

Sunday Sampler

Lesson 6 – Spiritual Warfare

With
Like
For **JESUS**

Temptation

The desire to have or do something that you know you should avoid.

Collins Essential English Dictionary 2nd Edition 2006 © HarperCollins

James 1:13-16

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (NIV)

Why?

Since we know that sin is deadly, why is it still desirable to us?

- The enjoyment is now and maybe I can avoid the consequences later.
- God is keeping something from me that I will enjoy.
- I am helpless to overcome this...

The Tempter

Satan

Accuser

➤ History

Deceiver

➤ Characteristics

Enemy

Devil

➤ Methods

Adversary

History

- Lucifer, Son of the Morning - Archangel
- Attempted to usurp the Throne of God
- Cast out of the Kingdom of Heaven
- Tricked Adam & Eve into forfeiting their dominion over the Earth.
- Defeated by Christ who redeemed ownership of Earth

Characteristics

- Formidable enemy who seeks to destroy us.
- Ruler of this world
- Father of Lies
- Defeated, but deadly

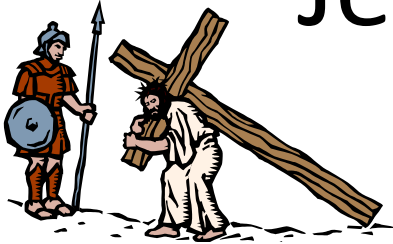
Primary Method

Deception

- Masquerades as our own thoughts
- Exaggerates the benefits of sin and minimizes any consequences
- Instills doubt & confusion around our beliefs
- Targets our weaknesses



Jesus Has Defeated Satan



- Christ died for sin so we are able to die to sin.
- Jesus rose to new life so we might be free from the fear of death.
- He gave us examples for overcoming Satan's temptations



Christ's Temptations

- Focus on your immediate, physical needs.



- Use power and fame to reach your goals.



- Take the easiest, least costly path to your objectives.



Overcoming Temptation

- Develop a conversational relationship with God.
- Submit your will to the will of God.
- Let the Word dwell in you richly & use it.
- Never toy with a temptation in your mind.
- Follow Jesus (i.e. Let Him direct your steps.)
- Path of least resistance is a road to ruin.
- Be alert for Satan's deceptions

Tear Down Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (NIV)

Spiritual warfare is not just overcoming temptation; disciples of Jesus lay siege on Satan's strongholds.

Citadels of Satan



Arsenals

Weapons of the World	Weapons of the Spirit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try harder – Self Determination• Power of Positive Thinking• Deception• Marketing• Economic Pressure• Protest Demonstrations• Force & Threats of Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belt of Truth• Breastplate of Righteousness• Shoes of the Gospel of Peace• Shield of Faith• Helmet of Salvation• Sword of the Spirit – The Word• Prayer

Post a Guard



2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, **and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** (NIV)

