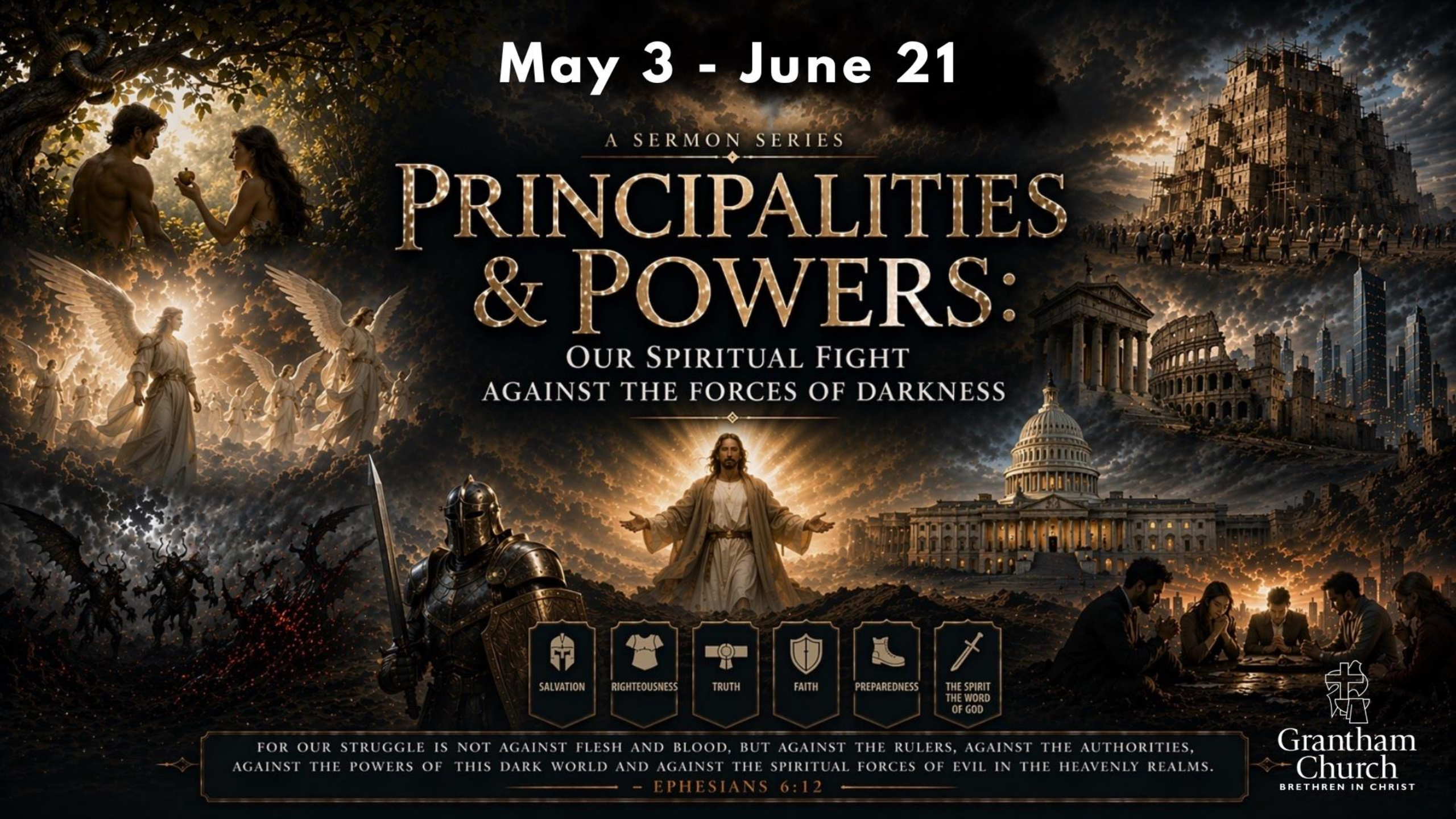


May 3 - June 21

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS



SALVATION



RIGHTEOUSNESS



TRUTH



FAITH



PREPAREDNESS



THE SPIRIT
THE WORD
OF GOD

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 REALMS.

— EPHESIANS 6:12 —



Grantham
Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST



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 realms.”

“In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1



Psalm 82:1 NRSV

“**God** (*elohim*) has taken his place in **the divine council**;
in the midst of **the gods** (*elohim*) he holds judgment”

אֱלֹהִים - “Elohim” is not a name—it’s a category.
It refers to any being in the spiritual realm.

Yahweh is unique because he is:

- uncreated (Ps. 90:2)
- supreme (Ps. 97:9)
- creator of all (Isa. 45:6–7)

So... there are many spiritual beings (*elohim*)
but only one true God; no other *elohim* is like him!



Genesis 1:26 NLT

Then God said, “Let **us** make human beings in **our** image, to be like **us**.”

Who is God talking to in this verse?

God is speaking to the divine council, not the Trinity.

Consistent with Job 1:6; 1 Kings 22:19; Psalm 82:1

- God is *announcing* his decision to create humanity to his heavenly council—inviting their attention, *not* their participation.
- **Genesis 1:27** immediately clarifies:
“So God created humans ***in his own image***..”





The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2-3

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2. The First Rebellion in Eden

SCRIPTURE READING

—◆—
Genesis 3:1-7

KEANU REEVES AL PACINO

A DEVIL'S ADVOCATE





Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV

12 How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star [Lucifer], son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!

13-14 You said in your heart,
*“I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”*



Ezekiel 28:12-19 NIV

13 “You were in Eden,
the garden of God...”

14-15 “You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.

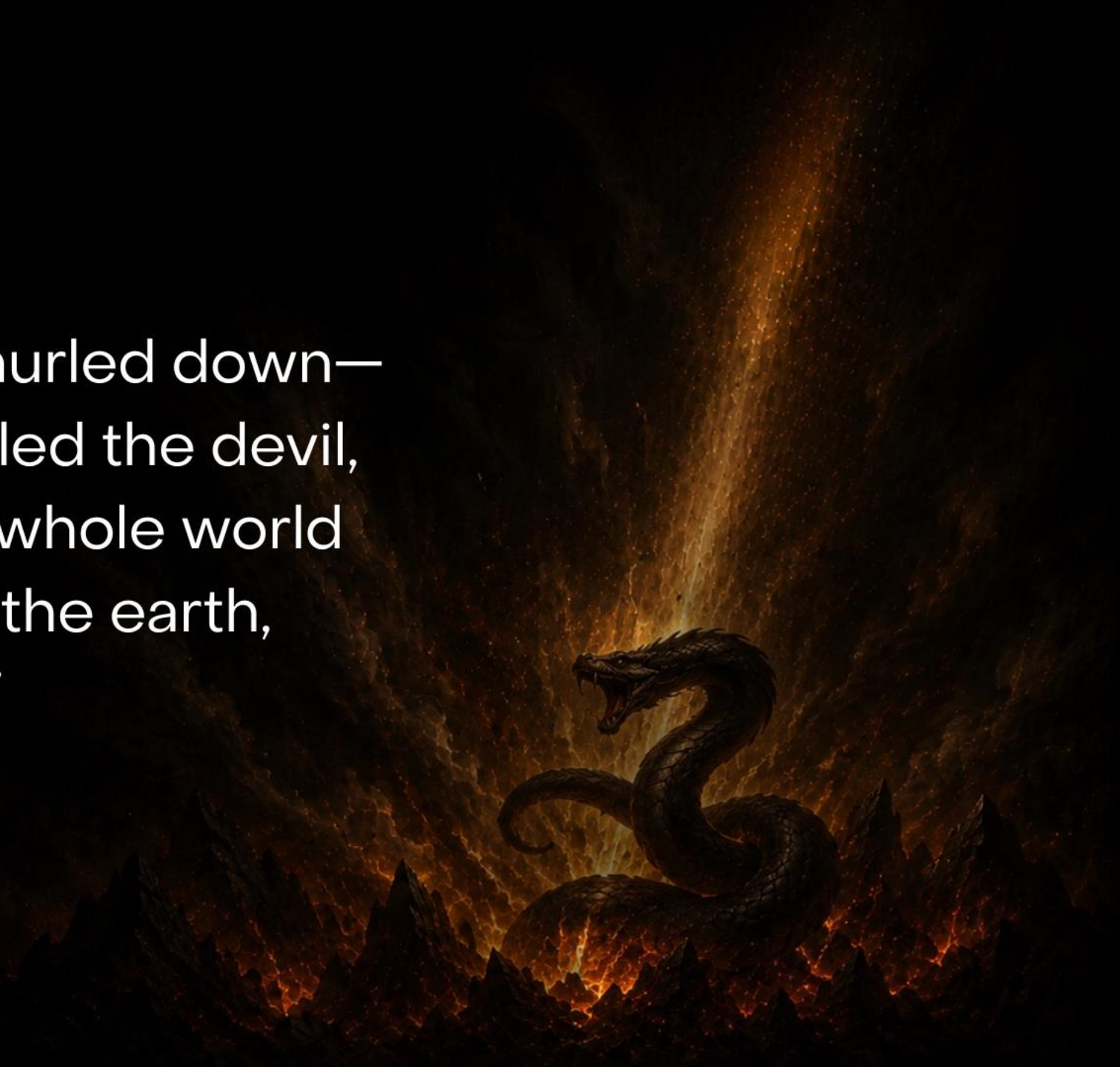
You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.”

16b “So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.”

17b “I threw you to the earth...”

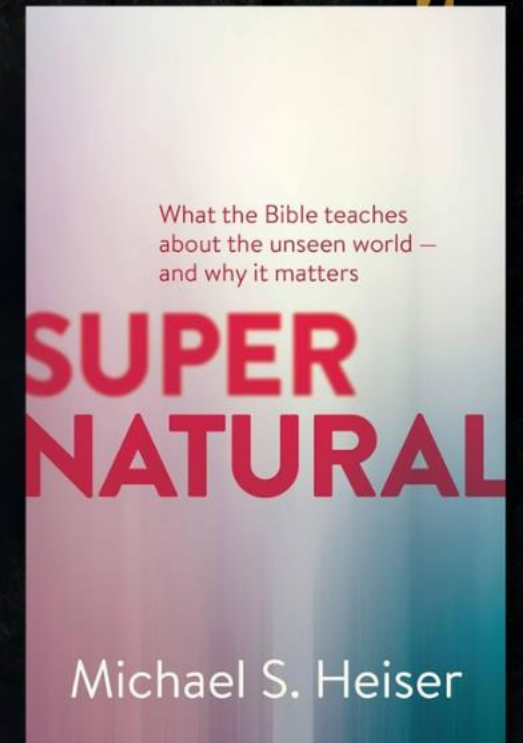
Revelation 12:9 NIV

“The great dragon was hurled down—
that ancient serpent called the devil,
or Satan, who leads the whole world
astray. He was hurled to the earth,
and his angels with him.”



“Adam and Eve and their progeny failed. Humanity sinned. Had that not occurred, the earth would have been gradually transformed to a global Eden. We would have had everlasting life on a perfected planet, living with God and his spiritual family.”

Michael Heiser, *Supernatural: What the Bible Teaches About the Unseen World and Why It Matters*



The Fallout: Considering the Consequences of Human & Spiritual Rebellion on the Earth

The Human Cost of Sin & Death

- We “will certainly die” in this fallen world
- Struggle, disease, suffering, loss are present realities
- We are made in God’s image, but broken and not as we should be
- Our relationship to God is “by *faith* and not by sight”


The Serpent (Satan) Roams the Earth

- The rebel leader was expelled from the divine council
- A third of angelic beings fell with him (Rev. 12:4)




Genesis 3:15 – God promises to send a Savior to defeat Satan (*protoevangelium* – “first gospel”)





“We might ask why God doesn’t just eliminate evil right now. There’s a reason: For God to eliminate evil he would have to eliminate his imagers, human and divine, who are not perfect like he is. That would solve the problem of evil, but it would mean that God’s original idea, to create other divine agents and human beings to live and rule with him, was a huge mistake. God doesn’t make mistakes.”

Michael Heiser, *Supernatural: What the Bible Teaches About the Unseen World and Why It Matters*



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1. Evil is Both a Human and Spiritual Problem

The Bible teaches that evil comes from our own sinful human desires/actions but also from unseen spiritual forces.

- Response to human evil: confession, repentance, living faithfully as imagers, loving enemies, and fighting in prayer
- Response to spiritual evil: resisting temptation, refusing to give into fear, hate, and violence; intercessory prayer!

Question: *Will I respond to evil as a two-sided problem?*

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2. Spiritual Warfare Begins with Deception

The serpent's greatest weapon is distorted truths, crafty lies, deception, and generating a mistrust in God and his Word.

- Satan tempts us, influences our thoughts, exploits our weaknesses, and throws gas on the fire of sinful desires
- Spiritual warfare often starts in our thoughts, anxieties, assumptions, and mistrust of God and other imagers

Question: *What lie about God, myself, or others am I believing?*

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3. God Responds to Rebellion with Redemption

Even though there has been spiritual and human rebellion, God promises that evil will not have the final word.

- God is not slow in confronting evil; he is patiently working with free-willed creatures to redeem his creation
- The power and redemptive forces of God are greater than human evil and spiritual evil forces in the unseen realm

Question: *Will I believe that God is redeeming this fallen world?*

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Weekly Practice:

Repentance – “Close the Doors You’ve Opened”

Challenge: Ask the Spirit to reveal one area of hidden sin or compromise. Confess it and repent—stay in the light!

Invitation: Pray daily: *“God, I choose your Word (truth) over the serpent’s lies. Help me to trust you above my feelings.”*

Goal: Align your life with God and his will—resist your flesh (inner rebellious desires) and resist the serpent, the devil.



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