

ABCD's of Deliverance

Class 3 - The Enemies Method of Operation

Recap

1. The pattern remains: Submit, Resist, Flee. Submission to God is not passive weakness; it places us beneath His authority and enables us to stand against the devil.
2. Our confidence does not rest in our own strength. We are strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. God's power is active, mighty enough to overcome every opposing force, and supreme in its dominion. Through Christ, that power is at work toward and within those who believe.
3. Faith is of the heart. Intellectual knowledge alone does not exercise spiritual authority. We believe with the heart and speak from that inward persuasion.

The Devil, Our Adversary

I Peter 5:8 NKJV "Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary** the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

1. Adversary (*antidikos*): opponent, an opponent in a suit of law, an adversary, enemy
2. The devil is like a prosecuting attorney, a fault finder, and an accuser.

Let's notice these qualities in the following verse...

Revelation 12:9-10 NKJV "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who **deceives** the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 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."

1. We see several characteristics of Satan here but what I'd like to point out is that Satan is the accuser. An accuser brings accusations to a judge. Do we not see that here? He is bringing his accusations before God. The righteous Judge.

Looking back at first Peter lets notice about this accuser...

I Peter 5:8 NKJV "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour**."

1. Our adversary devours the ones that have given him place.

Do you remember Eve in the Garden, The Devil accused God of holding out on her. It was a lie of course but she gave in because she gave in to her fleshly desires. Individuals who appeal to their flesh have leave the door open for the devil. Do we not have laws here in the United States that if you invite someone into your home they have a legal right to occupy it.

Ephesians 4:27 NKJV "nor give place to the devil."

1. We will look at this verse more closely along with its surrounding verses next week but let's notice something now...
2. The place we give the devil is directly correlated with his ability to devour us.

What does his devouring look like?

John 10:10 NKJV “The **thief** does not come **except** to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

1. When the enemy has successfully devoured it brings loss, death, and destruction.
2. We've heard the phrase “God has a perfect will for your life”, well the enemy also has a perfect will. Your destruction. He will not quit until you are no longer actively involved on this earth.
 - a. Think about it, We have been seated in heavenly places, we are heirs of God, and we have been created in his image. When the devil sees us he sees the one who cast him out, and the one who defeated him. As a final blow Jesus stripped him of his authority and power making a show of him openly.
 - b. Just as we love God (The first and greatest commandment) we hate the devil. It was Jesus's purpose to destroy the works of the Devil. When we hate the Devil we hate sickness, we hate poverty, we hate lies, and deception because they are works of the devil.

Let's put some of these themes together.

1. The Devil is our adversary bringing accusation against us before God
2. His goal is to devour (Steal/Kill/Destroy) mankind
3. He is only successful in that goal when gives him place.

We are in a wrestling match

Ephesians 6:12 NKJV “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.”

1. In New Testament times the readers would have associated wrestling with the Palestra. The Palestra was “the house of conflict,” where fierce combat sports were hosted. Whoever entered the Palestra had to be mentally prepared to fight the conflict of his life, because the fighting that took place in that place was unlike any other. Only three particular athletic sports occurred in the palestra: boxing, wrestling, and a sport called pankration. We still have boxing and wrestling today, but not the versions of the sport that they had. Theirs was an entirely different sort. It was a very serious, horrible competition. There were rules to the game, but not many. The ultimate goal was to drive your opponent into submission by any means. You could beat him, hurt him, gouge out his eyes, or break his bones — as long as you drove him opponent into submission.
2. Here is a quote from Rick Renner to provide context “These demon spirits are taught to do what they do, and they are given weapons of destruction just like troops. Very often,

there are spirits that do only what they are trained to do. For example, there are spirits of cancer, divorce, addiction, perversion, etc. And when they are dispatched on assignment, they are malevolent, insidious, and violent — coming only to steal, kill, and destroy (see John 10:10)”

Do you remember what we previously talked about in our first class?

1. The first step in putting the enemy to flight is submitting to God. When we are in submission to him the enemy loses a place in our lives. He is legally closed out. His accusations fall on deaf ears. His case no longer has validity.
2. When we submit to the enemy though he has been stripped, and defeated we have given him place.

We will be giving the armor of God a proper look at in our final class but I want to take time to look at The Breast Plate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:14 NKJV “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,”

1. Because we have received Jesus and His sacrifice for sin, we have been made righteous in Him. Putting on the breastplate includes becoming conscious of that righteous standing and allowing it to produce righteous conduct. We do not earn righteousness through good behavior, but when we knowingly live in compromise, we expose ourselves to accusation and surrender practical protection that obedience provides. The breastplate protects the heart from both the condemnation of past sin and the consequences of compromise.
2. **Ephesians 6:11 NKJV** “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles** of the devil.”
 1. Wiles (*methodeia*): The devil’s calculated methods and established avenues of attack

Submit to God, The believer who lives a life of compromise has exposed himself as an easy target for the enemy.

I Corinthians 11:31-32 NKJV “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

1. To judge ourselves means that we honestly examine our conduct in the light of God’s Word and agree with God concerning anything that is wrong.
2. Sin, compromise, and carnality give place to the devil. God gives us an opportunity to turn things around through self judgment.

The Church in Sardis: A call to Judge themselves

Revelation 3:1-4 NKJV “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but **you are dead**. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; **hold fast and repent**. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.”

1. God was giving Sardis an opportunity to step back into his perfect will. The Key was to both examine themselves “Be Watchful” and repent. They had just enough life left in them that they were not beyond help.

Now let's notice something in 1 John 2...

I John 2:1 NKJV “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous**.”

1. If Satan is like a prosecuting attorney, then Jesus is our defense attorney.

Revelation 12:10-11 NKJV “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. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

1. We overcome the accusations of the enemy through the blood and the word of our testimony. When we miss it we must...
 1. Judge ourselves
 - a. **1 Corinthians 11:31 NKJV** “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”
 2. Repent
 - a. **I John 1:9 NKJV** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 3. Testify to what the blood has accomplished.
 - a. I am washed by the blood. I am made clean and made right in His sight. I am delivered. I am free. I am righteous.(Put on the full breastplate of Righteousness)
 4. Refuse further condemnation.
 - a. The believer refuses to agree with continuing accusation and condemnation of the enemy.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down

strongholds, 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,”

1. If the Holy Spirit identifies specific sin, we repent. If the adversary continues accusing us after we have confessed and received cleansing, we take that accusation captive and bring it into obedience to what Christ has accomplished.