FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Message #4

Our Enemy

- Yes there are a lot of **people problems** with us making stupid decisions.
  - Stupid human tricks

- But there are dark spiritual forces at work, too. Scripture is very plain.
- In fact, one of the spiritual gifts is "discerning of spirits" (1 Cor 12:10)

Discernment & **Discerning of spirits**

In Warfare

- You need to know your **strengths** & **weaknesses**, **weapons**, etc
- How to unify and get all systems working in harmony towards the same goal

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- You need to know **your enemy**
  - We should take our enemy more seriously seeing how he has deceived each of us for a good part of our lives.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11*

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10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his **devices**.

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil**.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Wiles = GK = methodos = picture of building a road

- Scheme or **strategy** constructed to steal, kill & destroy
  - In this context: building a path for you to walk on that leads to the wrong place
- Think about how temptation works – building a path for you to choose

The
Screwtape
Letters
C·S· LEWIS

- **Devices** = has to do with the mind and your **thoughts**
  - Speaks of how the enemy is trying to confuse our minds

- **Mind Games**
  - With lies, doubts, confusion, worry, fear, chaos, twisted thinking, control, manipulation

2 Corinthians 10:4-5*

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down **strongholds**, 5 casting down **arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself against the **knowledge** of God, bringing **every thought** into captivity to the obedience of Christ

Doing all this with the intent of deceiving and seducing you away from God and all that is good.

Names of the Enemy

These names reveal his nature.

Accuser

Revelation 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Angel of Light

2 Corinthians 11:13-14

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an **angel of light**.

Adversary, Devil & Roaring Lion

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary** the **devil** walks about like a **roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour.

- Adversary = opponent of what is right
- Devil = diabolical **slanderer**, scheming to **defame** & tear down, the ultimate **gossiper.**
  - Pic of "throwing a rock against a wall until it penetrates it", relentless strikes & attacks

Murderer & Liar

Jesus, John 8:44

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a **liar** and the father of it.

Father of Lies

Prince of this World

Jesus, John 12:31-32

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

- He has control over certain, people, governments & places in this world.
  - World = **world system**

Satan

Jesus, Luke 10:18-19

18 And He said to them, "I saw **Satan** fall like lightning from heaven. 19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

- Satan = one who **hates** & accuses

Tempter

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means **the tempter** had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

Tempter = to entice to sin, seduce

Counterfeit Kingdom

Ephesians 6:12

- **Principalities** = ancient spirit beings who hold the highest rank
- **Powers** = refers to delegated authorities
- **Rulers** = organized, unified power (like the military)
  - Compared to the current reality of the Church

- **Spiritual Wickedness** = spiritual beings that do evil, malicious, dangerous, looking to inflict pain & torment

About our Fight

- **Wrestle** = close, intense, **hand-to-hand** combat
  - In ancient days, they sometimes wrestled to the death
  - "anything goes" type fashion

- **Against** = direct contact, **face-to-face**

Think of how Jesus "wrestled against" demonic forces

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