

Spiritual Warfare

1 Peter 5:8-9

PART TWO

Introduction [Due to technical problems, the recording picks up 10-12 minutes into the sermon.]

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

“Be sober-minded” - self-controlled. Self-control is our major defense against spiritual attack and defeat.

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded” (1 Peter 1:13).

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers” (1 Peter 4:7).

“use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in/as not abusing (KJV) them. For this world in its present form is passing away” (1 Corinthians 7:31 NIV).

“So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8).

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

“Your adversary” This is personal.

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat” (Luke 22:31).

“adversary” literally, a legal opponent in a law suit.

“Abaddon” and “Apollyon” both mean ‘destroyer.’

“the ruler of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30).

“the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).

Ephesians 2:1-3

“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).

“Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” (Revelation 12:12).

“Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea” (Revelation 12:17).

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

The devil controls people for evil purposes in two ways:

- 1) by orchestrating demonic activity and the deception of unbelievers in the world (Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor. 4:4);
- 2) by controlling the world system – *the cosmos* – leading people into sinful thinking and behavior.

“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, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared” (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

“the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19).

Satan, who controls the “whole world” system of evil, uses a three-pronged method to devour people:

- 1) desires of the flesh
- 2) desires of the eyes
- 3) pride in possessions

The issue of God’s *permissive* will.

Is Satan and his demons allowed to afflict God’s people? *Yes* (Job 1:12; 2:6).

But he is never allowed ultimate victory over them (John 16:33; Romans 8:1, 37).

God’s great purposes in permitting Satan to hinder and afflict God’s people:

- 1) that your pride may be crushed so that Christ’s strength may be seen in you:**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- 2) that you may not pursue a strong desire – even when it seems right and good to do:**

“But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us” (1 Thessalonians 2:17-18).

- 3) that you might be made more useful and effective in helping other believers:**

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32).

- 4) that your faith may be tested:**

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

Since *all* people are sinners, what’s the difference between sinning believers and sinning unbelievers?

1 John 3:8-10

This is not to say that people are not responsible for their sinful thinking and acting – *they are*.

Because, whether the main influence is the world, the flesh, or the devil, *people make their own choices*.

Adam and Eve were not *compelled* to commit sin, they were *convinced* to commit sin.

“Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5).

12 Main Objectives of the Destroyer

1. His aim is to overwhelm you with insufferable circumstances that seem insurmountable.
2. He wants to afflict you with things that tear you down spiritually, emotionally, and physically.
3. He wants to distract you from things that matter most to God.
4. He wants you to openly question God’s goodness, His limitless grace, the richness of His mercy, and His inexhaustible love.
5. He wants you to defy God’s Word—to neglect it, question its relevancy, challenge its authority, and rebel against it.
6. He wants you to doubt your faith and damage your testimony.
7. He wants you to live an autonomous, independent, self-governed life, separate from the community.
8. He wants you to be fooled into thinking one thing and having it turn out completely different.
9. He wants you convinced that you’re a miserable failure, and that God is displeased with you, and has rejected or abandoned you.
10. He wants to remind you of your sin so often that you begin to lose hope—even to despair of life itself.
11. He wants you to give up in bitter frustration. He wants you angry. He wants you to quit – your job, your marriage, your ministry, your faith.
12. He wants to aggravate you incessantly. He wants to torture you mentally. He wants to destroy you permanently.