

Building A Healthy Church

Ephesians 6
SPIRITUAL WARFARE

NewLife
CHURCH CRAWLEY



“As far as God is concerned I'm a non-believer but the devil is a different matter, he does a lot of advertising”

Cartoons portray satan as a devil with red horns a pitchfork and a tail



Early church leader Pauls experience:

- 2 Corinthians 11:14 warns that satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light try and deceive
- Acts 19 background to Ephesus in history of Acts
- 1 Cor 15:32 “found wild beasts at Ephesus” (50 temples, idolatry, witchcraft etc)

C.S. Lewis (Screwtape Letters)

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves (the devils) are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

OVERVIEW OF BIBLE TRUTHS

- satan is a real being (Luke 4:1-11),
- satan was originally created as a beautiful angel called Lucifer who was cast out of Heaven because of his pride (Isaiah 14:11-15, Ezekiel 28:12-17).
- Rev 12:4 suggests that $\frac{1}{3}$ of heavens angels rebelled and fell from Gods grace.

Key Passages: Look up in your own studies:

- Isaiah 14:12-14
- Ezekiel 28:11-16
- Luke 10:17-19
- 2 Cor 11:14
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Rev 12:7-9

He is described in many ways in the Bible:

- our enemy, the devil (**1 Peter 5:8**)
- tempter (**1 Thessalonians 3:5**)
- father of lies (**John 8:44**)
- the evil one (**1 John 2:14**)
- accuser (**Revelation 12:10**)
- murderer (**John 8:44**)
- serpent (**Genesis 3:1**)
- angel of light (**2 Corinthians 11:14**)

At present the whole world system is in his grip (**1 John 5:19**) and he seeks to rule over it through his kingdom of demons (**Matthew 12:24-28, Eph 6**).

The Scriptures make it clear that the devil is out to destroy followers of Jesus so we must be aware of how he tries to do this.

The main battle field is the mind (2 Corinthians 10:5):

- he accuses (**Zechariah 3:1, Romans 8**)
- he deceives (**2 Corinthians 11:14**)
- he tempts (**1 Thessalonians 3:5**)
- he lies (**John 8:44**)
- he inspires evil thoughts (**Galatians 5:17**)
- he afflicts with demonic spirits (**Luke 13:10-16**)

How satan works

1. satan works through putting thoughts into our minds/ he inspires evil thoughts

- Eve: Gen 3:1
- Peter: Matt 16
- Judas: John 13: 2
- Ananias: Acts 5:3

2. satan works through an organised network of fallen, rebellious angels

- Eph 6:12
- Daniel 10:13

3. satan works through temptation, accusation and deception

- entice us to something else
Matt 4 entice us to live independently of Gods plans
- make us feel guilty and useless
Rev 12:10 accuser
- tell us lies about who we are
Rom 8:31-39 condemns

4. satan works through getting footholds in our lives through sin

- Unjustified anger Eph 4:26-27
- Unforgiveness 2 Cor 2:10-11
- Undermining Gods work in us Matt 4 *“if you are the Son of God”*

HE WILL SEEK TO UNDERMINE GODS WORK IN US

snatching the seed of the word of God from our hearts (4 types of soil Matt 13:1-23)

- Some seed some fell along the path=
- Some seed fell on *rocky places*=
- Some seed fell *among thorns*=
- Some seed fell *on good soil*=

Matt 13

Some seed some fell ***along the path***=
v19 those who hear the message about
the Kingdom and don't understand it.
Then the evil one comes and snatches
away the seed that was planted in their
hearts.

Some seed fell on ***rocky places***=
V20-21 those who hear the message and
immediately receive it with joy but since
they don't have deep roots, they don't
last long. They fall away as soon as they
have problems or are persecuted for
believing God's word.

Some seed fell ***among thorns***=
V22 represents those who hear
God's word, but all too quickly the
message is crowded out by the
worries of this life and the lure of
wealth, so no fruit is produced.

Some seed fell on ***good soil***=
V23 represents those who truly hear
and understand God's word and
produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or
even a hundred times as much as had
been planted!

SO HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE?

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1. WE SHOULD RESPOND IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE BY RELYING ON GODS STRENGTH

“BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER.”

- Eph 1:19-22
- Eph 3:14-21

Pieces of armour picked up from what the Messiah (Jesus) would be like in Isaiah (Isa 11:5, Isa 49:2, Isa 59:17)

2. WE SHOULD RESPOND IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE BY REFUSING TO BACK DOWN

“STAND” X4 - what do we
stand against?

The lies, the negative self
talk 2 Cor 10:3-5

How? The truth

John 8:32, John 17:7

MESSAGE FROM SUNDAY 15TH MAY

STEP 1 IDENTIFY SATAN'S LIE

**STEP 2 WRITE OUT A SCRIPTURE TRUTH
DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE LIE**

STEP 3 WRITE OUT A BRIEF PRAYER

*I stand on Gods word that says about
me.....*

Keep this truth as a focus of your thoughts until it
sinks in

John Eldridge quote:

“Men struggle with their devotional life because they often see devotional life about as important as flossing: BUT see it as war, as a fight for survival. Do the right things consistently, persistently wins the day not genius.”

CONCLUSION:

What's your next step?

- PRAY IN THE SPIRIT
- PRAY FOR YOUR LEADERS (BOOKMARK)

KERRY



PRAYERS BASED ON EPHESIANS 6

A close-up photograph of two hands held out in a gesture of prayer or offering. The hands are positioned palm-up, with fingers slightly spread. The skin tone is dark. The background is a blurred, warm-toned surface, possibly a wooden table or floor. The entire image is framed by a white border.

NEED PRAYER TODAY?

Please join us at the front.