

Be Aware, Not Alarmed

Series on spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:12, “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 realm.”

1 Peter 5:8, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a lion, looking for someone to devour you.”

I. What does God allow Satan to do?

A. Temptation

1. Satan tempted **Adam** and **Eve** - Genesis 3:1-5

2. Satan tempted **Jesus** - Luke 4:1-2

3. Satan tempts **people** –

1 Thessalonians 3:5

1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it.”

4. We can be tempted by our own **nature** –

James 1:13-14, “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

B. Accusation

Revelation 12:10, “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night has been hurled down.’”

C. Physical attacks

1. Job - Job 1:8-12

2. Paul –

2 Corinthians 12:7-9, “To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’”

3. Sons of Sceva - Acts 19:13-16

D. Delay answers to **prayer** - Daniel 10:12-14

E. Can **possess** people or animals - Luke 8:26-33

II. Indications of satanic activity

A. Obvious signs

1. Person **demonized**

Ephesians 4:22-27, “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its evil desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”

James 1:19-21

2. **Overt** evil
3. **Satanic** worship
4. **Occult** practices

B. **Subtle** signs - subjective and evaluative

1. **Agitation** - "conflict of spirits"
2. **Anger** or rage
3. **Fear**
4. Doubts
5. **Heaviness** - sense of oppression or darkness
6. Severe temptation
7. **Rebelliousness** -

I Samuel 15:22-23, "But Samuel replied, 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king."

III. Weapons of our warfare -

I Peter 5:8-9, "Be self-controlled and alert, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

A. **Name** of Jesus - Acts 16: 16-18

B. **Blood** of Jesus -

Revelation 12:10-11, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony;"

C. Our **testimony** - Revelation 12:11

D. Word of God - Luke 4:4,8&12

E. Prayer

F. **Fasting** - Daniel 10

G. **Praise** - II Chronicles 20:17-23

H. Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-18