

Resisting Evil & the Devil

Discipleship 201—Lesson #5

At the last supper, Jesus spoke to Peter, *"Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."* Luke 22:31-32

Introduction—Because of Christ's victory at Calvary over sin, death, and the devil, every believer has the right and ability to walk victoriously in life, free from guilt, condemnation, fear, bondage, and defeat. God always leads us to triumph over Satan in Christ.

Who is Satan?

- A. Satan is a real **PERSONAL** evil at work in the world, not just a "force". His purpose is to stalk and **DESTROY** humanity.
...The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.... John 10:10
- B. The Bible hints that he may be a fallen **ANGEL**
How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! ... You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the Pit.
Isaiah 14:12-15
- C. NEVER **UNDERESTIMATE** him and his angels: they are ... **CUNNING** ...
POWERFUL ... **EVIL**
- D. NEVER give him too much **CREDIT** either.
 - 1. Most evil in the world is the result of **HUMAN** activity
 - 2. Those whose lives are rooted in Christ have nothing to **FEAR**
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
James 4:7
 - 3. Satan is not **OMNIPOTENT**, therefore does not waste his time on perennials and pew dusters, only those truly trying to make a difference

Satan's techniques

- A. The weapon of **DOUBT**
"Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Genesis 3:1
 - 1. Satan tries to convince us of what we **CAN'T** do, rather than focusing on our **BLESSING**
 - 2. He keeps us looking inwards rather than **UPWARDS**
- B. The weapon of **TEMPTATION**
 - 1. He denies the **PENALTY** of our sin, trying to convince us that sin is OK
But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
Gen. 3:4-5

2. He attacks us in our **WEAKNESS**

Do not love the world or the things in the world... . for all that is in the world--the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches--comes not from the Father but from the world. I John 2:16-17

C. The weapon of **FEAR**

Satan wants us to doubt our **VALUE** in Christ's eyes.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. I John 4:17-18

The Consequences of giving in to Satan

A. **SHAME**

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. Genesis 3:7

B. Broken **RELATIONSHIPS**

With God, others, and the **WORLD**

C. **BONDAGE** to sin

Temptation is not sin. We do have a choice to give in, or resist. Satan wants our sin and failure to become a life pattern. The Holy Spirit wants our growth to become our life pattern.

How can we defeat Evil and the Devil?

A. Christians are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to **LIGHT**

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, Colossians 1:13

1. We no longer work for **SATAN**

2. Satan is **DEFEATED** in Christ, though he still has a bite

3. Jesus sets us free from condemnation, addictions, guilt, fear and death

B. We must stay away from Satan and evil

1. **SPIRITUALISM** without Christ (Natural Theology)

2. **PALM** reading

3. **OUIJA** boards

4. **CHANNELING**

5. **ASTROLOGY**

6. **HOROSCOPES**

7. the **OCCULT / WITCHCRAFT**

(Deuteronomy 18:10; Leviticus 19:26; Galatians 5:19; Revelation 21:8; 22:5)

C. Devote ourselves to daily times of **BIBLE** study and **PRAYER**

D. Stay in close **PROXIMITY** to other Christians

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another... Hebrews 10:24-25

E. Defend ourselves against Satan's attacks (Eph. 6)

1. The Belt of **TRUTH**.

Read the Scriptures and test your opinions and visions with the wisdom of the church

2. The Breastplate of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

This comes from Christ, and being in a right relationship with God

3. The Shoes of the **GOSPEL** of peace

We are meant to walk and spread the good news around. Christians must be on the move.

4. The shield of **FAITH**

We should oppose cynicism, skepticism, doubt and negativity. These things cannot survive unless they are fed. Faith starves them

5. The Helmet of **SALVATION**

Christ saved us from sin.

6. The sword of the **SPIRIT**

We are not only called to be on the defensive, but on the **OFFENSIVE**. We have been commissioned to fight evil.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19