

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV) Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

I. The Devil Is Real

Job 1:6 (NKJV) One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.

Job 1:7 (NKJV) The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

Job 1:8 (NKJV) Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Job 1:9-10 (NKJV) "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

Job 1:11 (NKJV) But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Job 1:12 (NKJV) The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Matthew 4:1 (NKJV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

1 John 3:8 (NKJV) The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

II. The Devil Has A Plan

Ephesians 6:11 (NIV) Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV) We are not ignorant of his devices.

John 10:10 (NIV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...

1. Satan Wants You Distracted.

Mark 4:18 (NKJV) Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,

Mark 4:19 (NKJV) and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

1 John 2:15-16 (NKJV) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

2. Satan Wants You Divided.

Mark 3:24 (NIV) If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Mark 3:25 (NIV) If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Mark 3:26 (NIV) And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

3. Satan Wants You Discontented.

Ecclesiastes 2:10 (NLT) Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 (NLT) But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (NIV) But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV) Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Philippians 4:11 (NIV) I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Philippians 4:12 (NIV) I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Philippians 4:13 (NIV) I can do all this through him who gives me strength.