

Lesson 17: Spiritual Warfare and Victory

When you came to a true faith in Christ, a battle began between you and three evil forces.

What are these three evil forces?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Why does the Bible say that we did not have this battle in our life before we came to Christ?

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Any military commander wants and needs to know his enemy and his ways and secrets in order to win the battle. The Christian must know the enemy and his tactics.

Rev. 12:9.

How is Satan described here? _____

Rev. 12:10

What does Satan do? _____

What does he accuse us of? _____

Luke 8:12

What is the devil constantly trying to do according to this? _____

Why does the devil try so hard to do this? _____

The devil will do anything to keep us away from God and His Word. He will make us think we are too busy to set aside time each day for prayer and Bible reading. He will make us think we really don't need the classes offered by the church and can make it without them. He will tempt us to stay out too late on Saturday night, so on Sunday we skip church ("just this time"). He will put our eyes on worldly things, so that the spiritual things seem not too important. He will allow us to have good plans and intentions to grow in God's Word, but keep putting obstacles and distractions in our path in order to get us lazy about growing in the Word of God. Christians must expect to be attacked by the devil as he tries to get us out of God's Word.

2 Cor. 4:4.

What are the devils tactics? _____

2 Cor. 11:3

What do we learn about our enemy here? _____

2 Cor. 11:14

What does this tell us about Satan's tactics? _____

Satan tries to tempt the desires of our flesh to sin. What is our "flesh"? _____

Once the Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts, we have new desires to grow closer to God, love Him and serve Him. But these desires are at war against our flesh. There is a battle that goes on in Christians. Galatians discusses this battle in us:

Gal. 5:16-19

What happens if someone follows the desires of his flesh? _____

v. 22-25

What does it mean that we who belong to Jesus Christ have crucified the flesh with its sinful passions and desires? _____

The things mentioned here (love, joy, peace, etc.) can only be produced in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Every day we must destroy the evil desire to try to live or depend on our power, skill, wisdom, cleverness, etc.. The Christian life, according to these verses, is when we . . .

1 John 4:4

Are there times when we have no hope against the devil? _____

Can we defeat every temptation of Satan? _____

Why do we sometimes fall into temptation? _____

If a Christian falls into temptation and sins, what should he do in order to restore his communion with God?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Why can a Christian not plan to do a sin, knowing that he can later go to God for forgiveness?

God Gives us everything we need to overcome the attacks and temptations of Satan.

Ephesians 6:10-18

V. 10-11

What is the only way to stand up victoriously against Satan? _____

V. 12-13

How much of God's armor do we need to win? _____

V. 14-18

Describe each piece of our spiritual armor and why it is important.

The Belt:

The Breastplate:

The Shoes:

The Shield:

The Helmet:

The Sword:

Our Attitude:

HOMEWORK

Which of these do you believe is most lacking in your life? Be in prayer this week, that God would be teaching you more and more how to use your spiritual armor. With someone, say a prayer for the church, that we always stay strong in the Word of God and prayer.