

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 5: Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 2
Tactics of the Enemy

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

In a previous lesson, we examined what spiritual warfare is and its effects. Now we want to take a close look at the tactics and strategies of our enemy and adversary, the Devil. Although it is not a pleasant subject, it is important to understand Satan’s goals and objectives. By doing this, Christians will be better equipped to stand up against his attacks.

Here are Satan’s three primary objectives:

1. To destroy a Christian’s relationship with God.
2. To prevent Christians from sharing Jesus with others who are unsaved.
3. To confuse the unsaved about the things of God.

To Destroy a Christian’s Relationship with God

1. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. Who is our adversary (verse 8)?
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2. Whom is he seeking (verse 8)?
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3. What are we to do (verse 9)?
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To Prevent Christians from Sharing the Gospel

In trying to prevent you from sharing Jesus with others, the Devil uses three basic tactics, and all three play on your emotions.

1. Doubt
2. Guilt
3. Unforgiveness

DOUBT. The Devil knows that if he can cause you to (1) doubt your salvation, (2) doubt God’s Word, (3) doubt God’s work in your life, and (4) doubt God’s eternal plan, he can put you on the defensive. The Devil knows that if you doubt in any of these four areas, it is unlikely that you will share Jesus with anyone.

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GUILT. If Satan causes you to dwell on your past sins, he becomes a false accuser against you—telling you the lie that God hasn't really forgiven you. Satan knows that if you are dwelling on your own weaknesses, rather than the power of God's Spirit in your life, you will feel too guilty to share Jesus with anyone.

UNFORGIVENESS. Finally, Satan knows that if he can create a spirit of unforgiveness towards others, you will become hardhearted and an ineffective witness. The less you can forgive others, the less you will see yourself needing forgiveness from Jesus. This will create self-righteousness and legalism in your life, and will actually turn unsaved people away from Jesus. Of course, there are other tactics, but these are the three primary ones. Read Romans 12:10, 18 and the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35.

To Confuse the Unsaved

Satan has been in the business of confusing people for a long time. He is not picky; he will use any method that becomes available. These are his favorites: pride, drugs and alcohol, false religions, cults, humanistic psychology, philosophy and occult miracles. Quite an array of weapons, isn't it? The Christian has two weapons to fight these lies: the Word of God and prayer. We will study these later.

At this time you need to do something very important.

First, realize that Jesus has already won the victory. Because you are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus, you share in the complete and total victory of Jesus Christ. God's Word clearly tells us that Satan cannot touch the Christian. The Bible also makes it clear that when we stand on God's Word (as Jesus did in Matthew 4:1-11) and resist the Devil, the Devil has to flee (James 4:7).

Secondly, ask the Lord to show you how the enemy may be trying to use some of these tactics on you, and on your unsaved family and friends. As you do this, He will surely open your eyes and show you how to pray.