



FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Lesson 3 | The Forces of Evil

In our last lesson studied the illustration of Satan as the great enemy of our souls. But Satan is like a general, a general in command of an army of enemies. Christians have classically seen three great enemies for the soul of the believer: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

The _____

When Satan and his army attack us, they find a fifth column, a traitor that defects to them. They find the flesh, that unredeemable part of human nature that wants only to satisfy its own cravings.

_____ that Lead to Death (James 1:13-15)

Most people see human desires as neutral, if not downright good. But according to Scripture, our natural desires are not good, in fact they often lead to sin. And that sin will always lead to death in the end.

_____ the Desires that _____ Us
(Rom 8:12-14; Gal 5:16-18, 24; James 1:16-25)

For those who have accepted Christ, something has changed – they have been given the Spirit of Christ. But the flesh sticks around (for now), and there is an ongoing war in our hearts between the flesh and the Spirit, meaning we either walk in the Spirt or in the flesh. that we can obey it.

The _____

Satan is not only preying on my sinful desires, but he is also doing the same thing to people all over the world. As he does this, he leads the nations of the world in their rebellion against the Creator and incites a hostility against those who remain faithful to God.



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_____ the World

(Rom 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2)

The NT sees the world as a way of thinking that is opposed to God (Rom 12:1-2; 2 Cor 4:4). Sometimes this is outright rebellion against what God has said, sometimes it is ignoring God. But this world is also completely driven by the wrong desires of their flesh. 1 John 2:15-17 warns against loving the things the world loves – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

_____ the World (1 John 5:4; 4:4)

Our victory over the world comes through our faith in God. Satan and the world “win” when we follow them instead of what God says. Ultimately, God can overcome even the wickedness of the world, and our job is to believe Him and cling to His truth even when everyone else around us tells us we are wrong.

The _____

As with Satan, there is much Scripture does not tell us about the forces of evil at Satan’s command. But there is enough instruction to alert us to the dangers that exist and to help us know how to respond biblically.

The _____ of Demonic Powers

(Dan 10:12-13, 20-21; Eph 6:12)

Occasionally, the Bible gives us just a glimpse into the reality of the spiritual realm. We are given a sneak peek in the book of Daniel, and Paul tells us in Ephesians 6 that we are fighting against the rulers of darkness of this world.

The _____ against Demonic Powers

(Eph 6:10-18)

Many try to engage in spiritual warfare against these powers of darkness by giving a lot of instructions that don’t come from Scripture. Yet if we just read the verses around Ephesians 6:12, we can see what Paul’s solution was. Here he describes putting on the gospel armor – (Eph 6:13-17) and prayer (Eph 6:18) as the weapons of our warfare. In other words, we fight back by engaging in the “ordinary” work of discipleship.

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