

Day 1

The Devil at Your Door – The Deceiver

31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31–32)

It’s the start of a new year, and we may have made plans and resolutions for the year, but Satan has plans for us this year too.

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

– Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

As we start this New Year we need to recognize that we are in a battle and that our Enemy wants to steal, kill and destroy our joy, our families, our relationships and our witness.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

But we don’t need to fear Satan, because he can’t get to us without going through our Heavenly Father. Even though we don’t need to fear him, we do need to be aware of his strategies or we could end up living an unfruitful life.

What plans have you made for the New Year? How many of those plans involve God? Do you realize that we are in a war and that our joy, our families, and our future are at stake?

Day 2

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44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1)

If we are to live a victorious life we must understand something about the strategy of Satan. Satan's native language is lying. Everything that he whispers in your ear is a lie and has only one purpose; to distort God's word for your destruction.

From the beginning, Satan has effectively used a strategy to make us doubt the Word of God. In Gen. 3:1 the serpent doesn't deny that God spoke to Eve, but rather he causes Eve to question what God said. This started Eve on a road that led her to doubt the goodness of God and fall into sin that would forever change her life.

Satan wants to get you to start questioning the Word of God. When you start having doubts about the Word of God, take those doubts to God and ask Him to help you through those doubts.

Day 3

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1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (Gen 3:1-7)

In verses 1-3 we see that neither Eve nor Satan accurately relayed God's command. God never said anything about not touching the fruit. Satan was trying to get Eve to focus on the one thing she couldn't have. God can bless us with every spiritual blessing and we will focus on the one area of our life where we are struggling. This can cause us to doubt the goodness of God. And when we doubt the goodness of God it becomes a lot easier to disobey God. In our life Satan comes at us in the same way he deceived Eve. For example:

Is God really loving? If God is Love, then He would want me to be happy because a loving god wouldn't want me to be unhappy.

Therefore I should do what makes me happy.

***Where have you started to doubt the goodness of God in your life?
Are you using faulty, worldly logic to justify your actions?***

Day 4

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Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matt 4:1-4)

We can have security systems, alarms and locks on our house and be so concerned about the enemy on the outside of our house (thieves and robbers) that we don't realize that our Enemy is already inside our house and we don't know how to fight. Satan is attacking our finances, our families and our relationships. We are fighting the wrong battles and losing. We need to realize that our battle is a Spiritual battle.

In Ephesians 6 Paul tells us to be dressed in armor. God has already given His people the weapons necessary to win the battle.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For 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. (Eph. 6:11-12)

In Matt 4 we see that Satan came to Jesus to tempt Him when Jesus was at His weakest point. Satan often attacks us at night when we are tired or during stressful times.

Are you focused on the wrong enemy? Has Satan already penetrated your house? Are you stressed and tired? Get ready for Satan's attack.

Day 5

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12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

In Ephesians 6 most of the items listed are defensive in nature; the helmet, shield, breastplate, etc. But there is one weapon listed that is offensive and that is the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. In Heb. 4:12 the word for sword is gladius. The Roman gladius was a short double edged sword less than 2 feet long that would be stored hidden over the heart. It was typically used during hand to hand combat when a long weapon like a spear couldn't be used. Our battle with Satan is hand to hand.

In Matt 4 Satan first attacks Jesus' hunger. Jesus uses scripture (gladius) to combat him. Satan attack's Jesus' identity second while twisting scripture. Jesus uses scripture (gladius) to combat him. Lastly Satan shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and offers Him a way to bypass the cross. Jesus uses scripture (gladius) to combat him. All three times the weapon that Jesus uses is the Word of God. If we don't have the word of God we are in trouble.

Do we know where our sword is? Do we even realize that we are in a battle? How much scripture have you committed to your heart and mind? Make a commitment to start memorizing scripture today!

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I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)

16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (Rev 1:16)

Before God's Word can come out of your mouth it first has to be in your heart. Satan isn't scared of your intellect, charisma, etc. The only thing he is scared of is the Word of God. In Revelation we see Jesus with a sharp double-edged sword coming out of His mouth. Jesus is going to win the victory with just a Word. Satan may have taken some areas of your life, but the only way we can take them back is by using our weapon, the Word of God.

When we are attacked by Satan we shouldn't just think of a verse, we need to proclaim it out loud. Satan can't hear our thoughts, so we need to proclaim it out loud. When we resist the Devil in this way, he will flee like he did after Jesus resisted his temptations.

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:7-10)

God has given us every weapon we need not only to resist Satan, but to start winning the fight against temptation.

Have you taken up your gladius in the fight against Satan? Do you need to start memorizing scripture so that you have a weapon to use?

