

**KEY SCRIPTURE & SERMON POINTS:**

“We know that God’s children do not make a practice of sinning, for God’s Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. *We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.* And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life. Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts. 1 John 5:18-21 NLT

“And no wonder, for even *Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.* So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 ESV

“He personally attacked Adam and Eve (Gen 3:1-7), Job (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-13), David, (1 Chr 21:1), Joshua the high priest (Zec 3:1-2), Jesus (Matt 4:1-11), Judas (John 13:27), and Peter (Luke 22:31-32)”

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. *He was a murderer from the beginning* and does not stand in the truth, because *there is no truth in him.* When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because *he is a liar and the father of lies.*” John 8:44 CSB

“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to *stand firm against all strategies of the devil.*” Ephesians 6:11 NLT

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to *stand against the schemes of the devil.*” Ephesians 6:11 ESV

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary *the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*” 1 Peter 5:8 ESV

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all *the flaming darts of the evil one;*” Ephesians 6:13, 16 ESV

“So *the great dragon* was thrown out — the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one *who deceives the whole world.* He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.” Revelation 12:9 CSB

“*He has delivered us* from the domain of darkness *and transferred us to the kingdom* of his beloved Son, in whom *we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*” Colossians 1:13-14 ESV

“We know that God’s children do not make a practice of sinning, for *God’s Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.* 1 John 5:18

“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.* 1 John 3:8

**SERMON FOLLOW ALONG POINTS:**

**One of the biggest problems in spiritual warfare: Christians not taking the devil seriously.**

**Correcting 2 misconceptions about the devil:**

**The devil is not a friend to have fun with or sympathy for**

**The devil is not a doofus to be taken lightly**

**The bottom line: The devil is a formidable opponent**

**An important reminder: the devil is a limited opponent. Jesus is above the devil in power, position, and authority.**

**Two tips to start racking up the wins:**

**Accept what we cannot yet understand**

**Take what we can understand seriously.**

**DISCUSSION GUIDE:**

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read through the passages in the Scripture column. Consider assigning one or more passage to each person in your group.
- Converse as a group which passages are most interesting in how it presents the identity of the devil.
- This message surveyed several passages to establish the key points of conversation. Now that you have read each passage and discussed some of them, review and discuss the key points to the sermon via the Follow Along.

**Start Sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Do you feel like you or those close to you have been impacted by misconceptions about the devil? If so what misconceptions impacted you and how? Use the two common misconceptions from the message or share one you’ve observed that was not mentioned in the sermon.
- How does your life reflect the level of seriousness in which you take your spiritual life and the spiritual warfare that comes with being a Christian.
- Read Proverb 3:5. How can accepting that parts of spiritual warfare that you do not yet understand help you take steps forward in your faith and spiritual warfare?
- Is there a part of this message that we have not yet talked about that impacted you? Share it with the group.

**Start Praying.** Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

*Our Lord, the King of Kings, Alpha and Omega, we love you and thank you for your divine care of the universe. While there is an evil, formidable enemy out there we trust that you are more than enough to save us, protect us, and deliver us from his schemes and strategies. Help us to trust you more each day and to advance your Gospel of salvation to those that are captive by the dominion of darkness so that they may be transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus, the Kingdom of Light. We ask this in accordance with your will, by the power of your Spirit, in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- In the closing of this message Pastor Jeff challenged us to: Accept what we cannot yet understand and take what we can understand seriously.

With the former in mind, write 3-5 statements defining your understanding of your relationship with God, your victory over the devil in Christ, and your responsibility in spiritual warfare. Add to this list as you learn more throughout this series.

