

Session #5
“The Sword: Wielding God’s Word Against the Deceitfulness of Sin”

1. The Word of God

See Ps. 19:7–11.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

2. The Sword of the Spirit

(1) _____ (2 Peter 1:21)

(2) _____ (Heb. 4:12–13)

3. The Schemes of the Devil

“The devil is a very subtle enemy.” – William Gurnall

“Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14). He does not want to alarm us, thereby awakening us from our slumber, and so he “makes things look like what they aren’t.”

His greatest weapon isn’t the blatant temptation that shocks us but the subtle deception that slowly erodes our spiritual fortitude and discernment.

(1) Satan deceives us by _____.

“Did God actually say?” (Gen. 3:1).

He suggests that God wills our prosperity, not our adversity; prioritizes our happiness, not our holiness; overlooks sin rather than ordaining a narrow gate leading to a narrow way.

(2) Satan deceives us by _____.

“You will not surely die” (Gen. 3:4).

He whispers to us: “It’s no big deal. It’s trivial.” He minimizes sin’s consequences while maximizing its apparent benefits.

(3) Satan deceives us by _____.

“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:5).

Satan appeals directly to our desires. The promiscuous wants to hear that what he does in private is his own business. The materialist wants to hear that her money is for her own personal use. The idolater wants to hear that he can serve God while pleasing himself. The legalist wants to hear that God does indeed keep score. The lazy wants to hear that some sins are mere trifles. The embittered wants to hear that she has a right to be angry. The irresponsible wants to hear that someone else is to blame.

“The Christian wrestles not with his naked corruptions, but with Satan in them. His access to our corruptions makes the battle more terrible.” – William Gurnall

“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire” (James 1:14). In other words, temptation begins with *desire*. As a result of the fall, we live “in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (Eph. 2:3).

- The “desires” of the flesh (or body) have become the “lusts” of the flesh → gluttony, sensuality, drunkenness, etc.
- The “desires” of the mind have become the “lusts” of the mind → envy, malice, pride, ambition, greed, etc.

These desires are the source of all temptation. They “lure” and “entice” us.

- They _____ us the pleasure of sin outweighs any negative consequence.
- They _____ us joy, power, delight, and pleasure.

- They _____ that surrendering to temptation is the means to happiness.

What do these desires really bring? “Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is finally grown brings forth death” (James 1:15).

The Life Cycle of Desire:

_____ → _____ → _____ → _____

Satan’s chief strategy is to _____ and _____.

We must be ready for it. “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him” (1 Peter 5:8).

4. Wielding God’s Word Against the Deceitfulness of Sin

We refuse to believe Satan’s perversion of the truth. We seek to “be transformed by the renewal of [our] mind[s], that by testing [we] may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect will” (Rom. 12:2).

We strive for such familiarity with God’s Word that it determines our desires, judgments, dreams, and values.

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Ps. 119:103).

This “sweetness” is an impression left upon our hearts, which gives us the ability to _____ and _____ spiritual things.

It requires:

_____, _____, _____

“Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way” (Ps. 119:104).

Why is it necessary to hate sin? Until we hate sin, we’re never opposed to it. This is the chief part of wisdom.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” (Prov. 9:10).

“The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor” (Prov. 15:33).

Not only is godly fear what makes us _____ to be wise, but it’s what makes us _____ to be wise. When we fear God, we continually grow in our comprehension and application of God’s Word to all of life.

“This principle (or heart) of holiness hates to offend God.” – Richard Baxter