

Spiritual Warfare

Which **fisherman** will be MOST successful?

- Fisherman #1** puts bait on a hook and hopes for the best.
- Fisherman #2** studies the fish and chooses the most enticing bait to dangle.

In the Spiritual World . . .

CHRISTIANS are Prey  **SATAN** is the Fisherman  the **WORLD** is his Bait

- Satan knows the best bait to use to ensnare each Christian.
- Christians who understand Satan's schemes are better equipped to withstand attacks.

Our Adversaries

When you became a Christian, you automatically made **3 Enemies**.



- **The World:** a system of thinking and values that opposes God's Truth
- **The Sinful Nature:** the nature within us that opposes God's Will
- **Satan:** a spirit being who opposes God's Rule

But, you allied with the one true **God**, who will one day destroy these adversaries.

► The World

¹⁵ "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.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world

*—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—
is not from the Father but is from the world."*

¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires,
but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

1 John 2:15-17, ESV

- ❖ **Underline two** things God says we should **not** love (in verse 15).
- ❖ **Circle** each of the **three** things "in the world" (in verse 16).
- ❖ **Circle** what is "passing away" (in verse 17).
- ❖ **Underline** who "abides forever" (in verse 17).

"And do not be conformed to this world,

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...."

Romans 12:2, NKJV

- ❖ **Frame** what we should **not** "conform" to (or become like).
- ❖ **Underline** how we are "transformed" (or dramatically changed).

"No servant can serve two masters,

*for either he will hate the one and love the other,
or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.*

You cannot serve God and money."

Luke 16:13, ESV



- ❖ **Underline** two results of trying to "serve two masters."
- ❖ **Circle** what you "cannot serve".

"You can live for this world, or live for the next; but to **live equally for BOTH is impossible.**"

~ Charles Spurgeon

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

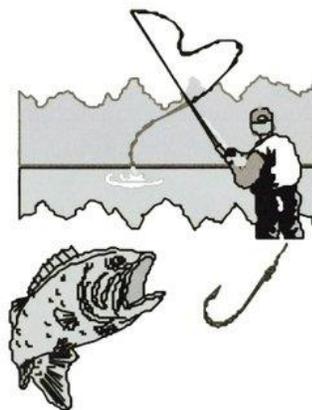
Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and

pierced themselves with many griefs." 1 Timothy 6:10, NIV

- ❖ **Circle** what the "love of money" is called.

Notice that money is not the root of evil. Scripture calls the "**love of money**" the root of evil.

- ❖ **Underline two** things that happen to "some people" who are "eager for money."



"It is easier to cry against **one thousand** sins of others than to kill **one** of your own."

~ John Flavel

"Love for the **WORLD** can't **COEXIST** with love for **GOD**."

~ John Piper

? Where **should we NOT** lay up treasure? (Matthew 6:19)

? Where **should we** lay up treasure? (Matthew 6:20)

"**MONEY** never made a man happy yet, nor will it..

 The more a man has, the more he wants.

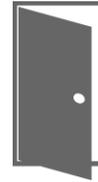
Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one."

~ Benjamin Franklin

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"TEMPTATION is the devil looking through the **keyhole**.
YIELDING is **opening the door** and inviting him in." ~ *Billy Sunday*



► The Sinful Nature

"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit,
and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature.
They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want."
Galatians 5:17, NIV

- ❖ **Circle** what the "sinful nature" desires.
- ❖ **Underline** the result of the "conflict" between our "sinful nature" and "Spirit."

"So I say, live by the Spirit,
and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Galatians 5:16, NIV

- ❖ **Frame** how we should "live."
- ❖ **Underline** the result of living "by the Spirit."

"Christian Maturity is not indicated by the infrequency of **temptation**
but by the infrequency of **succumbing to temptation**." ~ *Douglas Moo*

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your **hearts** on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
Set your **minds** on things above, not on earthly things." Colossians 3:1-2, NIV

- ❖ **Underline** what we should set our "hearts" on.
- ❖ **Underline** what we should set our "minds" on.

Because of all Christ did for us, we should focus on living for our **Savior** instead of our **self**.

SET YOUR MIND is often used for
taking part with one side when **two parties or interests** come into **competition**.
So when **HEAVEN** and **EARTH**...come into **competition**, choose the better part.
~ *Adapted from John Tillotson*

► Satan

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

- ❖ **Frame** **two** attitudes we must have when combating the "devil."
- ❖ **Underline** an animal the "devil" is compared to.



"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."
2 Corinthians 11:14, ESV

- ❖ **Circle** how Satan "disguises himself."
Satan's goal is to deceive Christians. That is why we must be "self-controlled and alert."

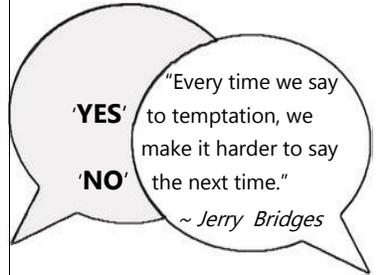
○ **SATAN uses the WORLD** to entice our *Sin Nature*. Like the *Fisherman* we began with, *Satan* baits his hook with empty promises of the *World* to tempt our *Sinful Nature*. **Once he gets us to bite and swallow his "line", we are hooked!**

○ **GOD uses His WORD** and the *Holy Spirit* within us to enable our *New Nature* to live **victoriously for Christ**. When we trust God's Word and live by His Spirit, **we "cut" Satan's "line" and free ourselves from his deceptions!**



"A little SIN will..."

- + **Add** to your trouble
 - **Subtract** from your energy
 - X **Multiply** your difficulties"
- ~ *Our Daily Bread*



"You know **MORE**
about your
magazines
and **novels** –
than what God has written!"
~ *Charles Spurgeon*

"If the **DEVIL**
cannot make us **bad**,
he will make us **busy**."
~ *Corrie ten Boom*

Some of Satan's Names

- ⇒ **Accuser of brethren** (Rev. 12:10)
- ⇒ **Dragon** (Rev. 12:7-9)
- ⇒ **Enemy** (Matt. 13:39)
- ⇒ **Evil One** (Matt. 13:19)
- ⇒ **Liar** (John 8:44)
- ⇒ **Roaring lion** (1 Pet. 5:8)
- ⇒ **Serpent** (Rev. 20:2)
- ⇒ **Tempter** (Matt. 4:3)
- ⇒ **Thief** (John 10:10)

Resisting Satan's Attacks

*"And the devil said to Him [Jesus],
 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.'
 But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written,
 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"* Luke 4:3-4, NKJV

This conversation happened after Jesus had fasted 40 days in the wilderness.

- ❖ **Circle** what the "devil" said to Jesus.
- ❖ **Underline** how Jesus responded to temptation.

"The chief weapon we ought to use in resisting Satan is the **Bible**.

- 📖 **3 times** the great enemy offered temptations to our Lord.
- 📖 **3 times** his offer was refused, with a text of Scripture as the reason, 'it is written.'" (Luke 4:4, 7, 10) ~ J. C. Ryle

Guard Your Thoughts

*"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.
 The **weapons** we fight with are not the weapons of the world.
 On the contrary, they have **divine power** to demolish strongholds.
 We **demolish** arguments and
 every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and
 we **take captive** every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* 2 Cor. 10:3-5, NIV

- ❖ **Circle** what our "weapons" have "divine power" to do.
- ❖ **Underline two** things we should "demolish".
 The word "**stronghold**" refers to a fort or castle. We often use "arguments" and "pretensions" (reasons) to **fortify** an opinion against an opposing idea.
- ❖ **Underline why** we should "take captive every thought."



"**SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS** begin with a thought.

- ⇒ One **thought** becomes a consideration.
- ⇒ A **consideration** develops into an attitude, which leads then to action.
- ⇒ **Action** repeated becomes a habit, and
- ⇒ A **habit** establishes a 'power base for the enemy,' that is, a **STRONGHOLD**."
 ~ Elisabeth Elliot

"and do not give the devil a foothold." Ephesians 4:27, NIV

- ❖ **Frame** what we should **not** "give the devil."
- ◆ A "foothold" is a starting place which helps you make more progress in the future.
- ◆ Sin gives Satan a "foothold" which makes it easier for him to claim more ground later.
- ◆ Satan is trying to control our lives a "foothold" at a time! Don't even give him an inch!



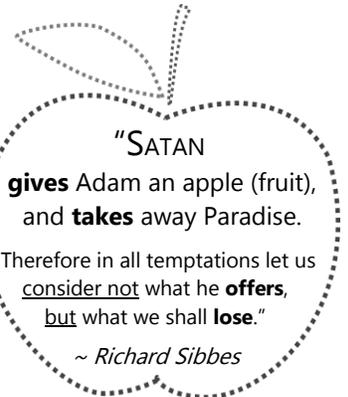
BIBLE Example

The **Serpent** tempted **Eve** to eat from a tree God forbade.

Instead of resisting Satan's temptation, Eve ate this fruit and gave some to **Adam**.



Genesis 3 records the long-term consequences from their disobedience.



"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

1 John 4:4, ESV

❓ *What types of things does **Philippians 4:8** say we should think about?*

Examples of Using Scripture to "Take Captive Every Thought."

Complete these verses. (ESV version)

God Doesn't Love Me... 📖 **ROMANS 5:8** "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us."

I Am Depressed 📖 **1 PETER 5:7** "Casting all your _____ on Him, because He cares for you."

I Can't Forgive 📖 **MATTHEW 6:15** "But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father _____ _____ trespasses (sins)."

"GRACE

- does not grant **permission** to live in the flesh
- it supplies **power** to live in the Spirit."

~ John MacArthur

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"As in all warfare, the two essential elements in VICTORY are **knowing your enemy** and **knowing your resources.**"

~ Sinclair Ferguson

When Under Attack!

1. STOP & PRAY!

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:38, ESV

❖ Circle *two* things that will help us "not enter into temptation."

Don't let your **emotions** or **physical desires** control your decisions when tempted.

◆ Instead, **Stop and Pray!** Focus your *mind* and *heart* on God!

Pray

2. RESIST THE DEVIL!

"I have hidden your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11, NIV

❖ Circle where we are to hide (or store) God's Word.

❖ Underline the benefit of knowing God's Word.



"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7, ESV

❖ Circle what happens when we "resist the devil."

Use the **Sword of the Spirit** (the **Word of God**) to cut through Satan's lies.

- ◆ Memorizing God's Word prepares you to fight temptation.
- ◆ The more Scriptures you know, the **bigger** your Sword!
- ◆ Declare God's Word **out loud** as you confront Satan's lies.



3. STAND YOUR GROUND!

"Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:11, ESV

❖ Circle what we are to "put on."

❖ Underline what the "whole armor of God" enables us to do.

Determine to stand against Satan's goal to defeat you and turn you against God.

◆ Remember that you serve the all-powerful King of Kings and Creator of the universe!

"This is the great business of life - to 'put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks.'

I know of no other way to **triumph over sin long-term**, than to gain a **distaste** for it, because of a superior satisfaction in God."

~ John Piper



"RESOLVED"

never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the **last hour of my life.**"

~ Jonathan Edwards



"The primary way to overcome Satan is on our **knees.**"

~ Derek Prime

"It is hypocritical to **PRAY** for victory over our sins **YET** be careless in our intake of the **Word of God.**"

~ Jerry Bridges

? What are all the pieces of spiritual armor listed in **Ephesians 6:13-18**?

AFFIRMATION

1. God is greater than all my enemies.
2. God is my protector.
3. I will guard my heart & mind.
4. I will stand my ground.
5. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13, NKJV)

PRAYER

Lord, You are greater than all my enemies! Empower me to resist temptation and live in a way that honors You. Amen.

APPLICATION

"And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind..." (Romans 12:2, NKJV)

? What are ways Christians "conform" to this world?

? How can you resist these temptations and instead be a "transforming" agent for righteousness at your school, job, home, etc?

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