

The Designs of the Devil and How to Fight Them 2 Corinthians 2

Open – The importance of Intelligence in warfare

1. Satan wants to DECEIVE, so we choose the TRUTH (vv. 1-4)

- Satan's first trick is to lie to us about God and about one another
- We tell the truth, even if it is challenging to hear it
- "Did God really say?" in the garden
- Jesus modeled this in the wilderness

We are bombarded with lies and doubts, so we retaliate with Scripture

2. Satan wants to DISCOURAGE, so we choose to ENCOURAGE (vv. 5-9)

- There is no neutral position between discouraged and encouraged
- One of the major functions of the church is for our encouragement (2 Cor. 14)

Encouraging someone on purpose is one of the best weapons in Spiritual warfare

3. Satan wants to DIVIDE, so we choose to FORGIVE (vv. 10-11)

- Seventy times seven
- Satan hates Jesus, so he wants to divide what Jesus loves most
- What's the opposite of forgiveness? Anger, fear, selfishness, grumbling, etc.

Forgiveness is the first order of obedience and transformation for the believer

4. Satan wants to DESTROY, so we choose the TRIUMPH of the Gospel (vv. 12-17)

- Our weapons are divinely powered to destroy the destroyer (2 Cor. 10:4-6)
- God is the winner, and our lives are his victory parade
- The aroma of the Gospel spreads to celebrate His triumph wherever it is
- It reminds those who reject Him that they have lost and will lose
- It reminds those who are being saved that His Kingdom is indestructible

Satan cannot destroy what Jesus has redeemed through His work

Questions for reflection, study, and small groups:

- 1) What are the 4 “D”s of Satan’s plans? Which one has affected you lately?
- 2) How is the Gospel the antidote to all of Satan’s plans?
- 3) Paul tells the Corinthians that this person’s sin hurt all of them more than it hurt Paul. How is that true in a church setting?
- 4) What reason does Paul give for them to forgive the man who sinned against them?
- 5) What aroma would you say you are spreading as you go through your life? What are some specific things you can do to make sure the aroma is the knowledge of God?
- 6) Pray that the Holy Spirit would remind you daily that you are being led in the triumphal procession of Christ.