

FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Knowing Your Adversary

BUILDING A COMPOSITE PICTURE OF SATAN

- ❶ Satan was originally created by God as a good, guardian angel. (Ezekiel 28:12b-17)
 - ❷ Before the creation of the earth, Satan became inflamed with jealous arrogance in his desire to replace God as the supreme ruler of all creation. (Ezekiel 28:15-17; Isaiah 14:12-14)
 - ❸ Because of Satan's sin, he was cast from his original dwelling place in Heaven. (Isaiah 14:15; Ezekiel 28:16-17; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-9)
 - ❹ One third (1/3) of God's holy angels joined Satan in his rebellion & were cast out of Heaven to the earth with their evil leader. (Revelation 12:4, 7-12)
 - ❺ By the abuse of their free will, these fallen angels (devils or demons) became enemies of God. (Hebrews 10:27; 1 John 3:8)
 - ❻ Satan, the leader or dictator of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael the archangel. (Revelation 12:7-8)
 - ❼ The primary sphere of demonic influence is the earth, though very limited access to Heaven is still temporarily granted. (Job 1:6; 2:1; Revelation 12:7-10, 12)
 - ❽ The ultimate victory of spiritual warfare between Heaven and Hell has already been determined. (Genesis 3:14-15; Matthew 25:41; 1 John 3:8)
 - ❾ The Church will be involved in the ultimate defeat of Satan and all demonic forces. (Romans 16:20; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Revelation 12:11)
- Ephesians 6:12 - *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.*

NAMES OF THE ADVERSARY

- Satan (1 Chronicles 21:1) = the adversary ... one who obstructs or opposes
- the devil (Matthew 25:41) = one who slanders or accuses
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| ► the enemy (Luke 10:19) | ► the angel of the abyss (Rev. 9:11) |
| ► the evil one (Matthew 6:13) | ► the prince of this world (John 14:30) |
| ► the tempter (Matthew 4:3) | ► the prince of demons (Matt. 12:24) |
| ► accuser (Rev. 12:10) | ► the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Eph. 2:2) |
| ► destroyer = Abaddon / Apollyon (Rev. 9:11) | ► the god of this age (world) (2 Cor. 4:4) |
| ► Belial / Beliar (2 Cor. 6:15) | ► murderer (John 8:44) |
| ► Beelzebub (Luke 11:15) | ► liar / father of lies (John 8:44) |
| ► the ancient serpent (Rev. 20:2) | |
| ► great dragon (Rev. 12:7-9) | |

TWO MAIN STRATEGIES OF SATAN

- ❶ Unbelievers: Blinding their minds (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- ❷ Believers: Immobilizing their lives through attacks, deceit, lies, temptations & accusations

PRESENT MISSION OF THE CHURCH (Matthew 28:18-20)

- Satan's Goal: Stop the Great Commission
- Ephesians 4:27; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:1

WHY DID JESUS COME TO THIS PLANET?

- 1 John 3:8b; 4:4b; Colossians 2:13-15

OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MIDST OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 4:8

THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Revelation 11:15; 20:10; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 15:24-26

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Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God that greater is He who is in us (Christ) than he who is in the world (Satan). (**1 John 4:4b**)

MY STORY

When you first came to Christ, what was your view of Satan? How has that view changed over the years?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In Sunday's message, Pastor Scott gave many of the names of Satan. Which name stood out most to you? Why?
2. If Christ has already won the spiritual battle against Satan at the cross, why and how are we still involved in spiritual warfare?
3. Explain how **1 John 5:19** relates to **2 Corinthians 4:4** regarding every unbeliever on earth.
4. Following the resurrection, Christ's instruction to His church was to fulfill the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Briefly explain the Great Commission in your own words and then explain how Satan seeks to immobilize Christians from participating in its fulfillment.
5. In **1 John 3:8b**, John gives a primary reason why Jesus came to earth. What is it?

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

6. Which of the directives for Christian living found in **Ephesians 4:25-32** encourage you the most and help you make **Ephesians 4:27** a reality in your life?
7. According to the following verses what are some of our responsibilities in the midst of spiritual warfare?
 - **Romans 12:2**
 - **1 Peter 5:8, 9**
 - **James 4:7**
 - **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**
 - **Philippians 4:8**

TAKING IT HOME

8. Briefly share a time when you felt you were attacked by the forces of evil. Did you prevail?
9. Memorize **Ephesians 6:12** and recite it in your LifeGroup if you are ready. What part of the verse grabs your attention the most?
10. How might you use **Revelation 20:10** to confront or battle Satan's demons if they try to discourage you by bringing up your past sins?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and thank God for righteous angels and the ministry they provide for those who love God.