

Arrows of the Evil One – Part 1

Ephesians 6

Sunday – August 20, 2023



Ephesians 6

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. **12** 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.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. **14** Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. **15** For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. **16** In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. **17** Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. **19** And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. **20** I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So, pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.- NLT2

2 Kinds of Fire - What burns in your life?

➤ Is it God's fire

2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.** **7** For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. **8** So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, **9** who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

What Fire burns in your Heart?

- **The Bible also talks about the fire of Hell kindled in a person's life**

James 3:5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

EIGHT Types of arrows of the Evil One

1. ONE - Offense

A. Arrows of the evil one can open a door of offense

1. It appears the enemy can get close enough to project evil thoughts
2. Demonic forces can catch us off guard and cause us to let our defenses down
3. Remember the example of the Fuller Brush salesman and the foot in the door (foothold) from Ephesians 4:26
4. The enemy attacks us in our thoughts, often our old wounds and emotions
5. If he can push a button emotionally – OR, introduce a thought that we will then run with as our own

B. These arrows often seem to come out of nowhere

- Sometimes we think the thought we just began to think was our own
- In fact – the enemy can introduce a thought out of nowhere
- It can be an actual offense
- Or it can be an imagined offense
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; - KJV

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John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** During supper, when **the devil had already put it into the heart** of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, - **ESV**

- In Judas' case – taking offense at how Jesus allowed the woman in the house of the Pharisees to worship Jesus opened a door
 - Unfortunately, Judas continues down the pathway to demonic compromise
 - **John 13:26** Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. **27** Then after he had taken the morsel, **Satan entered into him.** Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”
- **ONCE** we are offended and walking in unforgiveness – the enemy has an open door to our heart
- We lose our ability to hear God's voice
 - We take on the enemy's role of unforgiveness, offense, and accusation!
 - We are now on the way to doing Satan's work in betraying our brothers and sisters!

EIGHT Types of arrows of the Evil One

2. TWO- Accusation

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. **For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.**

- One name for Satan is the Devil
 - That word in GK literally means slanderer or false accuser
 - This should tell you about his nature and job description
- Accusations from the enemy can come in several forms
 - a)He will accuse you personally:
 - *Of not being worthy of God’s forgiveness*
 - *Of not being able to change*

EIGHT Types of arrows of the Evil One

2. TWO- Accusation

➤ He will accuse God to you

- He will attack God's character and see if you will take the bait
- Is God really true to His Word?
- Will God really come through for you
- Does God or can God love you?
- He will make God out to be the bad guy in your life out to steal all your joy

➤ He will accuse others to you – inviting you to take on a critical, unforgiving heart

- He will bring up past hurts
- He will seek to tempt us away from a heart of love, forgiveness and compassion
- He will seek to foster a critical spirit where we see another person's faults and lose a heart of love and compassion for them

Prayer & Discussion

➤ Discussion:

- What is your own experience with the arrows of the enemy?
- How can we be better prepared to defend ourselves spiritually and emotionally?

➤ Prayer

- Ask if any have been hit by the enemy's arrows recently and pray for them. Pray for spiritual protection over ROL, Our House Churches, and Our Families