

**SERIES: The Mind of Christ
Defeating the Adversary – Part 1
1 Peter 5:8, 9**

Big Idea – I need to be aware of the reality of my adversary the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 “Stay alert! Watch out for your adversary/enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

9 Stand firm against him and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

Aka

anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:14), Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-14)

prince of this world (John 16:11)

prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)

god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4)

great dragon, the devil, the accuser, Satan (Revelation 12:10)

1. Satan is the adversary of every believer in Jesus Christ.

he tried to stop/defeat both Jesus Christ & Peter

Luke 4:13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until a more opportune time.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

2. What should my response be against this enemy? (Ephesians 6:10 – 13)

Be strong in the Lord’s mighty power. (Ephesians 6:10)

Put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11)

3. What does this allow me to accomplish?

Ephesians 6: 11 Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. 12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and

blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

Stand against the troops of the devil (Ephesians 6:12)

Colossians 1:16 "...thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers...

Stand against the tricks of the devil (Ephesians 6:11)

"Wiles" means tricks, or deceptions. Cf.

2 Corinthians 10:4, 5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Satan's tricks center around the battle for your mind.

Matthew 15:19, 20 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man,

Proverbs 23:7 For as a person thinks in his heart, so is he.

This why what we learned last week is so important – only put into your mind the things that pass the biblical test of Philippians 4:8 –

Philippians 4:8 8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Peter

Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Ananias

Acts 5:3, 4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

The Adversary, by Mark Bubeck, publisher Moody Press is a good reference book

Defeating the Adversary – Part 2

4. What are the devil's major deceptions/tricks/tools used to defeat Christians?

Lies

John 8:44 “the devil ... was a murderer from the beginning, and does not tell the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

First lie he told Eve in Genesis 3:4 “...you shall not die”

One of big lies he uses against believers today is, “You’re all alone, you’re on your own. No one else knows or cares about what you’re going through. No one else has this trial, problem, sin. (1 Peter 5:9b) “Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.”

2 Corinthians 1:4 “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

6 Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer.”

Unbelief

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Matthew 17:20 Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Croft M. Pentz, in his book, The Complete Book of Zingers gave these words about unbelief:

Unbelief is the door to hell.

A pessimist is someone who likes to listen to the patter of little defeats.

When you say, "I can't" you are saying, "God can't."

Doubt

Genesis 3:1 “Has God said...

James 1:5-7 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

Doubt sees the obstacles--faith sees the way.

Charles Spurgeon said, “Believe me, the life of grace is not dead level; it is not a marsh country, a vast flat. There are mountains, and there are valleys. There are tribes of Christians who live in the lowlands -such dwellers in the lowlands of unbelief are forever doubting, fearing, troubled about their interest in Christ, and tossed to and fro; but there are other believers, who, by God's grace, have climbed the mountain of full assurance and near communion. Their place is with the eagle in his eyrie, high aloft; they are like the strong mountaineer who has trodden the virgin snow, who has breathed the fresh, free air of the Alpine regions, and therefore his sinews are braced, and his limbs are vigorous. These are they who do great exploits, being mighty men, men of renown.”

Worry

Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Matthew 6:33 ...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Worry is an indication that we think God cannot look after us. Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere.
Bernard Meltzer

Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its strength. Archibald Joseph Cronin (1896-1981)

No man ever sank under the burden of the day. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than a man can bear. Never load yourself so. George Macdonald

Not work but worry makes us weary. S. I. McMillen

There are people who are always anticipating trouble; they manage to enjoy many sorrows that never really happen to them. Josh Billings (1818-1885)

Worry is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained. Arthur Somers Roche

Fear – of failure, of rejection, of death

Max L. Lucado put it like this, "Fear. Satan's modus operandi is to manipulate you with the mysterious, to taunt you with the unknown. Fear of death, fear of failure, fear of God, fear of tomorrow--his arsenal is vast. His goal? To create cowardly, joyless souls. He doesn't want you to make the journey to the mountain. He figures if he can rattle you enough, you will take your eyes off the peaks and settle for a dull existence in the flatlands."

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Hebrews 2:14, 15 "...that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Oswald Chambers said, "The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else. "

Discouragement

I read once that the Devil was having a yard sale, and all of his tools were marked with different prices. They were a fiendish lot. There was hatred, jealousy, deceit, lying, pride--all at expensive prices. But over to the side of the yard on display was a tool more obviously worn than any of the other tools. It was also the most costly. The tool was labeled, DISCOURAGEMENT.

When questioned, the Devil said, "It's more useful to me than any other tool. When I can't bring down my victims with any of the rest of these tools, I use discouragement, because so few people realize that it belongs to me." -- John Yates, "An Attitude of Gratitude,"

Elijah was so discouraged he got depressed and wanted to die!

1 Kings 19:3 Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. 4 Then he went on alone into the desert, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

Depression

A major cause of depression is hopelessness! Leads to suicide!

In many of the Psalms the writers felt like God had forgotten them!

Psalm 142:4 Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

Psalm 13:1 "O LORD, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way?"

2 How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

5. What are our two main weapons against the devil?

The Word of God – Jesus, when tempted said, “It is written...” and quoted God’s Word Matthew 4

Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

Prayer

Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all believers”

Jesus used this in the garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Mark 13:37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

6. When is the devil a defeated foe?

When I surrender to God – James 4:7, 1 John 4:4

When I resist the devil using the weapons God has given me

When Robinson Crusoe's good man Friday asked him, "Why doesn't God destroy the devil?" Robinson Crusoe gave him the right answer, the only answer, the great answer. He said, "God will destroy him."

When God casts him into the Lake of Fire

Rev. 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.