

How to fight like a Christian.....We finished a series on God's great power.....now how to fight with power as a Christian... Why is it important to know this?... For once we damask these creatures these creature of darkness we witness the true reality...that they are created beings and that God is infinitely more powerful and That He has equipped his people to win in the war of the Spirit worldfor our battle is not against flesh and blood...

Eph 6: 12 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. NLT

Though this world is always telling us our battles are with People and the victory is having better people... all the world's people are corrupt... It is a demonic deception... as he holds the world hostage to do his will

*JER 17:9 The **heart** is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? NIV*

Ecclesiastes 3:16 *I also noticed that under the sun there is evil in the courtroom. Yes, even the courts of law are **corrupt!** NLT*

*Gen 6:11 Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹² God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. NIV **the first world judgment was coming...and the second will be like it***

Matt 24:37 “When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. NLT

But God's people are different..we are like Noah...

Gen 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

Now how do we live in a corrupted world heading toward Judgment?

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV

- **we need a transformed mind... retrained thinking... what shapes our thinking ? words!!! we all have been formed by words ...and words we take as truth whter they are or not is irrelevant...it is what we beleve about the words ..will form us!**

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. ESV

- **words have power...to love words means to hold close...to unurture them, cuddle them hold them dear...by doing that they will bear fruit ...which you will eat... the words your world have spoken to you when ingested...cradled believed...produce fruit of either life or death....and you will eat it!**
- **Jesus praying for his disciples...and us on the last night of his life on earth...and obviously they hear him...speak these words...**

John 17: 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. NIV

John 17:13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by^[d] the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **the power of word when believed! they bring life or death...**

and something begins to happen..we beleive lies less and the greatest lie..is God is not for us...we start to live by truth...

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”NIV free from believing lies

- **the word of God does this to us**

PS 119:98 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. ¹⁰⁰ I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

PS 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from your precepts; herefore I hate every wrong path. *PS 119:105* Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. *PS 119:106* I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.

- and something else begins to happen...we sin less because we don't believe lies anymore that sin is good for us...
- and the main tactic of the devil ...lies don't harm us anymore because we don't believe them!

*1 John 5:18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot **harm** them.*

- We learn to trust his word even when we don't understand what is going on...

*PR 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your **heart** and lean not on your own understanding; PR 3:6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

but we have a struggle in this world...we are still susceptible to believing lies.....and the enemy is relentless..

so lets go there for a bit to really understand his tactics

First we must realize that the devil/Satan is not a fable, allegory, or myth but he is a historical salient being one with a beginning and will have an end and whom Jesus and every NT writer referred numerous times too.

When condemning the Religious for their hypocrisy...

*John 8:44 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.**⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!*

- **interesting word Father...when you believe lies it becomes your Father..telling you what to do...**
- **Fall of man had to do solely with not believing the Word of God, and is centered in the sin of believing Satan's lies instead of God's truth. and that ultimately destroy us...**

and know this..TEMPTATION ALWAYS STARTS WITH WORDS...A DIALOGUE...A DIALOGUE BASED ON A LIE..WHICH ENTICES US..WITH THE DESIRE TO DRAG US INTO AN ACTION...THAT SEEMS DESIRIUS OR ADVANTAGEOUS TO US..

JMES 1:14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

SATAN'S... great weapon is the lie...in order to lie one must know the truth...and that is what makes him so dangerous...he intentionally deceives....

*Genesis 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate.”*

it is his greatest tool....against us

*2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was **deceived** by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

this is what makes him so wicked...and evil...he knows the truth but intentionally wants to use lies to murder steal and destroy us...

*****Lets go back to the beginning and see how Satan knew the truth.....**

Job 38:1-6 God speaking to Job when job has questioned the integrity of God concerning his plan and reason for allowing Job to go through all the troubles he had. after many chapters God responds...

*JOB 38: 38 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ² “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? ³ **Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.**
⁴ “**Where were you** when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, **if you understand.** ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—*

Job where were the humans when I created the earth? the answer not yet created...So you have no idea of that which you speak...for I made the planet and all the universes with a plan for you to inhabit them...I surely know what I am doing in your one little life..

*****However the angels were There at that time for the very next verse in Job...Says...**

*JOB 38:7 while the **morning stars sang together and all the angels** shouted for joy?*

- **Imagine the angels watching what God is doing and giving him great glory for his abilities and skills...being full of Joy...and to this day they continue to watch And to this day they continue to watch and serve... apparently Satan sang also...apparently pleased with the work of God...**

- **Apparently Morning Star is a designation of certain angels..of which Satan is called one..For he is later called one of them..**

ISA 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!

- So lets take a look at this particular former Angelic being...

In Genesis chapter three we are introduced to this being...

- The Hebrew word rendered "serpent" in Genesis 3 is *Nachash* (from the root *Nachash, to shine*, and means *a shining one*. Hence, in Chaldee it means *brass* or *copper*, because of its *shining*).

Gen 3:3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made.....

- two things we are told about him in this verse... the first... He is referred to as a Serpent...this is a figure of speech...it is not what he looked like bright and shining but refers to his character...

Snakes (or serpents) get plenty of attention in the Bible, which mentions them over 80 times. They are almost always pictured as loathsome creatures, associated with poison and craftiness....death from poison in his bite..His mouth is his weapon!

- And Secondly Genesis 3 tells us he is crafty!!!
- Crafty means wise in a bad sense...he knows how to work it...to manipulate...how to disguise the truth with a lie...he is a smooth talker!
- And he is referred to as a dragon and a serpent in:

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years

- a dragon beings death from the fire spewed from his mouth...
- **Interesting that all three references to the enemy refer to his manipulating speech Jesus called him a liar and the author of lies...**

and dragon and serpent ...all have to do with the destructive power of what comes out of Satan's mouth and bite! Lies, poison, fire...

Yet he disguises himself as An angel of light or life...As 2 Corinthians 11:14 describes him...

2 Corinthians 11:14for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

- **He is shining like light and crafty in all the wrong ways**
- **We cannot conceive Eve as holding converse with a snake, but we can understand her being fascinated ² by one, apparently "an angel of light" (i.e. a glorious angel), possessing superior and supernatural knowledge. ...he like viper snakes camouflages himself!**

will continue on with this next week.. but leave here today knowing words you speak are either truth or lies...and whichever one you build your life on...will bring life or death...

*Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. **well built on what? the words of God! that is life!***

