

How do we overcome the enemies?

1. **God did not create Satan. He created angels to be servants. However, there was an angel leader who did not obey God/was not submissive to God. This angel leader led 1/3 angels to go against God and they became God's enemies.**

- . “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! 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; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit...” (Isaiah 14:12-15 ESV)
- . Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14 ESV)
- . And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth... (Revelation 12:3-4 ESV)

2. **They are called Devil, Satan and the demons/evil spirits. Satan and the demons/evil spirits are against the will of God and they want to destroy the work of God.**

- . 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.’” (Matthew 4:10 ESV)
- . 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. (Revelation 12:9 ESV)
- . Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1 ESV)
- . Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. (Zechariah 3:1 ESV)
- . The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. (Acts 5:16 ESV)

- . And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (2 Corinthians 11:14-15 ESV)

3. **Satan and the evil spirits always tempt and deceive people. They make many not believe in God's love and not walk on the right path. They make many lusts after the pleasures of sin, and as a result, many people have become the slaves of sin.**

- . The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (Luke 8:12 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. (John 8:44 ESV)
- . In which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 2:2 ESV)
- . For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (2 John 1:7 ESV)

4. **Satan also slanders and defames God and twists God's image. He makes us misunderstand God, thinking that He is mean and strict. We may even think that God is always watching us to find our faults, which makes us afraid to go to God.**

- . 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'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:1-5 ESV)
- . It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming His name and His dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (Revelation 13:6 ESV)

- . And exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:23 ESV)

5. Satan accuses us, making us feel we are not good enough. He will magnify the problems, make us have shadows and feel that God does not like us. He makes us down and have no mood/motivation to draw near to God.

- . And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God..." (Revelation 12:10 ESV)

- . And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have You not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face." (Job 1:8-11 ESV)

6. Satan even puts negative thoughts and feelings in our hearts to affect our relationship with God and with other people.

- . Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1 ESV)
- . For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ESV)
- . During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him. (John 13:2 ESV)

7. When we are deceived, we suffer/we feel bitter.

- . The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;... (Psalm 16:4 ESV)

- . We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (1 John 5:19 ESV)

8. Don't be afraid. On the cross, the Lord cried out "it's finished!" The Lord has defeated Satan. He has risen from the dead and now He is holding all authority for us.

- . When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. (John 19:30 ESV)
- . That He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church. (Ephesians 1:20-22 ESV)
- . But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. (Hebrews 10:12-13 ESV)
- . Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14 ESV)

9. The Lord has given us authority. In the name of the Lord, we can cast out Satan and the evil spirits. When they hear us, all the enemies are scared and flee away.

- . And He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons. (Mark 3:14-15 ESV)
- . Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (Luke 10:19 ESV)

10. The Lord has given us the Bible, the precious word of God. It has disclosed the cunning schemes of the enemies so that we will not be deceived by Satan. We need to know:

- a. God loves us the most. The Heavenly Father and the Lord live in our hearts forever and they will never leave.**

- . And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you...” (John 14:16-18 ESV)

b. The Lord has saved us. We are whiter than snow and we are suitable to come before God.

- . Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25 ESV)
- . No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV)
- . For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14 ESV)

c. All the things on earth are temporary. We have treasures in heaven. If we work for the Lord in this life, we will receive rewards in heaven.

- . Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12 ESV)
- . In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV)

d. When the enemies tempt us/When we face the temptations from the enemies, we can ask the Lord to save us. We should not focus on the temptations; rather, we should focus on the Lord's love and all good things.

- . And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Or the evil one; some manuscripts add For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:13 ESV)

- . Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:6-8 ESV)
- . If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (Colossians 3:1-2 ESV)
- . Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 ESV)