

MESSAGE NOTES for "What's the devil's deal?"

Ephesians 6:10-20

April 19th, 2020

Introduction – *"Yours in the Struggle"*

The Big Idea – We must FIGHT and not FEAR

Two Big Mistakes

1. Who are Satan and demons?
2. Where did they come from?
3. Where are they going?
4. What are his schemes and tactics?
5. How do we engage in the battle with Satan?
 - a. Know that this is NOT your war, NOT your armor, NOT your power! God is the owner and the Gospel is the Power!
 - b. Use your defensive armor
 - c. Use your offensive armor

Gospel Application – *Will you fight?*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES USED:

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

John 8:44

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.

1 Peter 5:8-9

⁸Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Luke 10:18

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹²How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” ¹⁵But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

2 Peter 2:4

⁴For if God did not spare angels when they sinned . . .

Jude 6

⁶And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home. . .

Matthew 8:28-29

²⁸When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. ²⁹“What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

Revelation 20:7-10

⁷When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

1 Timothy 4:1

¹The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

2 Corinthians 2:10, 11

¹⁰If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

¹⁷But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. ¹⁸For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us.

2 Corinthians 11:3

³But 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.

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: How to Have Victory Over Satan

"In the desperate conflict Christ waged, in which he lost his life, was he mistaken? Was it really 'the prince of the this world' he had to face – a terrible supernatural being whose hate for God was as dark and as deep as hell? Or was he deluded? That he believed in a personal devil whose dominion he came to shatter; that he commanded demons to come out of their victims; that he was convinced that if he were to save man he must show up the Prince of Darkness in his true light, and break his power over human hearts; that he really believed these things, no student of the scriptures would for a moment pretend to deny."

-- F.J. Heugel, *That Old Serpent, the Devil*, page 14.

I. His Objectives: Satan's prime directive

A. From these verses, what do you conclude are Satan's objectives?

Isaiah 14:13-14

Ezra 28:17

1 Peter 5:8

Matthew 16:23

2 Corinthians 11:3

1 Corinthians 10:9-10

B. Can you discern between the original and alternative objectives?

C. Why do you think Satan has resorted to an alternative objective?

D. What is Satan's alternative objective? (Revelations 12:17)

II. His Personnel: The persons Satan uses

A. From these verses, who do you conclude are Satan's personnel?

Matthew 12:22

Matthew 25:41

Revelations 12:7

Matthew 16:23

Genesis 3:6

1 Timothy 4:1-2

B. In this tactical war, where do you feel Satan would deploy his personnel?

C. Which of these personnel would have most influence upon you?

III. His Activities: His Tactics

A. From these verses, what are some of Satan's tactics?

Matthew 4:1

2 Corinthians 11:3

Luke 8:12

Revelations 12:10

John 8:44

1 Peter 5:8

B. What do you think makes Satan's tactics successful?

C. How do you combat Satan's tactics?

"A good general must penetrate the brain of his enemy." -- Victor Hugo

In more recent times, Field Marshal Lord Montgomery told in his memoirs that when he was assigned to lead the North African campaign of the Allies against the Germans in World War II, his main subject of study was not the terrain on which they would fight, but the character, background and outlook of his opposite, General Rommel. If he could foresee what strategy Rommel was likely to adopt, then he could take steps to forestall and eventually conquer him. Should we be less prudent in the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged?

-- J. Oswald Sanders, *Satan is No Myth*

IV. Our Defense

A. From these verses, what are some tools God has given us to deal with the devil?

Mark 14:38

1 Corinthians 10:12

Acts 16:16-18

Ephesians 6:11-18

B. What are some practical ways to implement these tools?

C. When do you feel these tools need to be implemented?

Freedom from the flesh comes not by an act of the human being, not by resolution and determination not to fall into that sin again. It comes not by promising God we won't repeat what has brought shame to his name. Deliverance from the power of the sin nature does not come by praying; it does not come by reading the Word of God, although they might contribute to the victory. Deliverance from the power of the sin nature comes from conscious dependence upon the Spirit of God, which permits him to live his life through us to the glory of God.

-- J. Dwight Pentecost, *The Divine Comforter*

V. Application

A. What tactic has Satan used effectively in your life? In other words, if you were Satan, how would you attack you?

B. Which of these weapons do you need to develop for effective use?

C. What does God promise will happen if you use this weapon? (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:2-4)