



Week 3: ENEMY STRATEGIES AND BELIEVERS' AUTHORITY

Welcome. Share Key Rules: Find a quiet room; Have a bible; Hold study material.

Key scripture: 2 Cor. 2:11; **Case study: Gen 3: 1-22**

“... in order to keep Satan from getting the upper hand over us; for we know what his **plans** are”. (GNT)

“.... We don't want Satan to win any victory here, and well we know his **methods!**” J.B. Phillips

Satan has strategies [wiles, schemes, methods, devices etc]. There is a method to his madness!

The main method the devil uses against believers is **deceit (and lies)**. Rev 12:9; John 8:44

Q: Why is his main mode of operation against believers not FORCE?

Q: Give examples of lies that either you or someone you know have been told before by the enemy.

Q: How did you / they find out that it was a lie?

With his lies, he attacks the following four major areas in the life of a believer:

Case study: Gen. 3. Read this chapter and apply to the questions that follow.

The Word of God

Satan will cause you to question the Word of God. He will add to, take from, or distort the Scriptures. This is why it is important for you to study and understand God's Word so you will not be deceived by these attacks.

Q: How did satan attack the word of God?

Q: Which of God's promises / word has come under attack in your life?

He has mastered the act of attacking the word of God. Luke 8:12

He gets you to disbelieve it, dismiss it, deride it etc.

He goes a step further to lie about the consequences of sin?

How did he (Satan) do this in Chpt 3 and why do you think he uses this method often?

The devil does all kind of things against the word in your heart (Mark 4:13 – 19)

Your worship of God

Satan's original rebellion involved his desire to be worshipped (just like God), so he especially targets the worship of believers. He does not want you to worship God or fellowship with him. He leads you to false or fleshly worship.

Q: How did satan minimize the need for God and promote 'self worship' in Gen. 3?

Specify the verse that suggests that the woman could do without God.

What are the ways we worship God? [e.g singing praises, praying,]. Satan attacks these.

What are the ways we worship self? Satan encourages these.

Your walk with God

Satan attacks your personal walk with God. He convinces you to step out and walk a path where God does not go to. He activates the world and all that is in it (lust of the, the lust of the and the of life 1 John 2:15-17) to get you to step away from God. Once you are no longer on God's side, he then accuses you and makes you feel ashamed. He is an accuser Rev. 12:10; Zechariah 3:1-4

Is there a correlation between 1 John 2:16 and this story in Gen 3? If yes, explain.

List the three desires that pull us away from God and supplant our love for Him.

What do these desires mean to you?

Your work for God:

Satan also attacks your work for God. He will try to deter you from accomplishing God's will by persecution, disaster, discouragement, prayerlessness, and busy involvement with the cares of the world. Satan also tries to affect your work for God by infiltrating the Church with false teachers and disciples (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; II Peter 2:1-19).

The devil seems to get a better result as "an angel of light" than as a "roaring lion" 1Peter 5:8.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve could not continue with the work / task/ assignment that God originally gave them. They were driven out of the garden (Gen 3:24).

The Good News

Jesus has all authority (Matt. 28:18 - 20).

He has disarmed principalities and powers. He did so, publicly (Col 2:15).

The good news is that Jesus gave his disciples authority over all powers of the enemy (Matt. 10:1; Luke 10:17-20).

We have the authority. We also have the weapon to engage.

Now that the cover of the devil has been blown open, under what circumstance(s) would he gain the upper hand when next he attempts to strike?

Now let's discuss our weapons.....

Final charge. Questions / Remarks. Closing Prayer.

Acknowledgement / Resource for further studies:

Spiritual Strategies: A Manual for Spiritual Warfare (by Harvestime International Institute).