

SPIRITUAL WARFARE 4

Focused Living Ministries

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Eph 6:12 TLB



IF I WERE THE DEVIL I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world. I would delude their minds into thinking that they had come from man' effort, instead of God's blessings. I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of loving people and using things. I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue.

I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership. I would make it legal to take the life of unborn babies. I would make it socially acceptable to take one's own life, and invent machines to make it convenient. I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that animals are valued more than human beings. I would convince young couples that the unborn will inconvenience their lives and should be terminated. I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a law suit. I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to advertise them. I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member for my agenda. I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation. I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation.

I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens, and I would call it art. I would confuse people regarding God's design for sex as well as their sexual orientation and that their lifestyles should be accepted and marveled. I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agenda as politically correct. I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naive. I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional. I guess I would leave things pretty much the way they are. (adapted from Paul Harvey) **If you were satan what additional strategies would you use to try to derail God's plan, enslave men in their sin and tarnish His image?**

What were you taught about our enemy when you were growing up?

OUR ENEMY REVEALED AND EXPLAINED

There are three errors to avoid when learning about our adversary.

1. **Overtly doubt** (deny) that satan (Lucifer, devil, demons) actually exist.
2. **Obsessively focus** with an unhealthy interest.
3. **Picture him differently** from

what God teaches in His Word. We are not dealing with an impish red pajama clad cartoon character with a pitchfork. As in any war, the real enemy must be clearly identified and his true strength assessed if there is to be victory. Though our enemy has been defeated at the cross (Col 2:14-15; Rom 8:37-39; 16:20; Heb 2:14) he is still formidable (John 12:31; 14:30; Eph 2:2; II Cor 4:4). We must **respect** but **never fear** or become **preoccupied** with him or his methods. He is out to personally destroy, distract, disable, discredit, devastate, devour,

destroy, discourage, deter, disgrace, and demoralize you. His primary goal is to destroy all relationships especially with **GOD** (Gen 3:1-10), your **FAMILY** (Gen 3:12-15; 4:1-12) and your **CHURCH FAMILY** (Eph 4:1-6) as everything else will crumble once the foundation is weak and eroding. **Where is satan attacking you/your family most?**

His most common names give a glimpse of his character and his tactics.

Which of the following do you see active in your life? Why?

➤ **Satan** (accuser, Rev 12:10; Job 1:6-7; I Thes 2:18)

➤ **Devil** (slanderer. I Pet 5:8);

➤ **Lucifer** (shining one. Draw you away from God. Is 14:12)

➤ **Beelzebub** (prince of demons. Mt 12:24; Mark 5:1-20)

- **Father of lies** (murder, deceit. John 8:44)
- **Prince of world** (rules the world view. John 12:31)
- **Evil one** (I John 5:19);
- **Tempter** (I Thes 3:5)
- **Devouring Lion** (1Peter 5:8)?

HIS MINIONS God created Lucifer as His highest ranking angel (I Pet 5:8, Jude 9; Gen 3:1; I Chron 21:1; Rev 12:9; Matt 4:1-11; Lk 11:15) and guardian of His glory (Ex 28:14), but fell because in his pride (Is 14:13; I Tim 3:6; Hab 1:13; Jam 1:13) he desired to be God. One third of the angels bought into this rebellion and



were cast from heaven with Lucifer from their original holiness (Rev 12:7-9; Ex 28:12-19; Is 14:12-20; Mark 3:22) becoming demons (Jam 2:19) and are free for the present (Luke 11:24-26) to carry out the demands of satan (Matt 12:22-26) in spiritual warfare. Demons daily oppose the work of God and His people (Eph 6:11-12), seek embodiment in unbelievers (Luke 22:3; Mark 5:1-13; Eph 2:2), gain strongholds in believers (Eph 4:26-27; Jam 4:7), spread false doctrine and immorality (I Tim 4:1-3; I John 4:1-5), accuse God's people (I Pet 5:8), counterfeit God's works (II Cor 11:13-15), encourage idolatry (I Cor 10:19-20; I John 5:21), seek to destroy unity in the church (Eph 4:1-6) and influence human governments (Dan 10:13-20; Eph 6:12). Having failed in his temptation of Christ (Matt 4:1-11) the devil actively tries to overthrow God's kingdom (Is 14:12-14) by distracting believers in their devotion to

Christ (II Cor 11:3), disguising himself as an angel of light (II Cor 11:14), blinding the minds of the unsaved to the gospel (I Cor. 4:3-4), using men to advance false religion (II Cor 11:13,15; II Tim 4:3-4; II Pet 3:14-18; I John 4:1-6; Matt 7:15-21), and attacking Christians at every point of their faith (Eph 6:10-18). Christ dealt with Satan at the cross as a major part of His redemptive work (Col 2:15; Heb 2:14-15, I John 3:8) and is therefore one of Christ's judged foes (Gen. 3:15; John 16:11). He remains under God's authority as part of creation (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6) and is to be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennium for all eternity (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:10). **Which of these truths was new to you? Was a sobering reminder? Which do you most need to remember this week? Why?**

THE BARRENNESS OF BUSYNESS



(Geraldine Harris & Kristen Maddox 1998) Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his demons, he said, "We can't keep the Christians from going to church, reading their Bibles, knowing the truth about Christ our Enemy. And if they continue to grow in their connection with and love for Jesus, our power over them will be broken. So let them go to church, have their conservative lifestyles and do good deeds, but steal their time, so they can't experience Jesus Christ. Let them plan religion as you keep them from a relationship. You must do your best to distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital

connection throughout their day!” “How shall we do this?” shouted his demons. “Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy and distract their minds,” he answered. “Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow, veg, veg, veg, worry, worry, worry. Persuade wives to work long hours and husbands to work even longer; 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from investing time with their children. As their family fragments, soon, their home will offer no escape from the pressures of work. Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice. Entice them to play constantly with their high tech equipment, mobile phones, flat screens or PCs in their homes. This will jam their minds so that they will be unable to think rightly or have the Enemy’s perspective on life issues. Keep them texting, tweeting, face booking, face timing,

Skyping and instagraming at all times. Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with politics and alarming news instead of the Good News 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogues, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services, and false hopes. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive with competition and compulsion. Have them return from their time off exhausted, disquieted and unprepared for the coming week so that they can't think rightly about what is true or be motivated to do what is right or important. And make sure that their Sabbath day is anything but resting I and reflecting on the Lord. Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies instead. And when they meet for spiritual fellowship,

involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion. Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ and even less time to love their friends to Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength instead of the Spirit's, sacrificing their health and family for the good instead of His best. Lead them to mistake busyness for productivity and spirituality." It was quite a convention in the end. And the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to be rushed and stay **BUSY** (Being-Under-Satan's-Yoke). **According to Psalm 23 what are some things the Lord is doing in your life to calm your heart and refocus your mind away from busyness?**



“And don’t worry if you don’t have an attorney. We’ve got millions of them down here.”

ASSIGNMENT Re-read this sheet and select 2-3 truths which God used to get your attention. Call a TAG team bro and tell him how you plan to apply and get serious regarding that truth.

TAG TEAM DISCUSSION What truth was most convicting? Why? How practically will you apply the armor in your life this week?

HEART IDOLS



by Tim Keller

“Life only has meaning/I only have worth if...

1. I have power and influence over others.” (Power Idolatry)

2. I am loved and respected by _____.”
(Approval Idolatry)

3. I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.”
(Comfort idolatry)

4. I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____.”
(Control idolatry)

5. people are dependent on me and need me.” (Helping Idolatry)

6. someone is there to protect me and keep me safe.” (Dependence idolatry)
7. I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.” (Independence idolatry)
8. I am highly productive and getting a lot done.” (Work idolatry)
9. I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work.” (Achievement idolatry)
10. I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.” (Materialism idolatry)
11. I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes and accomplished in its activities.” (Religion idolatry)

12. This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me.” (Individual person idolatry)

13. I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality.”
(Irreligion idolatry)

14. My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior.”
(Racial/cultural idolatry)

15. A particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in.” (Inner ring idolatry)

16. My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me.”
(Family idolatry)

17. Mr. or Ms. “Right” is in love with me.” (Relationship Idolatry)

18. I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt.” (Suffering idolatry)

19. my political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power.” (Ideology idolatry)

20. I have a particular kind of look or body image.” (Image idolatry)

“Little children, guard yourselves from idols.” I John 5:21

“No one can serve two masters, for either will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.” [Matt 6:24](#)