

EXPOSING THE ENEMY LESSON 1 Notes | July 10/11, 2021 | Pastor Mark Bofill

The theme verse for this series is (1 Peter 5:8, NLT): ***Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*** –

Peter reveals three important facts in this verse:

- We have an Enemy!
- Our Enemy is looking for ways to destroy God's people
- We have to remain Alert!

Jesus told us plainly in (John 10:10a) that ***Satan desires to Steal, Kill and Destroy*** us all!

What are we to do? The answer is found in (1 Peter 5:9a NLT), **RESIST HIM!** i.e., *Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith!*

WHO IS THE DEVIL?

– In (Revelation 12:9a), the apostle John exposes his deceptive character along with four names and titles: “So the **great dragon** was cast out, that **serpent of old**, called **the Devil** and **Satan**, who **deceives the whole world...**”

– In (John 8:44) Jesus reveals that, ***“he was a murderer from the beginning, and he does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him...when he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”***

- **So, who is the Devil?** He is a **Deceiver**, a **Murderer** and a **Liar!** And he is our **Adversary** because **he opposes God** and **seeks to devour us** because we are the people of God.

In his book, ***The Strategy of Satan*** by Warren Wiersbe; the author describes ***Satan's attack on four O.T. characters***, which he sought to devour! – The characters are **Eve**, **Job**, **David** and **Joshua**; each of which **became unique targets**, of which **Satan used specific weapons** to discourage them from following God's will.

God DID NOT create the Devil as we know him today. (Ezekiel 28:12-19) provides a detailed picture of the beauty and wisdom with which Satan was **originally created**. ***“He was, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty...every precious stone was his covering...he was the anointed cherub that covers.”*** – (Isaiah 14:12-17) tells us that **his name was Lucifer**, before his fall.

The great mystery then is how such a wise and beautiful being could have fallen to such depths, to become the vilest being in the universe!

- (Isaiah 14:13-14) ***For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ – PRIDE!***
- (Ezekiel 28:17a) ***“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground...”***

- Because Satan **wanted to be God**, he was cast to the earth. Because **he could not be God** and he actually hates everything of God; Satan made a **TARGET** of God's beloved creation...mankind!

I. HIS SPECIFIC TARGET (Gen 3:1-6) – Adam and Eve! – But the Devil knew that the woman was more vulnerable than the man, so **he set his sights on EVE to deceive her MIND!**

- A. He challenged **God's Word** - (Genesis 3:1) "*Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of **Every Tree** of the garden'?"*
- B. He challenged **God's Goodness** - (Genesis 3:5) "*For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.*"
- C. He challenged **Eve's Senses** - In (Genesis 3:6), notice the senses that were aroused: "*...the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate.*"
- D. Through his cunning ways, Satan seduced Eve to "**consider the tree**" apart from God's word. '*Just look at it...You can be like GOD! – Satan never advertises that it's a lie... he always masquerades his lies as God's truth.*

Shortly after, **Adam transgressed**, therefore subjecting mankind and the whole world to sin nature.

- Satan still targets our minds today: *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3).*
- As Christians, *we should not be ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Corinthians 2:11b)*

II. HIS SPECIFIC WEAPONS? – Lies and Deception!

- His lies can **sow doubt in our minds and hearts**, which actually **erodes our faith!**
- One of the devil's biggest lies...**Holiness is NOT possible!**
- If Satan can get you to believe a lie, ***then he can begin to work in your life to lead you into sin.*** This why we must protect our minds from the attacks of the wicked one.

III. HIS SPECIFIC PURPOSE? – To make all mankind Ignorant of God's will!

*"The enemy wants us to **mess up** (fall into sin), **give up** (get discouraged), **get puffed up** (live in pride and arrogance), **split up** (divide), or **shut up** (quit evangelizing) – Chuck Lawless*

- **Christians who are ignorant of God's will** never grow into their full potential and they seldom enjoy God's peace and power.

- **If we want to understand God's will, we have to spend time in his word!**
 - (Acts 22:14) declares “The God of our fathers has appointed you to **KNOW His will.**”
 - (Col 1:9b) says that we should, “...be filled with the **KNOWLEDGE** of His will..”
 - (Eph 6:6) tells us to, “...**DO** the will of God from the heart.”
- **Satan attacks the mind because God uses it to communicate and reveal his will to us!**

IV. WHAT IS OUR DEFENSE? The Inspired Word of God! – When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-12), He used the same weapon that is available to us today: ***The Word of God.***

- **When Satan tempted Jesus’ FLESH to make bread, He replied “**It is written**, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”**
- **When the Tempter challenged Jesus’s PRIDE (Identity), Jesus said to him, “**It is written again**, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”**
- **When the Devil tempted Jesus’ EYES by showing him all the kingdoms, Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! **For it is written**, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” – Then the devil left Him!**

If we are going to defeat Satan’s Lies & Temptations, then we need to depend on the Word of God!

We must **KNOW** God’s Word, **MEMORIZE** God’s Word, **MEDITATE** on God’s Word, and **USE** God’s Word so much, **that our minds become like spiritual computers**, which automatically recall scriptures for any circumstance!

(Hebrews 4:12) tells us that “the **word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Nowhere are Christians told to fight the devil in the flesh. Jesus ultimately conquered the Devil on the cross! – **Our part is to walk by faith and stand in His victory!** – **We do not need to fight the Devil, we need to resist him**, (James 4:7) says, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

When Satan attacks our minds, we need to “Take every thought captive” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6) – Don’t entertain wicked thoughts, discouraging thoughts, or lustful thoughts... **Subject your thought life to the truth of God’s Word.**

Stay alert Church! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion **looking for someone to devour** (1 Peter 5:8)

Application Questions:

- **Do I know God's will for my life? Do I really want to know?**
- **Do I believe everything that God says in the Bible?**
- **Are there any lies in my mind right now that I am believing?**