

## “ADJ - Spiritual Warfare Part 1” (8-7-22)

**Introduction:** This series - our enemy, his tactics, our authority in Christ, and our weapons for the fight

**Today: Our enemy - The Devil**

### 1) Satan is Real

- **OT** - Genesis to Job
- **Gospels** - Jesus’ temptation to Judas’ betrayal & Jesus’ murder at the hands of “religious leaders”
- **NT Letters** - Peter, Paul, John all reference him as a real enemy we still face
- **Revelation** - largely about Satan’s work to destroy & his ultimate failure & defeat

### Satan’s Role & Legacy . . .

#### **Luke 10:18 (ESV)**

And (Jesus) said to them, “I saw **Satan** fall like lightning from heaven.

#### **Revelation 12:7-9 (ESV)**

(7) Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, (8) but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. (9) And the **great dragon** was thrown down, that **ancient serpent**, who is called the **devil** and **Satan**, the **deceiver** of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Why Satan was cast-down . . .

#### **Isaiah 14:12-15 (ESV)**

(12) “How you are fallen from heaven, **O Day Star**, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! (13) You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ (15) But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

#### **Ezekiel 28:13-17 (ESV)**

(13) You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. (14) You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. (15) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. (16) In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. (17) Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

Satan still seeks worship in his pride . . .

#### **Matthew 4:8-10 (ESV)**

(8) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” (10) Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””

#### **1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)**

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your **adversary** the **devil** prowls around like a **roaring lion**, seeking someone to **devour**.

## 2) Satan is powerful

### John 10:10 (ESV)

The **thief** comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

**Note:** He is powerful and wants to destroy. But he's not what we often think of . . .

### 2 Corinthians 11:13-14 (ESV)

(13) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for even **Satan disguises himself as an angel of light**.

**Note:** He is deceptive & appealing - not obvious & ugly

### Romans 16:17-18 (ESV)

(17) I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. (18) For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by **smooth talk** and **flattery** they **deceive the hearts of the naive**.

**Note:** He uses smooth talk, flattery, & deceit - He is more subtle than we think, therefore we must be aware!

Paul's warning is that we be aware . . .

### 2 Corinthians 2:11 (ESV)

so that we would not be **outwitted by Satan**; for we are **not ignorant of his designs**.

Jesus warning & teaching on Satan (this is part of a huge & important dialog in John 8) . . .

### John 8:44 (ESV)

You are of **your father the devil**, and your will is to **do your father's desires**. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**.

**Note:** Let's take note of how he operates - He tells lies!

From "Live no lies" by John Mark Comer (pg 23) - Our 3 enemies . . .

### John Mark Comer

"Deceptive ideas (**Devil**) that play to disordered desires (**Flesh**) that are normalized in a sinful society (**World**)"

Jesus offers an alternative solution to the power of Satan and the pull of our flesh & society . . .

### John 8:31-32 (ESV)

(31) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**Note:** Knowing & living in co-operation with Truth is the way to true freedom!

This leads to our last point this morning . . .

### 3) Satan is defeated

We ought to be aware, not afraid . . .

#### Colossians 2:8-10, 15 (ESV)

(8) See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. (9) For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, (10) and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority . . . (15) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them

**Note:** Christ is victorious over Satan & the way of the world - and in Him we too can triumph!

#### Ephesians 6:10-11 (ESV)

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **schemes of the devil**.

**Note:** Find strength in Jesus & use the armor he has given us

We do face a powerful adversary, but there is ultimate hope & victory for us . . .

#### 1 Peter 5:8-10 (ESV)

(8) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your **adversary** the **devil** prowls around like a **roaring lion**, seeking someone to **devour**. (9) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (10) And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

**Conclusion:** Satan is real, powerful - works through deception & lies that are appealing, but he is ultimate defeated in Christ. Therefore, we should live aware and sober-minded, but not afraid.

We have victory in Christ and we will be discussing more about how we walk in freedom and victory in the coming weeks!