.

## Deceiver

### 2 Cor. 11:14-15

Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

- Intentional
- Disguised as True and Just
- Subtle
- A Network Approach

### 2 Cor. 10:3-5

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. <sup>4</sup>We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. <sup>5</sup>We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ

## Tempter

"Delude him into thinking that he still has personal rights and can claim ownership of time and possessions instead of having died to self and yielded them to God. Nothing works so easily as to find a period of time which he reasons to have at his own disposal and then taken away from him by an unexpected visitor. Make him think his time is his own and it has been stolen from him. Always encourage the sense of ownership as this readily creates resentment when it must be shared or given away or is lost. Create a tendency to use personal pronouns for what really belongs to God—my house, my car, my family, my time" (paraphrased).

C. S. Lewis  
*The Screwtape Letters*

### 2 Cor. 11:3

I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.

## Hinderer

### 1 Thess. 2:17-18

Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. <sup>18</sup>We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us.

- If he can't deceive or tempt us to sin, he simply makes it really difficult and inconvenient for us to respond to the opportunities God gives us to "glorify Him" and carry out His assignments.

**"The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil."**

1 John 3:8