



## SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

### **Weapons of Your Warfare: Pt. 4- Hold the High Ground** **Pastor John Riggs**

#### **Summary:**

This sermon explores the spiritual warfare Christians face and the methodical tactics Satan uses to defeat believers. Drawing from Ephesians 6:10-18, the message emphasizes that while Christians wrestle against spiritual forces of darkness, they fight from a position of victory in Christ. The pastor warns that Satan's primary strategy involves deception through a three-stage process: lies, lures, and lairs—all designed to appeal to the flesh through the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life. The sermon stresses that believers must understand their enemy's tactics and stand firm in their position in Christ, putting on the full armor of God daily. Special emphasis is placed on the dangers facing families, marriages, and the church in contemporary culture, warning against the pursuit of sensational experiences and the deception that will intensify before Christ's return.

#### **Video Breakdown:**

- Chapter 1: Understanding Our Enemy and Our Position in Christ
  - We are introduced to the spiritual battle we face against rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers, while learning that Christ has already won the victory and we are seated with Him above all these forces.
- Chapter 2: Satan's Methodology: The Lie, The Lure, and The Lair
  - We learn Satan's three-part method of deception that always targets our flesh through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
- Chapter 3: The Garden Pattern: How Deception Works
  - We examine how Satan used the same methodology against Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, appealing to their flesh and bringing death through deception.
- Chapter 4: Standing Against Deception in the Last Days
  - We are warned about the increasing deception in the last days, particularly regarding false signs and wonders, and are called to stand firm in our position in Christ.



## Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Main text read and discussed throughout (the armor of God)
2. Genesis 1 - Creation of the heavens (plural)
3. Romans 8 - Creation waiting for the sons of God to be revealed
4. Ephesians 1 - Christ seated at God's right hand in heavenly places
5. Revelation 12:7-12 - War in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting the dragon
6. Genesis 3 - The fall of Adam and Eve, serpent's deception
7. 1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life
8. James 1:12-15 - Temptation and desire giving birth to sin
9. Galatians 5:16-25 - Walk by the Spirit, works of the flesh vs. fruit of the Spirit
10. John 8:44-47 - Jesus speaking to religious leaders about the devil being the father of lies
11. Genesis 3:1-4 - The serpent's lie to Eve
12. Genesis 3:5 - "You will be like God"
13. Genesis 3:6-8 - Eve eating the fruit and hiding from God
14. Genesis 3:13 - "The serpent deceived me"
15. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 - Warning about being led astray from devotion to Christ, receiving a different spirit
16. Matthew 12:38-39 - Evil generation seeks signs; sign of Jonah
17. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 - The lawless one coming with false signs and wonders
18. Matthew 24:21-28 - Great tribulation and false Christs

### References Alluded to but Not Explicitly Cited:

19. Daniel 10:13, 20 - Prince of Persia and Prince of Greece (mentioned in context of spiritual warfare)
20. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - New creation in Christ (alluded to)
21. John 8:36 - "He who the Son sets free is free indeed" (quoted)
22. Romans 1 - Those who praise wickedness (alluded to)
23. Hebrews 12:5-11 - God disciplines his children (alluded to)
24. Isaiah 14:12-15 - Lucifer's fall and rebellion (discussed but not directly quoted)
25. Ezekiel 28:12-19 - Description of Lucifer before the fall (alluded to regarding fiery stones)
26. Colossians 2:15 - Christ triumphed over powers through the cross (alluded to)
27. Ephesians 1:13-14 - Holy Spirit as guarantee of inheritance (alluded to)
28. Hebrews 12:2 - Jesus, author and perfecter of faith (alluded to)



**Key Points:**

- Christians wrestle against rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over darkness, and spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places, not against flesh and blood
- Satan's kingdom is well-organized with a hierarchical structure operating both in the heavenlies and on earth
- Christ is seated far above all rule and authority, and believers are positioned in Christ, fighting from victory not for victory
- Satan's methodology follows three stages: the lie, the lure, and the lair, all designed to bring death
- The enemy always appeals to the flesh through the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life
- Believers have a responsibility to daily take up and put on the whole armor of God
- The world system is under Satan's temporary authority and is passing away
- Walking by the Spirit enables believers to resist gratifying the desires of the flesh
- The last days will be characterized by unprecedented deception, false signs and wonders, and a great falling away
- Christians must hold their position and stand on high ground, protecting marriages and families from spiritual attack
- Pursuing signs, wonders, and miracles is dangerous as it appeals to the flesh and opens believers to deception by different spirits

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**Discussion Questions:**

How does understanding that we wrestle from a position of victory rather than defeat change the way you approach spiritual battles in your daily life?

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In what ways have you experienced Satan's three-part methodology of lie, lure, and lair working in your own life or the lives of those around you?

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The sermon emphasizes that Satan cannot take your salvation but can rob you of living in the fullness of Christ. What areas of your life might you be living in defeat rather than in the freedom Christ offers?

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How do the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life manifest in contemporary culture, and what practical steps can you take to guard against these appeals to your flesh?

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Why do you think the church today is often succumbing to worldly values rather than standing firm in biblical truth, and what responsibility do individual believers have in reversing this trend?

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The pastor warns against chasing signs, wonders, and miracles as a form of sensuality that can lead to deception. How can believers maintain a balance between expecting God to work powerfully while walking by faith and not by sight?

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Considering that Satan operates through both spiritual forces and physical rulers and authorities, how should Christians engage with government and cultural institutions while maintaining their spiritual position in Christ?

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## Small Group Study Guide: "Hold the High Ground: Understanding Spiritual Warfare" Based on Ephesians 6:10-18

### Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "spiritual warfare"? Have you ever felt like you were in a spiritual battle?

### Key Scripture

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."* - Ephesians 6:10-11

### Main Takeaways

#### 1. Know Your Enemy

- We wrestle against rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, and spiritual forces of evil
- Satan operates both spiritually and through physical systems and authorities
- Our enemy is defeated, but still active within God's sovereign allowance

#### 2. Know Your Position

- We fight from a position of VICTORY, not defeat
- Christ has already won the battle through His death and resurrection
- We are seated with Christ in heavenly places, far above all spiritual powers

#### 3. Satan's Three-Part Strategy

- **The LIE** - Deception is always the starting point
- **The LURE** - Appealing to our flesh through enticement
- **The LAIR** - The trap that brings death and destruction

#### 4. Three Areas of Attack

Satan always targets our flesh through:

- **The lust of the eyes** - What we see and desire visually
- **The lust of the flesh** - Physical and sensual desires
- **The pride of life** - Self-exaltation and worldly ambition

## Discussion Questions

### **Understanding the Enemy (15-20 minutes)**

1. **Read Ephesians 6:12.** Why is it important to recognize that our real battle is not against people but against spiritual forces?
2. How does knowing that Satan is a "deceiver" and "father of lies" change the way you evaluate messages from culture, media, and even your own thoughts?
3. The sermon mentioned that Satan operates through both spiritual and physical realms. Can you identify examples of this in current events or cultural trends?

### **Understanding Our Position (15-20 minutes)**

4. **Read Ephesians 2:4-6.** What does it mean practically that you are "seated with Christ in heavenly places"? How should this affect your daily battles?
5. The pastor said, "We wrestle from a position of victory, not defeat." How does this differ from how you've typically thought about spiritual battles? What changes when you fight from victory instead of for victory?
6. Discuss the difference between our "position" in Christ (secure and victorious) versus our "practice" (how we actually live). Why do so many Christians live defeated lives despite having a victorious position?

### **The Enemy's Methods (20-25 minutes)**

7. **Read Genesis 3:1-8.** Identify the three stages (Lie, Lure, Lair) in Satan's deception of Eve. How did he appeal to the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life?
8. **Share (as comfortable):** Can you trace a past temptation or sin struggle through these three stages? How did the lie lead to the lure, which led to the lair?
9. **Read 1 John 2:15-17.** What are some specific "lures" in our current culture that appeal to:
  - The lust of the eyes?
  - The lust of the flesh?
  - The pride of life?
10. The sermon warned against chasing signs, wonders, and miracles as a form of sensuality in the church. Why is this dangerous? How can we discern between genuine moves of God and deceptive spiritual experiences?

### **Standing Firm (15-20 minutes)**

11. **Read Galatians 5:16-25.** What is the relationship between walking in the Spirit and resisting the desires of the flesh? How does this work practically in daily life?
12. The pastor said we must "preach the gospel to ourselves every day" and "crucify the flesh daily." What does this look like in practical terms?

13. What are some specific "fences" that marriages and families need to build today to protect against the enemy's attacks?

### **Practical Application**

#### **Personal Reflection (Take 5 minutes of silence)**

- In which of the three areas (lust of eyes, lust of flesh, pride of life) are you most vulnerable right now?
- Where might you currently be believing a lie from the enemy?
- What "lure" keeps appearing in your life that you need to recognize and reject?

#### **This Week's Action Steps**

##### **Choose at least TWO to commit to this week:**

1. **Daily Armor:** Each morning, verbally acknowledge your position in Christ and ask God to help you recognize the enemy's lies, lures, and lairs.
2. **Identify the Lie:** When you face temptation this week, stop and ask: "What is the lie I'm being told?" Write it down and counter it with Scripture truth.
3. **Build a Fence:** Identify one specific area where you need to build protection (technology use, relationship boundaries, time management, etc.) and implement one practical boundary.
4. **Marriage/Family Protection:** If married, have a conversation with your spouse about what "fences" you need around your marriage. If you have children, discuss one way to better protect them from cultural deception.
5. **Crucify the Flesh:** Choose one specific area where your flesh is ruling and commit to daily denying that desire through prayer, accountability, and Scripture.
6. **Media Fast:** Take a 24-48 hour break from social media, news, or entertainment to reduce the enemy's access to your eyes and mind.

### **Accountability & Prayer**

#### **Accountability Questions:**

- What is one specific way you will "hold the high ground" this week?
- Who will you ask to check in with you about this commitment?

#### **Group Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for discernment to recognize the enemy's lies
- Pray for strength to resist lures that appeal to our flesh
- Pray for protection over marriages and families in the group
- Pray for the church to stand firm in truth during these deceptive times
- Pray for those who are currently caught in the "lair" - experiencing the death and destruction of sin

**Looking Ahead**

Next week's sermon will focus on **the armor of God** - who the armor is and how we put it on daily. Come prepared to discuss what it means that Christ himself is our armor.

**Additional Resources**

**Recommended Reading:**

- Ephesians 6:10-20 (read daily this week)
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- James 4:7-10
- Romans 8:31-39

**Memory Verse for the Week:** *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* - James 4:7

**Closing Thought**

Remember: You are not fighting for victory; you are fighting FROM victory. Christ has already won. Your job is to stand firm in the position He has given you and refuse to be moved by the enemy's lies, lures, and lairs.

**"Hold the high ground!"**

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# 5-Day Devotional: Standing Firm in Christ

## Day 1: Understanding Our True Enemy

**Reading:** Ephesians 6:10-12

**Devotional:** Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of darkness. This truth transforms how we view our daily battles. When conflict arises in relationships, workplace challenges emerge, or cultural pressures mount, we must remember the real enemy operates behind the scenes. Satan works through deception, using rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers to oppose God's people. However, we do not fight from a position of weakness. In Christ, we are already victorious. The enemy has been defeated at the cross. Today, recognize that your struggles have a spiritual dimension. Stop fighting people and start standing against the schemes of the devil. Your position in Christ is secure; stand firm in that truth.

## Day 2: Recognizing the Enemy's Methods

**Reading:** Genesis 3:1-8; 1 John 2:15-17

**Devotional:** Satan's methodology has remained unchanged since Eden: the lie, the lure, and the lair. He deceives through craftiness, appealing to the lust of our eyes, the lust of our flesh, and the pride of life. Notice how he questioned God's word with Eve: "Did God actually say?" He still whispers the same doubts today, minimizing consequences and maximizing desires. The enemy knows your weaknesses and tailors his attacks accordingly. He promises fulfillment but delivers death. The world system he influences constantly bombards you with messages contrary to God's truth. Today, examine what you're allowing into your mind through media, entertainment, and relationships. Are you being slowly lured away from sincere devotion to Christ? Guard your heart diligently.

## Day 3: Walking by the Spirit, Not the Flesh

**Reading:** Galatians 5:16-25

**Devotional:** The Christian life involves constant tension between flesh and Spirit. Though born again, we still battle fleshly desires that war against our new nature. Sexual immorality, idolatry, envy, and selfish ambition characterize the works of the flesh, leading to death. But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, and self-control—qualities that reflect Christ's character. Walking by the Spirit is not passive; it requires daily crucifying the flesh and its passions. This means intentionally saying no to temptation and yes to God's ways. We must preach the gospel to ourselves daily, reminding our hearts of who we are in Christ. Today, identify one area where your flesh dominates. Confess it, surrender it, and ask the Spirit to produce His fruit instead.



## Sermon Transcript:

Thank you all.

Well, good morning, everyone.

There is no other name under heaven whereby men might be saved, but only by the name of Jesus.

Yes.

At the name of Jesus, every man will bow one day, and they'll stand before Jesus Christ.

Amen?

Aren't you thankful for Christ in your life this morning?

Yeah.

Yeah.

I know some of you over here on my left are.

I can tell by what you're saying.

Absolutely.

I do want to welcome each and every one of you here this morning.

And for those that are watching today and listening by radio, even down at our recovery ministry, they're watching live stream today.

We are so grateful that all of you are joining in and just a quick welcome and pray that God will use the word that is spoken today to encourage each and every one of you in your life.

And I'm very excited to share with you this message this morning in this ongoing series that we've been teaching on called The Weapons of Our Warfare.

The title of our sermon message today, kind of to keep this in your mind, is Hold the High Ground.

Hold the High Ground.

If you have your Bibles with you this morning, would you please open them and follow along with me.

We're going to read Ephesians chapter 6 is where we'll be reading from.

And we're going to read verses 10 through 18 this morning.

Hopefully, within a week or two, we will be wrapping this particular series up and back into our study of the book of Galatians.

Galatians chapter 6, 10 through 18 this morning is where we'll be reading.

Finally, did I say Galatians?

Yeah.

Well, you don't want to go to Galatians chapter 6.

You'll be lost for sure.

How about Ephesians chapter 6?

Ephesians chapter 6, 10 through 18.

We've studied now here for a few weeks on this passage of scripture.

It's very, very apropos for our day, especially in the times in which we're living in, that we truly grasp and understand, number one, who our enemy is, but who we also are in Christ.

And let's just read what Paul writes here now as he is finally wrapping up the letter that he wrote to the church in Ephesus.

Paul says, "'Finally, be strong in the Lord,'

Verse 2.

Verse 3.

that you may be able to stand in the evil day and having done all to stand firm, stand, therefore having fastened on the belt of truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness and as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

And take up the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all of the saints.

Now we have for the past few weeks been studying together who and what we as Christians are wrestling or battling against.

We've learned that we're actually wrestling and battling against rulers and against authorities.

And we've learned that there are really two parts to this.

Number one, these fallen angelic beings that followed Satan in his rebellion against God are part of the rulers and authorities in Satan's kingdom, his little god-g-kingdom of this age.

And also it manifests itself in our world, not only spiritually, but through the physical realm, and that is through rulers and authorities in the physical realm, through government leaders and those in authority.

Satan also operates through them against Christians and against those who follow Christ.

Also we're wrestling against the cosmic powers, and we learn more about that over this present darkness.

And we're also wrestling against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.

And we learned that there is more than one heaven.

What I mean by that is we have the atmosphere and then we have what's above that.

And Paul mentions that he knew a man that was caught up into the third heaven.

What is that?

That's into the very paradise of God.

So when we speak about the heavens and you read in Genesis chapter one, God,

created the heavens, that's plural, and we know that there's a great battle and war that's happening in the heavens, if you will, and part of Satan's kingdom is in the heavens, as we learned in Daniel, studying about the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece, that Michael had to come and actually

help the angel messenger get to Daniel for the message.

So there is a real sense where there is a spiritual war that's not only happening in the physical realm here on the earth, but also in the heavenlies and the way that the structure of Satan is established and set up with princes and those who have lesser power and authority under those princes and those who have lesser power and authority under those as well.

And they're operating in this fallen world evil system that they have.

So rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness and spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places are the ones in which we've learned that we as Christians are wrestling against or battling against.

We've learned that through the church.

We've learned this in Ephesians as well.

That through the church, the manifold wisdom of God has been made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places.

In other words, these angelic beings are watching the manifold wisdom of God being fulfilled in the church.

It's amazing for them to watch and see.

And the angels who serve God are rejoicing and worshipping God for his incredible manifold wisdom.

And then the fallen angels as well, the demons who are operating under Satan as the head of that fallen kingdom also are operating as God works through the church and they're seeing the manifold wisdom of God being exhibited that before the time, before the world ever even began, God had in his mind that he would exhibit his manifold wisdom through the church.

Absolutely incredible.

We also learned that Christ, our kinsman redeemer, redeemed us through the atonement of his shed blood, through his death, his burial, and his resurrection.

He has redeemed us to God.

He purchased us.

That means purchased us to God.

Christ's redeeming work will, in finality, redeem all that was lost by Adam in the fall, including creation, which we learn that creation is waiting, as it says in Romans, for the sons of God to be revealed.

In other words, for the fulfillment of salvation to fully be completed one day at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Creation right now is waiting for this curse to be lifted from it as it was cursed from the very beginning.

And Jesus Christ will restore and redeem all things, including creation.

Christ our redeemer, he is the victor, he is victorious, and God raised Christ, it said here in Ephesians chapter one, and seated Christ at God's right hand in heavenly places.

And this was very significant that we learned, although we're wrestling against principalities and powers, these fallen, evil, angelic beings that were created by God with a free will, those that followed Satan in his rebellion against God,

We've learned here that Jesus Christ himself, our Redeemer, the God-man, fully God, fully man, the incarnation that must have been done in order for God to redeem humanity.

That Jesus Christ now has been raised and he is seated in the heavenly realms.

At God's right hand is where Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, is now seated.

But not only that, he is seated far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name.

And he has put all things under the feet of our Lord Jesus Christ.

That is where our God reigns and rules from.

He's above it all, Christians.

He is your redeemer.

He is your salvation.

He is your love.

And he is seated there and sent his Holy Spirit to come and indwell every single believer to help us as we live our life for Christ and in Christ here on this earth.

Yes, amen.

We are the redeemed by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

Not one work is added to our salvation for redemption purpose.

Jesus Christ fulfilled all those things.

Here's another interesting thing we learned that we are joined to Christ.

We have been placed in Christ, and this is gonna be very important to remember for this incredible message that I'm gonna be so privileged to preach next week, Lord willing, if we get there.

You are in Christ Jesus, never forget this.

You're in Christ, you've been joined with Christ, and you are now part of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is incredible.

We are in a great conflict with evil.

We wrestle, though, from a position not of defeat, Christian.

We wrestle from a position of victory.

Never forget that.

We always wrestle from a position of victory.

You may not be living in that place and you may not be fighting against evil in that place, but your position is always from a place of victory.

You must know that because Christ has won the victory for us.

It's already been done.

The enemy has been defeated, if you will.

In other words, Jesus Christ overcame death, hell, and the grave.

All have been overcome by Christ.

Satan is limited in what he can do to you and to me.

He doesn't have free reign.

Thank God for that.

But he does not have.

This morning, we will now begin looking at God's provision.

Don't forget God's provision for us in this great conflict, our armor.

and our weaponry.

And what he has given us is needed to aid us in our stand.

Our stand.

Don't forget this.

It's to take a stand.

We stand against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.

The first thing that we learn here in this section of Scripture that the Apostle Paul is teaching us here today is he says that we have a responsibility, Christian.

We are in this battle.

It's real.

It has serious consequences to it.

But remember this, nothing will ever be able to take you from your position of being in Christ.

That cannot be taken from you.

In fact, he has even sent the Spirit of God to indwell you as an earnest, if you will, that guarantees your inheritance.

Where's your inheritance?

Thank God it's not here on this earth.

Your inheritance is somewhere where it can't be robbed by a thief or rust or eaten by moths.

It's somewhere being preserved for you.

It's a guaranteed fact.

It's reserved for you in where?

In heaven.

Thank God for that.

What a wonderful truth to know that this morning.

Now, it doesn't mean that you are always living in that place of position.

Many Christians today are living defeated lives.

They're entangled with all kinds of addiction and sin in their lives, and they're living not in victory or peace or freedom.

They're actually living in just the opposite, but that's not the position nor the place in which a Christian should live nor stand.

One reason Christians are so defeated today is because they don't realize or recognize the actual enemy and the tactics and the methods that the enemy uses against them.

And so they live in defeat.

The flesh is real, folks, our flesh.

And when we come to faith in Christ, we are what?

Born of the Spirit.

In other words, the Bible says that we have been regenerated.

We have a new birth that happens.

And we become new in Christ Jesus.

And now the Spirit of God comes and he indwells every believer.

But one thing that is not done away with is your flesh.

Never forget that.

We fight against the flesh because the things of the flesh always lead to death.

And so this is what we're gonna learn about this morning.

That we are to take up the armor.

God has provided it.

We are to take it up.

We have a responsibility.

Every single day we need to take on and put on the armor.

Next week you're gonna learn what the armor is or should I say who the armor is.

The word here that we're looking at literally means exactly what it says.

It means to take it up.

It's an action that must be done.

And that's what we're going to do every single day of our life.

Christian, you have been provided, do not forget this, with the necessary armor to aid you in this great battle, in this conflict.

Every one of you have been given the armor.

It's available.

But it's our responsibility as Christians to take it up by way of application here and put it on in order for the armor to be useful for us.

Paul says take up and put on not just pieces of it or a piece of it, but put on the whole armor of God.

The armor of God is purposefully created to protect us from the ways in which the enemy attacks the believers in Christ.

In verse 10, Paul says that the armor of God enables us to stand against, stand against the schemes of the devil.

The word stand there literally means to hold your position against a foe.

We are called simply to stand.

Hold your position.

That's what we are called to do.

When you as a Christian know your position of who you are in Christ...

When you understand this, you're able now to what?

To wrestle from that position.

You know who you are in Christ.

You know who Christ is.

You know where Christ is seated.

You know what Christ has done through you and in you, and what he has given you the power to do through him.

All these things we know, and knowing these things as a reality, we must hold our position.

Because the enemy would love to move us from our position.

Not the finality of it, which is salvation, ultimately.

We are saved, we have been saved, we're being saved, and we will be saved.

Jesus Christ is the author and the finisher, the perfecter of our faith.

We know these things to be true.

It is secure in Christ.

But the enemy, this is what he's up to.

Now listen to me, you need to catch this.

This is so very, very important.

The enemy wants to move us from our rightful place of living.

In other words, living a life of being in Christ.

There are great benefits for us who are in Christ Jesus of what we are as a new creation in Christ Jesus, what is available for us in Christ Jesus, the fruits of the Spirit and all those things that we have in our life that are not available to the unbelieving world.

We have all these things, but the enemy wants to move us from the rightful place of how we live in Christ.

Instead of living in the freedom, how many of you think and know that you are free in Christ Jesus?

Then why are so many Christians in bondage to sin and addiction?

It's because they're not living in the rightful place of freedom in their life.

That's not their place of position.

They don't have to live in the bondage of addiction.

Jesus Christ came to set you free.

He who the Son sets free is free indeed.

Paul also says we're not enslaved to religion.

Thank God for that.

I'm not enslaved to a whole bunch of works that I must do in order for God to somehow maybe accept me and consider me worthy of eternal life.

None of us could ever deem that reality in our humanity because we are simply flesh and bone.

We do sin.

And none of us could ever attain to the righteousness of God.

So Jesus Christ, our righteousness, has done that for us.

We need to know those things.

So Satan wants to move you from that position, and when he moves you from the position of victory, freedom, peace, joy, all of these things that we have in the spirit of God through salvation, when he moves us from that position, we then begin to live lives of defeat, enslavement to sin of the flesh, lives that are void of joy.

We have no peace, and we also live in defeat instead of in victory.

That's what happens.

And the enemy is very, very, very good at what he does.

He's been doing it for thousands of years.

We know that the enemy, there is a thing that is called demonic possession.

Possession.

that there are people who are possessed, if you will, by an evil spirit, a fallen angelic being.

They are actually possessed by that.

We're not gonna get into great detail about that today.

That's just one way in which the enemy does afflict people.

He also oppresses people.

You've even felt this before.

Have you felt that dark spiritual oppression that comes around?

Have you felt that?

That's a way in which he tries to defeat a believer is the oppression that comes over you.

And if you've experienced it, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

It's a dark, overhanging oppression that just weighs you down.

It's oppression in the way you think and process and live.

It's oppressive in the way that it does that.

Jesus Christ didn't come to oppress.

He came to live us, to set us free in freedom.

The enemy comes to oppress us and enslave us.

even though in reality we are free and free indeed.

He also afflicts believers.

It is true that there are some people who are sick because of an affliction caused by Satan or the demonic hordes who follow him.

But Satan is on a leash.

He cannot do just anything he wants to do.

God doesn't allow that.

Also, persecution is another way in which he comes against the lives of believers.

persecution is another way, but what we're gonna look at primarily this morning is to give you something that you can write down today and you can use this in your life to understand and then by application, how do we overcome these things?

And I wanna share this with you this morning.

It's very important that you write these things down and that you know these truths.

Number one, Paul says, this is the way in which Satan does his work.

He uses a very fascinating word here, as you've just read along with me, that we're to stand against something, against the schemes.

Schemes is what we're to stand against.

Now, this is the Greek word, methadoia.

It's where we, in our English language, get the word method.

It's where we get the word method from.

Paul says that we are to stand against the methods of Satan.

He has methods.

And he wants us to know that

that he has a methodology that he uses.

It literally means this.

Method used in organized evil doing, well-crafted trickery.

So he uses craft, if you will, and he uses trickery.

And this word right here, part of his methodology, that word can mean, guess what, deceit.

He uses deceit.

There's nothing worse in my mind than to be deceived by the enemy.

Nothing worse.

But what I have told you for the last few years, I have talked about this over and over and over for Christians to understand this.

The last days will be defined by one word, and it is the word deception.

Deception.

Because Satan is the deceiver.

Deceiver.

Deception, that's what he does.

It means to travail over by well-organized and crafted trickery, deceit.

It is a lie in wait.

That's what this word scheme means.

It is a methodology of craftiness and trickery and deceit that the enemy is using

To move you from your position of who you are in Christ in the way that you live.

Not in finality because Jesus Christ finished that work.

You will not lose your salvation.

But you can lose rewards in heaven.

And you can lose every blessing of what it means to be in Christ right now in how you live.

You can live in bondage and not in freedom.

You can live in all types of turmoil and not in peace.

You cannot experience the joy of the Lord, which we know is one of the things we receive when we come to faith in Christ is joy.

Not only that, you can become enslaved and have no freedom, no victory, and it's not because Jesus Christ is not the victor.

It's because of the schemes of the evil one that we fall into that rob us of these truths today.

about our position of who we are and where we are in Christ.

We need to know this.

God has provided the necessary armor and weaponry that is a result of what Christ, listen, don't forget this, Christ has provided for us

Next week, you're gonna learn way more detail about this, but this is an incredible thing we're gonna learn.

And the position we now stand in Christ is all from God.

It is by grace through faith in Christ alone.

And these pieces of armor and the sword of the Spirit, they are all a result of our redemption and our being in Christ.

It's powerful, guys.

Now we're gonna look at the methodology.

Write these things down here in just a moment.

We've already learned that Lucifer, Lucifer was the name of Satan before he fell.

We learned two weeks ago what the Bible says about Lucifer.

the shining one, the light bearer, the one who walked among the fiery stones before the throne of God, the one who had all types of stones built in him that reflects the glory of God before the very throne of God, Lucifer was one who walked among the fiery stones before the altar of God.

That's who he was.

And then he fell in his pride and said, I will ascend above the stars and I will set on the mount of God.

He's gonna be like God, he said, and be worshiped like God.

That's all Satan desires, by the way.

Most importantly, you'll learn, is that you and I would worship him.

He wants to be worshiped.

It's what he desires, and there are many who worship Satan.

Luciferians are among those who worship Satan.

Satan has a well-organized structure.

He gets no credit for the structure because the structure didn't come from him.

He learned it because God is a God of order.

God has an order even in the angelic beings.

We know there are angels that have certain purposes and certain duties, and obviously there are angels with more power and authority than others.

For Michael, the archangel, which is the angel over God's people, he has specific power that seems to be mightier than others.

We know this to be the case.

His structure of order in his government, if you will, is in the heavenlies and it's on earth.

We know the Bible teaches us that one third of these angelic beings who have a free will actually followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God.

In Revelation chapter 12, seven through 12.

We learn this.

This is a future event.

We know this to be something that's going to happen about halfway through the seven-year tribulation period of time.

Now, war arose in heaven.

Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon.

And the dragon, which we know is Satan or Lucifer, he has many other names, and his angels fought back, but he was defeated.

and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

Now, I want you to understand something.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary, when he ascended into the depths of the earth, and when he was raised on the third day, he triumphed over Satan and all the demonic hordes who follow him.

The Bible says that he triumphed over them through the cross.

Jesus defeated Satan on the cross.

This is not the same event.

This event right here is a war that's going to take place in the heavens.

And this war will be fought between Michael and the angels of God against Satan and the angels who follow him.

And Michael and the angels who serve God, there's a mighty battle and he will defeat Satan.

And then what's gonna happen?

Satan will no longer be allowed in the heavenlies.

He's going to be what?

He's going to be fixed here upon the earth where he is now having to rule solely on the earth.

But we also know that's about the time that Antichrist himself will be possessed by Satan himself and he will lead this whole world astray.

This is coming.

Bible tells us what's gonna happen.

He was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

And the great dragon who is Satan, also known as Lucifer, was thrown down.

The ancient serpent, which you know the serpent, we read about him in Genesis chapter three.

The one who tricked Eve.

Listen to what it says right here.

Who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.

You want to know why the world lies in deception?

They're under the deception of the enemy.

Christians, you and I don't need to be deceived.

Not at all.

He was thrown down to the earth and his angels were thrown down with him.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, now the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God and authority of his Christ have come.

For the accuser of the brothers has been thrown down who accuses them day and night before our God.

And they have conquered him.

Who?

We have conquered him.

How did we conquer him?

This is how it's happened.

By the blood of the lamb and by the word of your testimony.

Amen.

That's how you have conquered him.

For they loved not their lives even unto death.

Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them.

But woe to the earth, to you who dwell upon the earth.

Woe to you.

Why?

For the devil has come down to you in great wrath.

Because, listen to this, because he knows...

He knows his time is short.

He knows he's not going to beat God.

He knows it.

He knows he's going to be defeated.

He knows the lake of fire is coming.

He knows all of these things.

So what is he about?

He's about having people worship him here and he's about deceiving God's people to rob them of who they are in Christ Jesus.

He can't take your salvation, but he can rob you of all the great attributes of what it means to be in Christ Jesus in real living, in real time here upon the earth.

It's what he's after.

It's what he's after.

Lucifer and the angels who follow him in rebellion, they take their marching orders from him.

This evil kingdom is well organized, and this word schemes, very methodical in what they do.

Their methods are focused in trickery and deception.

The methods of the enemy that are meant to deceive and trick us have three initial parts.

Let me write these down, please.

They all start with the letter L.

The very first way in which this is done, it always begins with what he started out in the very beginning with, a lie.

Always starts out with a lie.

Number two, then he moves to the next stage.

Once he's laid the framework and the groundwork for a lie, now he offers a lure, lure.

Third, once you've taken the lure,

He leads you into the lair, the trap.

A lie, a lure, and a lair.

Those are three things that Satan will always lead you to.

He begins with a lie, he offers a lure, and then he drags you into his lair.

Every single time.

Satan's method of deception directed toward us always, listen to me, you and I live in this world.

We are not of the world, we're in the world, but there's still something that we have to deal with until we are changed and become what Christ has made us to be.

We are always going to have to contend with the flesh.

Do not forget this.

These are the three things.

Write them down.

The three methods, the methodology of Satan.

He always directs these things, the lie, the lure, and the lair, are always directed to appeal to your flesh.

To your flesh.

Always.

The lust of the eyes.

Please hear me.

Write this down.

The lust of the eyes.

Always.

Number two, the lust of the flesh.

Number three, the pride of life.

Every one of these, as you're gonna see from Genesis chapter three, all the way through scripture to the very end, he does these three things in the physical realm as methodology in order to snare you.

He'll be with a lie, a lure, and a lair, and they all are directed at your flesh, sir, and your flesh, ma'am.

Every one of them.

It's the lust of our eyes.

It's the lust of our flesh.

And it's the pride of life.

Those are the three areas in which you are able to be quickly deceived.

And it's all through the physical realm.

All through the physical realm.

He uses this wicked, depraved, godless culture that we live in.

He uses this to deceive us through deceptive lies and deceptive lures and deadly lairs.

Always.

1 John 2.15-17.

Listen to this.

This is why.

When you understand the matrix, I wish all of you could have been at the matrix meeting.

When you understand the matrix, that is the little G-God kingdom here on earth that he has established.

When you realize that things aren't what you think they are, that you have been lied to, you have been deceived, for years you've been programmed to believe certain things that are not true.

If you could get this and understand this, that what we're living in is a matrix of sorts under Satan's crafted little kingdom that he has developed, and he's operating through kings and through princes, and he's operating through dark forces and all these things on this earth, and they're all geared to do what?

To lie to you, to lure you, to lure you, and they all pertain to the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

And when you get to 1 John 2, 15 through 17, we read,

Do not love the world.

Why?

You've been told that that's all you're supposed to love.

Your best life now, listen to me.

Do not love the world because the world is under the authority and the deception of who?

Satan.

That's who, under God's sovereign allowance and power and authority,

He is doing, but he rightfully took it from Adam.

If you go back and remember what God gave Adam to do and instructed Adam to do under God's authority, he was to rule.

He was to have dominion over everything upon the earth.

And Satan usurped that and Adam, instead of taking his rightful role, he had authority over the serpent.

He didn't do that.

He allowed the serpent to have authority over him and under Satan he went and he usurped the title deed to the earth and Satan himself now rules and reigns on earth as the little G God for a temporary time.

That's why this whole world is so jacked.

How did America, I don't even know if that's the right word or not, just really messed up?

Why is it, guys, that America is so depraved?

Why?

Because Satan and these demonic hordes and these principalities of darkness, all of those things are anti-Christ and anti-God, every one of them.

And we live in a society that is anti-Christ.

It is anti-God.

It is depraved.

It is sick.

It is twisted.

And we see it happening so readily in our day and time.

Why?

Because you have to know what you're living in.

We're not here to live in the world.

We're here to live in the world but not to be of the world.

We're here to be the body of Christ.

Do you understand that?

We hold our position of who we are in Christ because evil is pushing forward, trying to advance the kingdom of darkness.

And we as Christians have everything we need to stand against that force.

We have it.

But the church is succumbing to everything in the world.

It's becoming like the world instead of coming against those things.

The church is allowing it all in.

It's like a floodgate happening right now.

It's unbelievable.

So he says, do not love the world or the things of the world.

If anyone loves the world, listen to this.

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

What you're gonna notice as you follow Christ, the more and more depraved everything gets, the more and more your longing is for Maranatha, come Lord Jesus.

I don't want Elon Musk's world

How have we ever gotten to a place and a point where a farmer no longer desires to be in a cab of a tractor for hours a day tilling the soil, planting the seed, and harvesting the crop?

He'd rather sit in his living room with the computer and allow a machine to do all the work.

How did we ever get here?

Now they have this big metaverse they're pushing.

It's a metaverse.

It's already here.

They tell us in 25 to 50 years, most people who have jobs that can be done by computers and robots are not gonna even be employed.

I don't want that world.

I don't want Elon Musk's world.

I could care less about the stupid technology that is ruining your life.

Some of you don't even know what it was like to live before cell phones, but did you know we were pretty bright and we got along just fine without them?

Amen.

That's not the sermon.

But anyway, moving on.

The love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, do not miss this.

This isn't like smorgasbord.

I don't really like sauerkraut, so I'm not eating it.

All I am is the messenger of the mail.

I didn't write it.

All that's in the world, here it is.

The lust of the flesh.

If we don't live in the most lustful time in the history of our world, other than Sodom and Gomorrah, which was destroyed, a city or two that were destroyed, we're living in a time where the whole world is just full of lust.

Oh, it's full of lust.

Look at the algorithms on your phone that they send to you, sir, to trip you up.

It's an algorithm, man.

They just pitch it to you and right there it is before your eyes.

Your kids, they don't have to search anything.

The algorithms are searching for them.

The lust of the eyes.

The lust of our flesh.

We live in a lustful society, a lustful culture.

It's all about self-gratification and I want it now.

It's where we live.

Go ahead and stick your head in the sand, mom and dad.

It'll do you no good.

You're kids, mom and dad.

You better be fighting and standing.

I'm telling you now is not the time to get caught up in trying to be wealthy.

Raise your kids for Jesus.

Live your marriages out before your kids.

Fight for your marriage.

Put fences around your marriage.

Fences around your children.

Put them around them.

Got to do this.

because the enemy is after the hearts and minds of the next generation, and he's nearly got us to a godless society.

We're nearly there, folks.

If the church keeps bending over and allowing these things to just steamroll into the church and take no stand in holding their ground, all is lost in the church here.

We're in serious trouble, folks, and most people don't even know.

We've taken on water, man.

No one wants to stand anymore.

Because they love the world.

They love the world.

If there's any pastors that are watching, stop trying to be a five-star pastor.

Yes, you're not gonna have five stars probably on your church if you're a gospel preacher.

People don't like to hear that they're sinful and need to return to God and repent.

They don't like to hear that things in our culture are wicked and they're a complete just sickness to God.

Stop trying to worry about who sends some stupid post in your Facebook page about your church like some disgruntled restaurant eater.

I guarantee you the Apostle Paul would not have had five stars.

Can you imagine the negative comments coming in that baby?

Jesus Christ, you brood of vipers.

Jesus Christ.

You whitewashed tombs with dead man's bones.

You are of your father, the devil.

Gee, that one got a five star.

No, that took him to the cross.

Listen to this.

All of this is not from the father, but it is from the world.

And the world is, check this one off, write it down, passing away.

Along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

James 1, 12 through 15.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he stood the test, he will receive the crown of life.

which God has promised to those who love him.

Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted of God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

Listen to this, though, folks.

Here's where our flesh comes in.

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

Stop saying the devil made me do it.

No, he didn't.

You willingly went along.

But each person is tempted when he lured and enticed by his own desire.

And then desire, when it is conceived, gives birth to sin.

And sin, when it's fully grown, brings forth death.

There's the lure, the lie.

The lie, the lure, and the lair.

Satan knows that we're men and women.

He knows you have a flesh, and he knows your flesh has lustful eyes, lustful flesh, and pride.

And what do we do as new creations in Christ Jesus?

We beat the flesh down.

The Bible says crucify your flesh.

That's why we've got to preach the gospel to ourselves every single day.

Every day.

Galatians 5, 16 through 25.

Let's read this.

Oh, I've got so much to cover.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, Christian, hear this, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Why?

Because our flesh desires things.

Do you really think that their marriages just set out to have affairs and lose their relationship with each other?

You're absolutely crazy.

They don't set out to do that.

How do you think that happens?

It's a process.

It's the lie, it's the lure, and the lair.

But Satan is always pertaining and reaching and appealing to your flesh first, always.

But I say walk by the Spirit, you'll not gratify the desires of the flesh, for the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit.

And the desires of the Spirit, Holy Spirit, are against the flesh.

For these are opposed to each other.

Yes, there is a wrestling and a struggling living in this world.

To keep you from doing the things you want to do.

But if you are led by the Holy Spirit, you are not under law.

Now the works of the flesh are evident.

You want to know how Satan reaches out to our lustful eyes and our lustful flesh and the pride of life?

Here's a few of them.

You could probably underline this in your Bible.

Sexual immorality.

Bing!

Number one in our society, in our culture.

We are the most sexually loose and lustful society literally in the world.

Bing!

America.

God doesn't play around with these things.

This is how he tempts you.

Sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, worshiping things in the world that the world says is so glamorous and so glorious.

They become our gods, like money, things like that, power, you know, the different things that we do.

Sorcery.

enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and these things like these.

They're not even ashamed of this stuff anymore.

In fact, they actually praise those who do them.

Romans chapter one.

If, and it says from here,

I warn you, as I warned you before, those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

If you're gonna have a lifestyle of living this way, you're probably not in Christ Jesus, or if you are, your tail's gonna get kicked by God.

He disciplines his children.

If you can live this way and not have any discipline of God, you are a non-valid child, an illegitimate child.

You're not real.

It's the truth.

It's the truth.

But the fruit of the Spirit, here it is.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Against such things there is no law, and those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with his passions and desires, and that's a daily, daily thing.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Moving right along, let's go.

Here, we gotta go fast.

John 8, 44 through 47.

This is what Jesus said to the religious leaders of his day.

This would have been a negative one, or negative five star here.

You are of your father the devil,

And you will do, and your will is to do your father's desires.

He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there's no truth in him.

And when he lies, he simply speaks his own character.

For he is a liar and he is the father of lies.

But because I tell you, you do not believe me, which one of you convicts me of sin?

I tell you the truth.

Why do you not believe me?

Whoever is of God hears the words of God.

The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

Yes, Facebook back then would've been dangerous.

These same methods were used against the first man and the first woman.

Now this statement is pure speculation on my part here, what I'm gonna say right now.

This is pure speculation on my part.

This is not God's word.

Hear what I'm saying on this, my speculation.

I've wondered how Lucifer

could have convinced one third of the angels to rebel against God and follow him.

Have you ever wondered that?

They have a free will.

How did he do that?

My speculation is that he offered the same methodology.

A lie, a lure, and a lair.

And he appealed to them through what they wanted.

Well, I understand God's got you down here on the lower rung of the ladder, serving down here.

You come serve in my kingdom, I'll give you a lot to rule over.

Isn't that what he offered Jesus?

Kingdoms of the world.

Worship, all those things.

That's what he did to Eve and to Adam.

God's plan here.

Thought he was going to wreck it.

He didn't wreck it.

He can't wreck

God's sovereign plan, it's impossible.

With Adam and Eve, we see the same exact methods that he uses against us.

Number one was the lie, Genesis chapter three, one through four.

Here's the lie.

Now the serpent was more crafty, there's that word again, crafty, than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, here we go,

Did God actually say, you shall not eat of, here's the lie, any tree of the garden?

Do you see that?

Did God really mean that you were to abstain from all things?

And she replies to the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden.

In other words, every single tree we have access to except one.

Satan starts out with no trees to eat.

Eve says, oh, God gave us every tree in the garden to eat except one.

God said, you shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.

Now God in his word has told us things that we as Christian followers of Christ, those disciples of Christ, these are things you don't do.

And everybody that I talk to that has a problem with this, they always focus on the things that God says we shouldn't do.

But did you know every one of those things that God says don't do will bring death to you?

He came to give you life.

He's got some things out there that he knows.

Don't do these things because it will bring death to you.

Do you have any marriages I've counseled of Christians who have death in their marriage?  
because they took the forbidden fruit.

They didn't have to, but every single time, he leads you to death every time.

He hates you beyond anything you can even understand.

He would kill you in a moment of time if God's sovereign hand of protection wasn't over your life.

He despises you.

He hates humanity created in the image of God.

He's out to wreck you, man.

He hates your marriage because it's a picture of Christ in the church.

He hates the family because it propagates the next generation of Jesus followers.

He hates it all.

God has limitations for us because he loves you.

Here he goes.

And this is part of the lie he's gonna tell you.

But the serpent said to the woman, you will not surely die.

Oh, that's where he starts with you.

Things rolling around in society, he's painting all these things, you're seeing it all.

You're running these scenarios through your mind and you hear those words again.

It'll never catch me.

The deceitfulness of riches.

I'll never fall into that snare of just putting my entire focus on just making money.

Or I'd never get sucked into that.

I mean, goodness, they're wearing most of their clothes.

Or you know that guy at work, he gives me attention.

It's just an innocent conversation that I'm having with him at work.

Yeah, he's telling me about his problem marriage.

I'm really just here to go ahead and tell him what a woman really wants in marriage.

It's innocent.

It's not innocent.

It's dangerous.

Here's the lure.

It's found in Genesis 3.5.

For God knows that when you eat from it, your eyes, he says, oh, it's just the exact opposite.

Oh, it's so good.

He knows that your eyes are actually gonna be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Oh, yes, this is how he works.

Oh, yeah, you're right, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

And here comes the lair.

In Genesis chapter 3, 6 through 8, turn with me there if you have your Bibles.

Genesis chapter 3, 6 through 8.

Oh, man.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good...

It was good for food.

Oh, that apple looks so good.

Oh, my goodness.

And that it was a delight to the eyes.

And that the tree was to be so desired to make one wise.

She took of its fruit and ate it.

And she also gave some to her husband who was absent but present.

Hello, Adam.

That's why he sinned.

Eve was deceived.

And he ate.

Now listen to this.

Here's the death part.

Oh, it's a sad, sad, sad place in Scripture.

So sad.

This is what he does every single time.

Once he has the lair, the jaws are closed on you.

Every single time, he brings death to you.

Every time.

Not once, not twice.

100% of the time.

Kill, steal, destroy.

That's what he is all about.

This is what happened.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked.

All of a sudden their innocence is gone.

And they sewed fig leaves together and made for themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden.

Do you know what also this will do to you in the end?

You will try to hide from God.

You won't run to him because of your shame.

You'll run away from him.

You're a hide from God.

You can't stand the preacher.

You can't stand church.

You can't stand any of it because the conviction is so overwhelming.

Your shame is unbelievable.

Because why?

Your eyes were open to it.

Your innocence was gone.

And you were caught by the lie, the lure, and the lair.

And he brought death.

Every time.

Every time.

And then it says, and they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.

And the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man and said, here you go, where are you?

He's been asking that question since then.

Where are you, man?

He said, I heard the sound of you in the garden and I was afraid.

Afraid.

Afraid.

Because I was naked and I hid myself.

He said, who told you that you were naked?

No one told them.

They know the reality of it.

So let's see here exactly what happened.

Genesis 3.13.

I'm running long, guys.

I don't know whether we should just quit now or...

If you need to go, go on.

My wife always tells me, John, you've got to slow.

You're getting too long here for some people.

She hears me all the time.

I'm boring to her anyway, but rightfully so, right?

Genesis 3.13 says this, Then the Lord God said to the woman, listen to this, What is it that you have done?

The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate it.

Lucifer, Satan appealed to the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

I'm gonna talk about one thing quickly and then we're really done.

This is a side note for you all today.

It's very important you hear me say this too.

Do not pursue sensuality within the church today.

That means don't chase signs, wonders, and miracles.

It's a big deal today.

People are chasing signs, wonders, and miracles.

We are told in scripture that we walk by faith, not by sight.

You are not blind in your faith.

The object of your faith is Christ.

You have experienced Christ.

You have Christ revealed to you.

People that say will prove God to me, I know he is real.

I've experienced them in my own life.

I'm not blind in my faith, man.

I'm not just throwing it out there and pitching, saying, well, no, it's not blind.

It's real.

It's a reality.

Don't chase this.

The sensual movement that's going on that we see with the signs, wonders, and miracles, man, it is absolutely incredible.

Absolutely incredible.

Absolutely incredible.

In 2 Corinthians 11, three through four, but I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve, Paul says to the church, by his cunning through your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we've proclaimed, or if you receive, here's a key word, a different spirit, not everything that you see going on in these faith healings and all that, that's not all the spirit of God going on there.

There is a different spirit out there.

And people who are chasing signs, wonders, and miracles, they are going to be so easily deceived.

So easily deceived.

Matthew 12, 38 through 39, some of the scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.

Show us that you're real.

Listen to what he said.

But he answered them, an evil and adulterous generation seeks for signs, but no sign will give in it except a sign of the prophet Jonah.

Seekers of signs, wonders, and miracles are all in great danger of Lucifer's deception as he masquerades as an angel of light.

They put up with different spirits.

This panders to the flesh.

What do you mean?

This is it.

I want to see.

I want to feel.

I want to hear.

I, I, I. And there are hundreds of thousands today who are being deceived by a different spirit.

2 Thessalonians 2, 9 through 12.

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan.

That's the antichrist.

With all power.

This is why it's so dangerous because he's coming.

He's coming, the Antichrist is coming.

How will the whole world fall in love with this guy?

It won't be hard.

Number one, he's coming with all power from Satan.

false signs, false wonders, and with wicked deception for those who are perishing because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved.

Therefore, God sends them a strong delusion so that they may believe what is false in order that they may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Christian, do not forget this.

Before Jesus comes, the Bible teaches us that there's two things that we're going to see happen.

This man of sin is going to be revealed.

And the great falling away is going to happen.

You, Christian, must stand in your position.

Because what is coming upon this world, we have not seen anything yet.

And deception right now is pinging off the charts.

Everywhere you turn, you are being deceived.

Every turn you make today

propaganda, forming your minds, forming your opinions, preparing you for who and what is coming.

It is all working in this world, folks.

You and I must hold and stand the high ground.

Have to do this.

Know what the enemy is doing to you.

Realize that he's appealing to your flesh, your lust of your eyes, lust of your flesh, the pride of your life.

He's using the physical world that we live in to appeal to your flesh in order that he could lie, lure, and lure and destroy things in your life here and now.

This is no game.

Serious business.

Matthew 24, 21 through 28, and I'm gonna go ahead and close.

For then there will be great tribulations such as not been from the beginning of the world until now, Jesus said.

No, and never will be again.

And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved.

That's a pretty wicked society.

But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short.

Then if anyone says to you, look, here is the Christ, or there he is, do not believe it.

I'm telling you, there's gonna be so many people who proclaim to be Christians, who when they watch the antichrist perform false signs, wonders, and miracles, and have all kinds of deceptive power to deceive under the authority and power of Satan.

I'm telling you guys, you better be standing from the position of the high ground so that you do not be deceived.

He says the days are gonna be cut short for who?

For the elect.

Jesus will come sometime in that period.

We know that.

So do not believe it.

Jesus says, I've told you beforehand, they're gonna say, oh, Christ is over here.

Christ is over there.

All these things are gonna be out there.

Don't believe it, not for a second.

Don't go there, Jesus says.

For the reason that we know that deception is absolutely going to be pinging off the charts, and it already is.

Okay, we gotta quit.

But as your pastor,

Terry, would you make your way up here, brother?

And the reason I'm teaching on these things, because it is paramount in your life, believer, to understand what the enemy's up to.

It's paramount that you understand.

Never forget, this week, in fact, the moment you leave here, for the rest of this week, he's going to be appealing to your flesh.

He will.

He always offers the lie first.

brings the lure along.

If I'm trying to catch a bass, I use a certain lure.

Here in a few weeks, I'm gonna go bugle up elk.

I'm never gonna bugle a bull elk in if I sound like you or me.

It's a lure.

And when he comes into 20 yards, he's gonna get the lair.

Satan is here in his kingdom to oppress God's people

and to rob you of the position of your rightful standing in Christ.

Moms and dads, my heart really goes out to you guys right now.

There has never been in the history of the world a harder time to be a mama.

I'm telling you, or a dad.

Never.

In fact, this is so exhausting because you are constantly protecting the wolves from your children today.

Husbands and wives.

Marriage doesn't even matter to the world anymore.

The things that used to bring a red blushed face to people no longer does.

It's celebrated, high-fived, and back-slapped.

Cohabitation, man, there's not even any shame in that anymore.

This generation is marrying much later in life if they're even marrying at all because for them who don't know Christ, what's the point in even marrying because you got everything now and no risk in the future.

Moms and dads, your marriages are under absolute total attack.

Listen to me.

Build a tight fence around your marriage and a real tight fence around your family to keep the wolves from your door.

Protect these very, very, very important things.

Sir, guard your eyes and your mind.

And when those algorithms shoot into your screen, get rid of them.

Because Satan, a liar, a lure, and a liar, wants to bring death to every one of you here.

Stand in your position in Christ Jesus.

Next week, we're going to talk about the armor, okay?

I love you guys in Christ.

I want you to be all right.

Terry, you want to close?

So I'm going to ask you, if you don't know God, and you don't know God,

you

Thank you.