

## “ADJ - Spiritual Warfare Part 4” (8-28-22)

**Review Last 3: Our Enemy** - lies / **Our Savior** - the truth / **Our Role** - battleground & weapons

**Introduction:** Spiritual Warfare part 4 - Ready for Battle! (recognize & respond to the enemies schemes)

### 1) Distort

Satan works to twist or distort our view of God, ourselves, or our circumstances . . .

#### **Genesis 3:1 (ESV)**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God actually say**, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

**Example:** Emily waking up from anesthesia after wisdom teeth pulled

#### **Judges 7:14-15 (ESV)**

(14) And his comrade answered, “This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp.” (15) As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, “Arise, for the LORD has given the host of Midian into your hand.”

**Note:** Gideon faced down 120,000 men with 300

**Recognize & Respond:** Truth & Clarity - what’s true about God, and my place in this situation/circumstance

### 2) Distract

Satan works to distract us, keeping us too busy to be present to what really matters . . .

#### **Mark 4:7, 18b-19 (ESV)**

Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain . . . They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

**Example:** Weeding this week - it was neglected, the weeds grew around plants, I don’t tend the garden

#### **Song of Solomon 2:15-16a (ESV)**

Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom. My beloved is mine, and I am his

**Note:** Out of love, I tend my relationship with the Lord & I run off the “little” (small, young, insignificant) foxes

#### **Colossians 3:1-2 (ESV)**

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

**Recognize & Respond:** Remember your affection, reset your attention, & weed out the distraction

### 3) Discourage

Satan works to discourage us by accusation or despair, so we feel stuck, hopeless, & overwhelmed . . .

Jesus stays behind to pray at night while disciples cross the sea . . .

#### **Matthew 14:24-31 (ESV)**

(24) but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. (25) And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. (26) But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (28) And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." (29) He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (30) But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." (31) Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

**Example:** Abby in the ocean waves - when I saw her face, I knew she was overwhelmed

#### **Psalms 61:1-3 (NKJV)**

(1) Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. (2) From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. (3) For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

#### **Psalms 61:7b (NKJV)**

Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him!

**Recognize & Respond:** When isolated and overwhelmed, call out to God and get in the boat with friends!

### 4) Deceive

Satan works to deceive us mixing lies with truth or speaking only partial truths in order to confuse . . .

#### **Matthew 4:2-4 (ESV)**

(2) And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. (3) And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." (4) But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**Note:** Satan played on His hunger & even tried to use scripture (vs 5-7) twisting its use & meaning!

**Example:** Fishing lure / Worm on a hook - it looks appetizing, but its objective is death! Deception is aimed at our vulnerabilities - so be careful what you eat . . .

#### **1 John 4:1 (ESV)**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (ESV)**

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.

#### **Acts 17:11 (ESV)**

Now these Jews (in Berea) were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

**Recognize & Respond:** We need mutual accountability, with the Word as our ultimate food source!

## 5) Divide

Satan works to divide us, because he knows we are stronger when united . . .

### **Ecclesiastes 4:12 (ESV)**

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

**Unity is important to Jesus . . .**

### **John 17:11, 23 (ESV)**

(11) And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. . . (23) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

- **Maintain Unity** - Humility, Gentleness, patience, Bearing with one-another in love! (**Ephesians 4:1-3**)
- **Peacemaker** - Jesus reconciled us to God (forgiveness/transfer of debt), we are to be peacemakers too!  
(**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**)

**A Peacemaker** - it's costly, difficult, and vital to the body of Christ!

**Recognize & Respond:** Be Eager to maintain unity, and chose to be a peacemaker when things are broken!

**Conclusion:** We will face spiritual warfare - are we ready for the fight? Let's be ready to recognize & respond!