

THE ENEMY

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

If you have not already noticed, the Christian life is not always easy. There is opposition, pressure, and temptation. You have three enemies:

1. **THE FLESH** (your body's old nature which did not leave when you got saved).
2. **THE WORLD** (system of evil that the majority of people follow).
3. **THE DEVIL**

Even though these enemies are strong in battle we have the promise from I Corinthians 10:13, which says: *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

This lesson will inform you of your most misunderstood enemy - the devil. He is so deceitful because he has lived on both sides of the fence.

HIS NAME

- L Lucifer (his angel name) - beautiful
- S Satan - adversary (enemy)
- D Devil - accuser of the brethren

Ephesians 6:12 says: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

HIS BEGINNING

Isaiah 14:12-17 says: *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?"*

Ezekiel 28:11-15 says: *"Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."*

Satan has no body, but is a spiritual being. Notice Revelation 2:13 which says: *"I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."* He cannot read your thoughts but does know human nature very well. He cannot be in more than one place at a time but does have an empire of fallen angels (demons) working for him (Dan. 10).

HIS SIN

Job 41:34 says: *"He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride."*

Revelation 12:4,9 says: *"And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."* His sin in heaven was pride. He wanted to be equal to God and used the phrase "I will" five times. He is doomed to an eternity in hell.

HIS GOAL

His goal is to hurt God and rob Him of glory. He does this by hurting and trying to destroy the creation God most loves - mankind. His ultimate goal for every person is to get him or her to go to hell. Once a person gets saved, however, he desires a "place" in their life. Ephesians 4:27 says: *"Neither give place to the devil."* The word "place" means toehold or license. He wants to just get his toe in the door of your life. Then he can rob God of the glory due Him.

HIS CHARACTERISTICS:

LIAR

Jesus called him the "father of lies". He lied to Adam and Eve and told them they would "be as gods" if they ate the fruit (Genesis 3). Pride is the root of this lie. This is his **big lie** that he tells everyone - YOU CAN BE YOUR OWN GOD. He says: "Do your own thing and make your own decisions." Jesus said, *"Not my will, but thine, be done."*

Revelation 12:9 says: *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

Read Genesis 3. He **lies** by questioning God's Word: *"...Yea, hath God said..."* (3:1) He will try to make you doubt that you got saved. His **lie** is that God did not save you like He promised. He **lies** by denying the truth - *"...Ye shall not surely die:"* (3:4) He **lies** by mixing truth with error. This is where the cults come from. He mixes in just enough truth to make it sound believable. He **lies** about the Bible, Jesus' Deity, The Virgin Birth, Salvation, and even who he is. If the devil can get us to believe one of his **lies**, he has a grip on our life. He puts his **lies** on TV, in magazines and in educational systems.

PERVERTER

This is another of his characteristics. To "pervert" means to change something from its intended purpose. There is nothing that God has made that the devil will not try to destroy.

Some examples of the devil's perversions are:

- Grapes - To alcoholic liquor.
- Sex - From marital to pre-marital or extra-marital.
- Music - To offbeat, sounds and lusts.
- Church - To social clubs.
- Exercise - To body worship.
- Communion - To a part of salvation.
- Baptism - To a part of salvation.

IMITATOR

He likes to have people as God-like, without God, as possible. The beast and false prophet in the book of Revelation are his imitators. He has his false religions, preachers, Bibles, and miracles. In the Old Testament, Pharaoh had magicians who could imitate Moses' miracles.

APPEARANCES

The devil has made three appearances in the Bible. He appeared in the Garden of Eden (the perfect environment - Genesis 3) with the lust of the eyes. Later he appeared in heaven accusing Job before God (Job 1). Last, he appeared to Jesus after Jesus had fasted 40 days (Matthew 4).

TEMPTATIONS ARE PERSISTENT

He tempted Christ three times - in the areas of lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life. His temptations kept getting bigger and more persistent. Usually the devil tempts at the beginning of any endeavor for Christ. Have you recently dedicated your entire life to Christ? Keep your guard up. He will use doubt, discouragement, confusion, false teachers, your past, guilt, pride, old friends, old dates, hypocrites, jobs that make you work Sunday, and relatives. He does not use the same temptations on everyone. He usually tries to work on your weakest point.

James 1:13-15 says: *"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."*

We need to bathe in the Word of God to keep our lusts (desires) right. All the devil needs is one area in which you are disobedient to the Lord. He will attack you there.

The devil tries to defeat teenagers in three areas. They are:

1. A job
2. Falling in love
3. Joining something

The devil cannot make you sin. He can only open doors for you to fulfill your secret lusts.

EXAMPLES

The devil defeated these Bible characters in the following areas:

Lot	Money
Saul	Pride
Samson	Lust
Prodigal	Rebellion
David	Lust, Pride
Elimelech	Moving
Rich young ruler	Money
Judas	Greed
Eve	Lust of eyes
Moses	Temper
Nebuchadnezzar	Pride
Ananias & Sapphira	Money
Demas	Worldly pleasure
Absalom	Rebellion

OUR WEAPONS

Psalm 119:9 says, *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”*

The two most effective weapons against the devil are the Word of God and our testimony. Daily bathing in God’s Word will keep us filled with holy desires and therefore reduce areas in which the devil can tempt us. Memorizing Scriptures that pertain to our weak points are also effective in times of temptation. The tool of our testimony also resists the devil. Constantly be witnessing to others, telling them how the Lord saved you. You will be too busy to fall for temptations.

Ephesians 6:17: *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

I Corinthians 10:13: *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

EXPECT RESISTANCE

The devil’s temptations come in seasons. Do not get discouraged! **God will give you grace.** The devil is after those Christians who will glorify God the most. So expect plans to go wrong, persecution, financial problems, physical problems. Do not be surprised. When the devil is resisting it means victory is close!

Name _____

REVIEW THE ENEMY - STEP 5

1. List the three enemies of the Christian life:

2. Define: Devil _____
Satan _____
Lucifer _____
3. What was the devil before he sinned? _____
4. What was his first sin? _____
5. What is the devil's goal for your life? _____
6. What is the devil's Big Lie? _____
7. Name three ways he lies:

8. Define pervert: _____
9. List two examples of things the devil has perverted:

10. He usually works on your _____ points.
11. Can the devil make you sin? _____
12. Name the devil's three appearances in Scripture:

13. Name ten ways the devil will try to sidetrack you:

14. Name three ways the devil sidetracks teenagers:

15. The devil only _____ for you to fulfill _____ desires.
16. Give three examples of Bible characters and areas in their lives that caused them to fall:

17. Name the two weapons a Christian has against the devil:

18. A Christian should _____ resistance.

19. Does the devil presently have a place of toehold in your life? _____

20. Which area are you mostly guarding? _____