



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

GEAR UP: Week 1 - Spiritual Warfare

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” – C.S. Lewis

Three Things We Know About The Devil

- 1) The Devil is REAL!
- 2) The Devil is FORMIDABLE!

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. ~ Ezekial 28:14

God revealed that He is I AM - existence itself, reality itself. The devil made it clear that he aspired to be the Great I Am. He made five “I will” statements full of pride that led to his downfall.

*How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’
~ Isaiah 14:12-14*

Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. ... And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ~ Revelation 12:3-4a, 7-9

- 3) We Must Not FEAR the Devil!

In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” ~ Ephesians 4:26-27

Satan’s names that are shared in Scripture reveal some of his tactics.

Satan - adversary – he is our opponent. Our enemy.

Devil - slanderer. He is a liar and uses lies and rumors to fulfill his purposes.

Lucifer - “son of the morning” or “shining one.” He often appears as an angel of light, beautiful and enticing, and we don’t recognize that it is him at work until it’s too late.

Beelzebub - lord of the flies, the god of filth, dung heaps, and refuse piles.
Belial - a false god known and worshiped in Biblical times. Satan sets himself up as god and tries to cast God in his own place.
The Evil One - The Greek word translated here refers to absolute corruption.
The Tempter - He exploits good desires and entices us to fulfill them with artificial means.
The Prince of This World - the master of false systems and directs geopolitical units to work evil in the world.
The Accuser of the Brethren - He loves to condemn you. Accuse you. Guilt you. Imprison you with negative thoughts, fear, worry, and regret.

He is **"The Serpent"** in Genesis!
He is **"The Dragon"** of Revelation 12!
He is a counterfeit **"Angel of Light"** in 2 Corinthians!
He is **"The Father of Lies"** in John's Gospel.

If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."
~ 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ~ Genesis 3:1-5

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
~ James 4:7

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ~ 1 John 4:4

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings." ~ 1 Peter 5:8-9

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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 6:10-12

- 1) Be strong in the Lord!
- 2) Put on the ARMOR of God!
- 3) Stand against the Devil's schemes!
- 4) Our STRUGGLE is against SPIRITUAL forces of evil!

Palé ~ Greek

"struggle" It refers to a hand-to-hand combat practiced in ancient Greece in which two people would fight until one could hold the other one down. Pinning them down like in wrestling. It involves constant exertion and concentration. It is like you are in an MMA fighting competition involving wrestling, boxing and martial arts all at once.

- 5) There is an INVISIBLE world!
- 6) We are involved in this INVISIBLE war!

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." ~ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
~ 2 Corinthians 4:4

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." – Luke 22:31-32

- 7) We do not fight FOR victory! We fight FROM victory!

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. ~ Revelation 21:22-27