

# Spiritual WARFARE

## KNOWING YOUR ADVERSARY

### BUILDING A COMPOSITE PICTURE OF SATAN

- ❶ Satan was originally created by God as a good, guardian angel. (Ezekiel 28:12b-17)
  - ❷ Before the creation of the earth, Satan became inflamed with jealous arrogance in his desire to replace God as the supreme ruler of all creation. (Ezekiel 28:15-17; Isaiah 14:12-14)
  - ❸ Because of Satan's sin, he was cast from his original dwelling place in Heaven. (Isaiah 14:15; Ezekiel 28:16-17; Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:7-9)
  - ❹ One third (1/3) of God's holy angels joined Satan in his rebellion & were cast out of Heaven to the earth with their evil leader. (Rev. 12:4, 7-12)
  - ❺ By the abuse of their free will, these fallen angels (devils or demons) became enemies of God. (Hebrews 10:27; 1 John 3:8)
  - ❻ Satan, the leader or dictator of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael the archangel. (Rev. 12:7-8)
  - ❼ The primary sphere of demonic influence is the earth, though very limited access to Heaven is still temporarily granted. (Job 1:6; 2:1; Rev. 12:7-10, 12)
  - ❽ The ultimate victory of spiritual warfare between Heaven and Hell has already been determined. (Gen. 3:14-15; Matthew 25:41; 1 John 3:8)
  - ❾ The Church will be involved in the ultimate defeat of Satan and all demonic forces. (Romans 16:20; 1 Cor. 6:3; Rev. 12:11)
- ▶ Ephesians 6:12 - *Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

### HELPFUL RESOURCE – THE BONDAGE BREAKER (Neil Anderson)

#### NAMES OF THE ADVERSARY

- ▶ Satan (1 Chronicles 21:1) = the \_\_\_\_\_... one who \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ the devil (Matt. 25:41) = one who \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
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| ▶ the enemy (Luke 10:19)                     | ▶ the angel of the abyss (Rev. 9:11)             |
| ▶ the evil one (Matt. 6:13)                  | ▶ the prince of this world (John 14:30)          |
| ▶ the tempter (Matt. 4:3)                    | ▶ the prince of demons (Matt. 12:24)             |
| ▶ accuser (Rev. 12:10)                       | ▶ the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Eph. 2:2) |
| ▶ destroyer = Abaddon / Apollyon (Rev. 9:11) | ▶ the god of this age (world) (2 Cor. 4:4)       |

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▶ Belial / Beliar (2 Cor. 6:15)   | ▶ murderer (John 8:44)              |
| ▶ Beelzebub (Luke 11:15)          | ▶ liar / father of lies (John 8:44) |
| ▶ the ancient serpent (Rev. 20:2) | ▶ great dragon (Rev. 12:7-9)        |

### TWO MAIN STRATEGIES OF SATAN

- ❶ Unbelievers: \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- ❷ Believers: \_\_\_\_\_ our lives through \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### PRESENT MISSION OF THE CHURCH (Matthew 28:18-20)

- ▶ Satan's Goal: \_\_\_\_\_ the Great Commission
- ▶ Ephesians 4:27; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:1

### WHY DID JESUS COME TO THIS PLANET?

- ▶ 1 John 3:8b; 4:4b; Colossians 2:13-15

### OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MIDST OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- ▶ Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 4:8

### THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- ▶ Revelation 11:15; 20:10; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 15:24-26

Creekside Events



### Prayer

Begin by welcoming any newcomers and inviting the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Ask God to open hearts and provide wisdom to discern the spiritual forces around you.

### My Story

When you first came to faith in Christ, what was your view of Satan? If you have walked with Jesus a while, how has your Christian lens changed your view on Satan or adjusted your worldview?

### Digging Deep

1. Thinking back on Sunday's message, what idea or lesson stood out to you?
2. **Read Colossians 2:13-15.** If Christ has already won the spiritual battle against Satan at the cross (and resurrection), why and how are we still involved in spiritual warfare?
3. Explain how **1 John 5:19** relates to **2 Corinthians 4:4** regarding every unbeliever on earth. On the flipside, how are Christ-followers protected from this?

### Digging Deeper

4. **Read Matthew 28:18-20.** The Great Commission has been given to all believers by Jesus as our mission on earth. How does Satan attempt to immobilize believers from this mission? What are some things that cause you to stray from this mission?

5. **Read 1 John 3:7-10.** In this passage, what was Jesus' mission in coming to earth? According to these verses, what is our biblical attitude toward sin supposed to be?
6. **Read Ephesians 4:25-26.** What does it mean to give the devil a foothold in your life?
7. According to the following verses, what are some of our responsibilities in the midst of spiritual warfare? Compare and contrast each verse. What stands out to you?

**Romans 12:2**

**1 Peter 5:8-9**

**Philippians 4:8**

**James 4:7** (this one is a great verse to memorize!)

### Taking It Home

8. **Read Revelation 20:10.** How can we use the truth of the future defeat of Satan as encouragement and/or perseverance to navigate our daily spiritual warfare?
9. What component of spiritual warfare is your biggest obstacle in helping fulfill the Great Commission? If willing, share your thoughts with your Lifegroup so that others can pray for you this week.

### Praying Together

Pray for each other as we submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, while also being emboldened to proclaim the gospel to our neighbors, colleagues, family and friends.