

Can you see the apathy in the world today? In the church? There are now “woke” churches that have completely abandoned God’s Word and replaced it with the new social gospel. Apostasy is running rampant even in the more traditional churches. There are but a few who are standing faithful and true to the Word of God, and praise the Lord for those who desire to excel still more in proclaiming the Gospel message.

What has happened to the Christian witness we once had in this country. Satan has been busy behind the scenes. He is tempting people away from God and many are following blindly. Paul was concerned about this for the church in Thessalonica almost 2,000 years ago. In I Thessalonians 3:5 Paul states, “. . . I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.”

Those words are just as applicable today. Satan has been tempting, luring people by his schemes and our society is eroding away at a tremendous pace. Are you one of those who can be tempted by Satan’s deceit?

One of the first rules of battle is to know your enemy. Let’s spend some time this week getting to know our enemy and his schemes, and most importantly, to know his end. Isaiah 14:16 tells us that some day the world will look at Satan and ask, “Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms?” He thinks he is powerful and mighty, but he is weak and helpless before the God of the universe, Maker of heaven and earth!

DAY ONE THROUGH DAY FOUR

I would strongly suggest that you break up this work over the next four days. There is much to take in and be prayerfully thought through. We are told in I Peter 5:8 that Satan is a believer’s adversary, and he is seeking those whom he may devour. We are first introduced to him in Genesis as the tempter. In I Thessalonians 3:5, Paul refers to him as “the tempter.” Paul also stated that Satan thwarted their plans in I Thessalonians 2:18. He is a powerful foe, but we are assured that “. . . greater is He who is you than he who is in the world.” (I John 4:4)

Paul warned the Thessalonians about Satan’s attacks. He equipped them so that they could be more than conquerors! We too need to equip ourselves. Prayerfully and thoughtfully work through this lesson — carefully putting on God’s armor and picking up your sword. You are heading into battle every day, but take heart, if you are God’s child, you are on the winning team!

Satan's Temptations

1. Let's begin in the beginning. Read Genesis 3:1-6.
 - a. Describe Satan's tactics when he talked to Eve.

 - b. Read I John 2:15-17. How does this relate to Satan's discussion with Eve?

2. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and answer the following questions.
 - a. In verse 3, Satan is called "the tempter." What else is he called?
 - b. Look at Revelation 12:9 and record the names we see for Satan in this verse.
 - c. According to Matthew 4, who permitted the temptation of Jesus?
 - d. The first of three temptations is found in verses 2-4.
 - 1) What was Satan asking Jesus to prove?

 - 2) How was this to be proven?

 - 3) How did Jesus respond?
 - e. The second temptation is found in 5-7.
 - 1) Again, what was Satan asking Jesus to prove?

 - 2) How was it to be proved?

 - 3) How did Jesus reply?

- f. The last temptation is found in 8-10.
- 1) What was Satan offering?
 - 2) What did he want Jesus to do?
 - 3) How did Jesus respond?
- g. Look at James 4:7 and the first part of verse 8. How does this relate to the Matthew 4 temptation?
3. Read I Corinthians 7:3-5. Focusing on verse 5, what does this passage teach about your weakness and what gives you strength to overcome Satan's tricks.
4. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. In these verses, "the prince of the power of the air" is referring to Satan.
- a. Record what a believer used to be.
 - b. Read Ephesians 2:4-7. What happened to change a believer, and how does that help believers to stand firm against Satan's onslaught?

Satan's Beginning and End

1. In Ezekiel 28, you read about the King of Tyre. In the first ten verses, the leader is called a man (verse 9). This changes in verses 11-19. He is now called an anointed cherub in verse 14. These verses are referring to Satan. Read Ezekiel 28:11-19 and answer the following questions.
 - a. How did Satan come into existence?
 - b. How is he described?
 - c. What happened to him and how did it occur?
 - d. What did God do to Satan?

2. In Isaiah 14, you read about the King of Babylon. When you come to verse 12, you realize that you are no longer reading about an earthly king, but Satan. Read Isaiah 14:12-17 and answer these questions.
 - a. How is Satan described?
 - b. What happened to him?
 - c. What did he say in his heart?
 - d. What is the reality of what will happen to him?

Satan's Character

Read the following passages and record all that you learn about Satan.

1. John 8:44
2. II Corinthians 11:3
3. Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10
4. I Peter 5:8

Satan's Tactics

Scripture calls Satan a schemer. Read these verses and find out what his schemes are and how you can stand against them.

1. Daniel 10:12-13
2. Matthew 13:24-39
3. Mark 4:15
4. John 13:2

5. Acts 5:3

6. I Corinthians 7:5

7. II Corinthians 2:11

8. II Corinthians 4:4

9. II Corinthians 11:13-15

10. II Corinthians 12:7; Job 2:7

11. Ephesians 4:26-27

12. Ephesians 6:11

A Believer's Power Over Satan

Because of Jesus' death on the cross, He broke the power that sin has over us. You, as a true believer in Jesus Christ, are no longer a slave to sin, but a slave to righteousness. You have been seated in the heavenly places with Christ. Your position in Christ gives you victory over Satan. Read the following portions of Scripture and record what you learn about a believers position and relationship to Satan.

1. Luke 10:17-20

2. Acts 26:18

3. Ephesians 1:17-23

4. Ephesians 6:10-18

5. James 4:7

6. I Peter 5:6-9

7. I John 4:4

8. I John 5:4-5

9. Revelation 12:11

A Believer's Access To God's Throne

If Satan is your enemy, and he is determined to defeat you and keep you from being an effective witness for God's kingdom, then how are you supposed to withstand him? How are you going to be victorious in the battles that rage around you every day? If you have to ask that question, then you don't understand what you have through Christ and what it means to be a child of the King!

Do you know your Heavenly Father? Do you understand that He has created all that we can see and know? Do you know that you are His beloved child? Do you know that Jesus Christ died for you so you could walk in oneness with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Do you know that He has provided you with all the spiritual armor needed to combat the enemy?

You need to know God's Word. Study it. Meditate on it. Believe it and act on that faith, and remember that true faith is faithful to the very end. Through prayer and praise, rehearse that which you know is true about God. Allow the Spirit to lead you, move you, and work through you. Go out into the world with boldness, in God's strength, to take the Gospel message to the dying world that surrounds you.

Here are some great promises to read, study, memorize, and appropriate as you head into the battle.

- **God's surpassing greatness and power has been given to you so that you might be strengthened with His might - this same God who raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places where He is far above (superior in strength) all rule, power, authority, and dominion. (Ephesians 1:19-21)**
- **God has reached down to His children and raised them up and seated them with Him (and with Jesus) in the heavenly places so that He might show us the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us. (Ephesians 2:6-7)**
- **Because we belong to Him, through Christ's shed blood on the cross, we can now draw near to His throne of grace in confidence and boldness, so we may receive mercy and grace in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)**
- **No matter what Satan might throw at us, we are Christ's church, we stand on the Rock, and the gates of Hades will not overpower us. (Matthew 16:18)**

But wait a minute. The Bible tells us that Peter was sifted, Job lost everything, and Paul was kept from going to the Thessalonians. Didn't they have the ability to stand? Didn't Satan have victory over these men of God? We may not have direct answers to these questions, but what we do know was that Satan was allowed to act on these men only with God's permission. Satan can only operate within the limits God places on him, and there is always a purpose for the process. These encounters can bring growth, refinement, adjustment, or an opportunity of witness to others that we indeed are different because God abides in us.

1. Read these verses and note how God limits the power of Satan.

a. Job 1:10-12

b. Job 2:6

c. Luke 23:31-32

d. II Corinthians 12:7-9

e. Revelation 2:10 (You may have to think about this one to see how it relates.)

f. Romans 8:28

g. Acts 16:6-7 (Note: Do all hinderances come from Satan?)

I Thessalonians

Lesson 7, Chapter 3