

Level Up Theological Intensive: Satan, Suffering, and Spiritual Warfare

Session 1: A Biblical View of Satan

GOAL: To grow to know and trust what the Bible teaches about Satan, Suffering, Spiritual Warfare, so that we can walk through spiritual _____ with confidence, courage, and comfort found in Christ.

*“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
-1 John 4:4*

Two Drifts to Avoid:

1. Avoid the drift of thinking too _____ about Satan.

2. Avoid the drift of thinking too _____ of Satan.

“He should be taken seriously, for malice and cunning make him fearsome; Yet not so seriously as to provoke abject terror of him, for he is a beaten enemy. Satan is stronger than we are, but Christ has triumphed over Satan, and Christians will triumph over him too if they resist him with the resources that Christ supplies. ‘The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.’” - J.I. Packer

The Names of Satan

Satan means _____, or accuser. (Job 1:6)

He is the crafty serpent. (Gen 3:1, Rev 12:9)

He is the _____. (Rev. 12:9, Eph 6:11, James 4:6, 1 Pet 5:8, John 8:44, Matt 4:1, John 13:2)

He is the evil one. (John 17:5, 1 John 2:13-14, m=Matt 13:19, Eph 5:16, 1 John 5:18, 19)

He is the adversary. (1 Peter 5:8)

He is the god of this _____. (2 Cor. 4:4)

He is the prince of the power of the air. (Eph 2:2)

He is the great _____. (Rev 12:8-9)

He is the father of lies. (John 8:44)

He is the _____ who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10)

Who is Satan?

1. Satan is a _____ made by God.

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God **had made.**” - Gen. 3:1

“For by him **all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions **or rulers or authorities**—all things were created through him and for him.” - Col 3:16 (Ezek. 28:13).

2. Satan is a fallen _____ who rebelled against God and was thrown down to earth as a punishment. (2 Pet. 2:4, Jude 6, Rev 12:13).

“Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And 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. 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. – Rev 12:8-10

“And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, 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 10:18-19

3. Satan is a personal, evil, _____ being that is active in the world seeking to deceive the world, devour God’s people, and thwart God’s redemptive purposes.

(Gen. 3; Job 1-2; Matt 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 2:15; Romans 16:20; Rev 12:9-17, 20:1-3)

“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” 1 Pet. 5:9

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

“Satan being fallen from light to darkness, from Felicity to misery, from heaven to hell, from angel to devil, is so full of malice and envy that he will leave no means unattempted, whereby he may make all others eternally miserable with himself; He being shut out of heaven, and shut up ‘under the chains of darkness until the judgment of the great day’ (Jude 6), makes use of all his power and skill to bring all the sons of men into the same condition and condemnation with himself.” — Thomas Brooks

OT References to Satan

Text 1: 1 Chronicles 21: Satan Incites David

“Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.” 1 Chron. 21:1

Text 2: Zechariah 3:1-2: Satan Seeks to Accuse Joshua the High Priest

“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. And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” – Zech. 3:1-2

Text 3: Job 1-2: Satan Gets God’s Permission to Afflict Job

Observations from Job 1-2:

- Satan is _____ to God. (1:6-7)
- Satan has to get permission to do anything. (1:12)
- God puts limits on Satan. (1:12, 2:6)
- Satan is not _____. (1:12)
- Satan is not _____. (1:9-11, 2:5)
- Satan is not _____. (1:7, 2:2)

The Fall of Satan??

Isaiah 14:12-15 - Judgment on the King of Babylon

The name _____ comes from Isaiah 14:12.

Ezekiel 28:12-17 - Judgment on the King of Tyre

What Does the Bible Clearly Teach Us about the Character and Work of Satan?

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

“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?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 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.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.” – Genesis 3:1-7

1. Satan is a _____.

“you will not surely die.” - Genesis 3:4

“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

“Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.” - John 14:6

“We have seen his glory, glory as of the only son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14

2. Satan is a _____.

“Did God actually say...” Gen. 3:1

How Does He Deceive?

Satan always over _____ and under delivers.

Satan shows you the _____, but he hides the hook.

Satan’s device is to “present the bait and hide the hook, To present the golden cup, and hide the poison; To present the sweet, the pleasure, and the profit that may flow in upon the soul by yielding to sin, and by hiding from the soul the wrath and misery that will certainly follow the committing of sin.” – Thomas Brooks

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” -Genesis 3:8-13

3. Satan is a _____.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil.** 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” 7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10 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.’ ” 11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.” -Matthew 4:1-11

a) He tempts you when you are _____ (v. 1-2).

b) He tempts you by _____ the Word of God (v. 6)

“For because he himself has suffered when tempted he is able to help those who are being tempted.” – Heb 2:18

5. Satan is the _____.

“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.” Rev 12:10

Fight the Accuser by _____ the gospel to yourself!

"There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus" Romans 8:1

"Who is to condemn you? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who has raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us!" Romans 8:34

When you sin, Satan says, "Look at **what** _____ **did**, God won't forgive you."

When you sin, Jesus says, "Look at **what** _____ **did**, I will forgive you."

Satan's Limitations: What Satan Cannot Do

1. He is not _____ (Matt 4:10, Mark 5:7, 13).

"Send us into the pigs; let us enter them. So he gave them permission." Mark 5:13

2. He cannot make you _____ (James 1:13-15).

3. Satan and demons can oppress a believer, he cannot _____ a believer (Romans 8:10, 1 Cor. 6:19).

"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him." 1 John 5:18

Satan's Future

1. Satan's future _____ has been promised since the Garden.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Gen 3:15

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." Romans 16:20

2. Satan knows his future destruction and that his time is _____.

"Because he knows that his time is short!" Rev. 12:12

3. Jesus came to destroy the _____ of the devil.

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." – 1 John 3:8

4. Christ's _____ has freed us from Satan's power over us.

"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

5. Christ's crucifixion _____ Satan of any weapon he can use against us.

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." - Col. 2:13-15

6. Christ's _____ announced his triumph and authority over Satan.

"Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him." 1 Peter 3:21-22

7. When Christ returns, Satan will be _____ and thrown into hell to suffer God's wrath forever.

"The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Rev. 20:10

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" – Matthew 25:41

Session 2: Suffering as a Christian

Wrong Views of Suffering

The Presence of Suffering: Make a list

1. Brokenness and suffering are present in the world because of _____.

Genesis 3:16-24

What kind of suffering do we now experience?

- a. Physical _____ (v. 16)
- b. _____ in relationships. (v. 16)
- c. Natural disaster, death, and chaos. (v. 17-18; See also Romans 8:19-24)
- d. _____ in our work. (v. 19)
- e. All people will _____. (v. 19)
- f. _____ from God, lack of intimacy with God. (v. 23-24)

Suffering: any weakness, trial, _____, or tragedy we experience as result of living in a fallen world.

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” – 2 Cor 12:9-10

2. Suffering is a constant _____ throughout Scripture.

Greek Words Used for Suffering

- a. *thlipsis* (45x) – often translated as *affliction, tribulation, trouble, suffering*. Describes everyday troubles.
 - 2 Cor. 1:4 – “who comforts us in all our **affliction**, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any **affliction**, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”
 - Romans 5:3 – “Not only that, but we rejoice in our **sufferings**, knowing that suffering produces endurance.
 - John 16:33 – “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have **tribulation**. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
- b. *pathema* (16x) – translated as *suffering*. Describes Christian suffering.
 - **Romans 8:18** – “For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”
 - **2 Cor. 1:5** - *For as we share abundantly in Christ’s **sufferings**, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.*
- c. *astheneia* (24x) – translated often as *weakness*. Describes physical weakness, ailments, illness, infirmities.
 - **Rom. 8:26** – “For the Spirit helps us in our **weakness**.”
 - **Heb 4:15** – “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our **weaknesses**...”
- d. *peirasmos* (21x) – translated as *trial, test, temptation*. Often used to describe the suffering that tests our faith.
 - **James 1:2** – “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet **trials** of various kinds.”
 - **1 Peter 4:12** – “Do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to **test** you.”

Hebrew Words Used for Suffering

a. *Sā-rā* (70x) – translated as *trouble, distress, adversity*.

- **Psalm 46:1** – “God is refuge and strength, a very present help in **trouble**.”
- **Psalm 120:1** – “In my **distress** I called to the LORD, and he answered me.”
- **Proverbs 17:17** – “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for **adversity**.”

b. *oni* (Oh-nee, 36x) – translated often as *affliction*. Used to describe being afflicted or oppressed by others.

- **Psalm 119:50** – “This is my comfort in my **affliction**, that your promise gives me life.”
- **Exod. 4:31** – “..he had seen their **affliction**, they bowed their heads and worshipped.”

c. *yā-gon* (14x) – translated as *sorrow or grief*. Describes physical or mental agony or grief.

- **Psalm 31:10** – “For my life is spent with **sorrow**, and my years with sighing.”

d. *ā-nā* (78x) – translated often as *affliction or humbled*. Describes the lowly condition of people who are suffering.

- **Isaiah 53:4** - Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and **afflicted**.

3. Christians are not _____ from suffering but should expect suffering.

“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.” – Romans 8:23

“For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” – 1 Pet. 2:20-21

*“Count it all joy, my brothers, **when** you meet trials of various kinds.” James 1:2*

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” 1 Pet. 4:12

God’s Promises and Purposes in Suffering

1. In our suffering, we have the comfort of Christ’s _____ and confidence in his promises.

“When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept.” John 11:33-35

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” – John 11:25-26

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” - Isaiah 43:1-2

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

“Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:23-25

2. God is in _____ control over all your suffering; therefore, you can trust him (Job 1:20-21).

Learning from Job 1-2

- a. Job is a blameless man. (1:1)
- b. It's God's idea to permit Job's suffering at the hand of Satan. (v. 8)
- c. He suffers natural disaster (16, 19), and being sinned against. (v. 15, 17)
- d. He experiences the anguish of loss of kids and possessions. (17, 19)
- e. He suffers physical pain and illness. (2:7)

This means that your suffering is not merely the _____ of living in a broken world.

*"But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. **Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?"** In all this Job did not sin with his lips." Job 2:10*

*"Though **he slay me**, I will hope in him." – Job 13:15*

*"For the Lord will not cast off forever, ³²but, though **he cause grief**, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; ³³for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men." Lam. 3:31-33*

3. God works all your suffering for your good and for his glory; therefore, not one second of your suffering is _____.

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together **for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28*

"It was good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes." Psalm 119:71

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever." – Rom 11:36

"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will. Ephesians 1:11

"But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." – John 11:4

"As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." – John 9:1-3

This allows us to not be _____ of suffering, and it allows us to be not be crushed by _____ in our suffering.

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Genesis 50:20

"For truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place." Acts 4:27-28

At the cross, the greatest _____ in the world is intended by God to accomplish the greatest good in the world.

4. Your suffering as a Christian is not God's _____, but his mercy.

"¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross." Col 2:13-14

"He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities." Psalm 103:10

5. Our suffering is designed to _____ our faith and make us more like Jesus.

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” Romans 8:29

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” Romans 5:3-4

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

“Very little is to be learned without affliction. If we would be scholars we must be sufferers. There is no royal road. to learning the royal statutes, God’s commands are best read by eyes wet with tears.” – CH Spurgeon

6. When we suffer, we get to _____ in Christ’s sufferings.

“For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.” 2 Cor. 1:5

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” – Phil 3:9

“Jesus Christ suffered, not so that we would never suffer but so that when we suffer we would be like him.” – Tim Keller

7. Suffering is given to us to prepare us for our _____ home.

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” 2 Cor. 4:16-18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” Romans 8:18

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” 1 Peter 5:10

“I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the rock of ages.” – Charles Spurgeon

8. God comforts us in our suffering so that we can _____ others in their affliction.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.” 2 Cor. 1:3-6

Our suffering humbles so that we do not become _____ comforters (Job 13:4).

Our Response to Suffering: WALK

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

W _____. (Job 1:21, Phil. 1:20-21)

A _____ for God’s help and strength to endure. (Heb. 4:16)

L _____. (John 11:35; Rom 12:15)

K _____ trusting and obeying God’s Word. (Psalm 119:50)

Our Hope: Christ came to suffer for us in order to put away our suffering _____. (Rev 21:3-5)

Session 3: Spiritual Warfare

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” – Eph 6:11

This session will not be a deep dive into occult practices, witchcraft, psychics, and animism.

The Bible prohibits these practices: Exodus 22:18, Lev. 19:26, 31, 20:27; Dt. 18:10; 1 Sam. 28; Acts 8:9-25, 13:6-12.

Our goal is to focus on how we as Christians engage _____ in what we call spiritual warfare.

“He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” 2 Kings 6:16-17

What is Spiritual Warfare?

Spiritual Warfare Text #1

*“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the **weapons of our warfare** are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.” - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

Principle 1: Our battle is not mystical, but is over our _____ to the Bible and submission to Christ.

Quick Note on Demons:

- Demon possession is _____ (Mark 1:21-28, 5:1-20, 7:24-30, 9:14-29, Luke 10:19, Acts 16:18).
- Jesus has authority over Demons (Matthew 8:32)
- Demons tremble before Jesus (Matt 8:30)
- Demons have to get _____ from Jesus (Mark 5:13)
- Demons cannot possess someone filled with the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:4; 1 Cor. 3:16, 2 Cor. 6:16, 1 John 5:19)

How Does the Bible Command Us to Engage the Enemy?

1. _____ the devil and he will flee. (James 4:7)
2. Be _____ because he wants to devour you. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
3. *Protect your marriage from Satan’s temptation’s toward sexual sin. (1 Cor. 7:5)*
4. *Give no _____ to the devil in your anger (Eph. 4:27)*
5. *Do not be outwitted by Satan or ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. 2:10-11).*
6. *Pastors are warned to not fall into the _____ of the devil (1 Tim. 3:6-7).*
7. *Put on the whole armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:11-19).*

The real weapon that makes the enemy flee is the _____.

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Cor 4:4

“God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.” 2 Tim. 2:25-26

“To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

Spiritual Warfare Text #2

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For 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.” – Eph 6:11-13

Principle 2: Our battle in the Christian life is _____ more than physical.

Spiritual Warfare Text #3

*“though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, **a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me**, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I **pleaded with the Lord about this**, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” -2 Cor 12:6-9*

Principle 3: Christ is sovereign over your on-going spiritual _____.

What is your thorn in the flesh?

- Depression or Dark Days (Psalm 42)
- Doubt (Mark 9:24)
- Anxiety or Fear (1 Pet. 5:7)
- Addiction (1 Cor. 6:12; Romans 7:15-18)
- Disability (John 9:1-3)
- Past Trauma or Abuse (Phil 3:13)
- Chronic Pain (Job 3)
- Infertility (1 Sam. 1:5)
- Marriage Difficulty (1 Cor 7:1-5)
- Persecution (Matt 5:10-12)

Putting on the Whole Armor of God

*“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, **having fastened on the belt of truth**, and having put on **the breastplate of righteousness**, ¹⁵and, as **shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace**. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and **take the helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God, ¹⁸**praying at all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” -Ephesians 6:13-20*

Christ already wore the _____ for us in our place as our victorious, warrior King!

“Unlike armchair generals who watched the fighting from a safe distance, Jesus has himself worn the armor and won the victory. You are called to wear the armor of God not because that's what Jesus would do if he found himself in a similar situation; You are called to wear that's armor because that is what Jesus has already done, wearing God's armor all the way to the cross.... Because of his victorious life, death, and resurrection, the same power that raised Christ up from the dead is now at work inside you and me throughout the ongoing work of the spirit, raising us from spiritual death to new life.” - Iain Duguid, The Whole Armor of God

1. Fasten on the _____ of Truth (14).

Jesus is the _____ (John 14:6).

“Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.” -Isaiah 11:5

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:31-32

2. Put on the _____ of Righteousness (14).

“He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate.” -Isaiah 59:17

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” -2 Cor. 5:21

3. Wear Gospel _____ (15).

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” – Isaiah 52:7

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:14-15

The best way to engage in battle against the enemy is _____ the gospel!

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” – 2 Cor. 4:4-6

4. Take Up the _____ of Faith (16).

*“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, **my shield**, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Psalm 18:2 (vv. 30, 35. See Psalm 3:3, 28:7, 119:114)*

“For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.” Psalm 91:3-4

When you face the dart of temptation... 1 Cor. 10:13 can be your shield
When you face the dart of condemnation... Rom. 8:1 can be your shield
When you face that dart of separation... Rom 8:39 can be your shield
When you face the dart of isolation... Joshua 1:9 can be your shield
When you face the dart of doubt or fear... Luke 22:31-32 can be your shield

³¹*“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,³² 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*

5. Put on the _____ of Salvation (17).

“He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head.” – Isaiah 59:17

¹²*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12*

“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” – John 10:28-29

6. Wield the _____ of the Spirit—the Word of God (17).

“He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.” Isaiah 49:2

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Heb 4:12

“In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword.” Rev 1:16

“From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.” Rev 19:15

7. Pray at all times and pray for _____ in the fight. (18-20)

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Matt. 6:13

“And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” Mark 9:28-29

8. Your battle will not last _____.

*“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the **devil** prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

*⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of **suffering** are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after **you have suffered a little while**, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 5:8-10*

Recommended Books

Satan & Spiritual Warfare

Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices - Thomas Brooks

The Whole Armor of God - Iain Duguid

Spiritual Warfare - Chuck Lawless & William Cook

Safe and Sound - David Powlison

The Screwtape Letters – C.S. Lewis

When I Don’t Desire God – John Piper

When the Darkness Will Not Lift – John Piper

Against the Darkness – Graham Cole

Suffering

Walking with God in Pain and Suffering – Timothy Keller

The Insanity of God – Nik Ripkin

The Bruised Reed – Richard Sibbes

Gentle and Lowly – Dane Ortlund

Suffering – Paul David Tripp

The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment – Jeremiah Burroughs

All Things for Good – Thomas Watson

When God Weeps – Joni Eriksson Tada

The Promise is His Presence – Glenna Marshall

Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy – Mark Vroegop

The Path of Loneliness – Elizabeth Elliot

God’s Grace in Your Suffering – David Powlison

Suffering and Sovereignty of God – John Piper

Holy Fear – Chistina Fox

Spurgeon Sorrows – Zack Eswine

On Getting Out of Bed – Alan Noble

A Christian’s Guide to Mental Illness – David Murray