

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 5: Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 4
Our Vulnerabilities

“For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world” (1 John 2:16).

Having seen that God has given us everything we need to be victorious in our Christian walk, let us examine our most vulnerable areas as Christians in a world influenced and (temporarily) ruled by Satan.

The consistent teaching in the Word of God says that Satan is the temporary ruler of this world. The Bible teaches that when Adam sinned, he forfeited man’s right to rule the earth, and it went over to Satan who had deceived him. Adam’s disobedience brought sin and death, as well as the rule of Satan into this world. Therefore, it is easy to see why our world is so messed up—Satan is the present ruler of it.

Jesus Christ conquered sin and death on the cross. With His physical resurrection He broke the power of sin and death on the lives of those who will believe in Him. He also reclaimed the title deed to this world. Jesus will come to establish the reign of God’s righteous kingdom. It is then that Satan will no longer be allowed to rule. His days are numbered (Romans 16:20, Revelation 20:10).

1. Read 1 John 5:19. What lies under the sway (the power) of Satan?

2. Read John 16:7-11. The Helper in this passage is a reference to the Holy Spirit, and the ruler of this world is a reference to Satan. According to Jesus in verse 11, who has already been judged?

3. Read Ephesians 2:1-2. The prince of the power of the air is a reference to Satan. How did we walk (live our lives) before we were Christians?

We see that Satan has a temporary rule over this world and the lives of those who are in it—except those who belong to God: all true Christians. It is difficult for unsaved people to understand or even believe this. Second Corinthians 4:4 says that the Devil has blinded their minds from the truth.

Since Satan rules this world, the world system is against Jesus and Christians. Satan uses this world system to tempt Christians away from God trying to destroy them. But remember, this world system will pass away, and only the things done for God’s kingdom will last. That is all the more reason to be faithful in all that God asks us to do.

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4. Read 1 John 2:15-17. What are we not to love (verse 15)?

5. What three things influence the behavior of this world (verse 16)?

6. What will pass away (verse 17)?

7. Who abides forever (verse 17)?

Notice the three areas that dictate human behavior: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Take note, these are the areas of weakness for all people including Christians. When we sin it is because we are enticed in one of these three areas.

8. Read Genesis 3:1-7. Who questioned God's Word in verse 1?

9. Who called God a liar in verse 4?

10. Who proved to be the liar in verse 5?

In Genesis 3:6 notice the three areas that pulled Adam and Eve into sin. This is how sin began and its curse is still with us today. Like Adam and Eve, we too are vulnerable to be drawn away by the motives of our flesh, the desires of our eyes and our own pride.

Read Matthew 4:1-11. Satan tempted Jesus to serve His flesh and Jesus rebuked him and stood on the Word of God. Satan also challenged Jesus to exalt Himself (pride), and again Jesus rebuked him with the Word of God. Finally, Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world, which were desirable to the eyes, if He would bow down and worship him. Once again, Jesus stood on the Word of God and rebuked Satan.

It was on this mountain that human history was changed forever. Adam fell into sin by obeying Satan, and thereby condemned the whole human race. Jesus submitted to the Word of God, and by doing so conquered Satan and sin. Praise the Lord for we as Christians share in this victory! So put on the armor of God and be strong in the Lord Jesus. Take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and fight the enemy head-on with the one weapon that can't be stopped: the Word of God. If we follow the example of Jesus by using God's Word, we will overcome the temptations of the enemy.