

I. Introduction.

II. You too are engaged in cosmic warfare. v. 1-2

A. You are in a spiritual battle. Eph. 6:10-13 1 Pe. 5:8

1. Satan opposes every son of God.
2. While the devil may not literally appear or speak audibly to you, he attacks you through your flesh, the world, and evil spiritual forces.
3. Your spiritual warfare takes place in the everyday ordinary occurrences of life.
4. It is not a sin to be tempted.
5. In the same situation in which the devil is tempting you to sin, God is testing, proving and strengthening your faith. Js. 1:2-4,12ff 1 Pe. 1:6-7 Ro. 8:28 Job 1-2
6. The devil's power is limited by God. v. 13 22:31-32 Eph. 1:11 Job 1:12 2:6

B. The devil may attack at any time.

1. Walking closely with the Lord, in the Spirit, will not keep the tempter away. 4:1-2
2. You may be especially vulnerable when you are weak. 4:2 Mt. 26:41 1 Ki. 19:1ff
3. Even then you don't have to sin. 1 Co. 10:13
4. Seasons of temptation may be intense, but they are limited. 4:13 Job 1-2 Ps. 23:4
5. The Lord will come to your aid. 11:4 Mt. 4:10 1 Ki. 19:5

C. The devil is exceedingly devious. 2 Cor. 11: 3,13-15 John 8:44

1. He plants seeds of doubt. 4:3 Gen. 3:1,4-5
2. He makes sin appear very attractive. Prov.7:13-19 23:31-32
3. He attacks the area of temptation in which you are most vulnerable.
4. He leads you gradually to destruction. Js. 1:13-15 2 Sam. 11:1ff
5. He can even pervert the words of Scripture. 4:10-11 Ps. 91:11-12

D. God has supplied all you need to resist the devil. Js. 4:7

1. You too need the filling and the leading of the Spirit. 4:1-2 Gal. 5:16ff Ro. 8:14
2. Your best defense against the devil's lies is God's Word of truth. Psalm 1 119:11 2 Tim. 3:16-17 Eph. 6:17,14 Heb. 4:12
3. There is no trial/temptation you will face for which you will not find a sufficient answer in the Scriptures. 2 Tim. 3:17 Titus 1:9
4. We help one another in the battle. Rom. 15:30 1 Th. 5:25 Eph. 4:11,15-16
5. Though the devil is a relentless enemy, decisive victory has been achieved by Christ. Rom. 16:20 Col. 2:15 1 Jo. 3:8 John 12:31 Mt. 12:25-29

III. You will be tempted as Jesus was. v. 3-12

A. You may be tempted to doubt God's care for you. v. 3-4 Gen. 3:5

1. The devil tried to tempt Jesus to mistrust His Father's care for Him.
2. When times are hard you may be tempted to be impatient with God.
3. Is the fulfillment of your physical appetites too high a priority? Phi. 3:19
4. You may be tempted to take matters into your own hands.
5. Your life depends not upon your effort but God's Word. Deut. 8:3
6. You can trust Him to fully meet your needs in His time and way. 11:3 12:31 Jo. 4:34 Ps. 37:25 Phil. 4:19
7. Remember God's promises and all that He has already done for you. Ro. 8:31ff
8. Follow Jesus as you learn to feed upon Him by faith. Isa. 55:1-2 Mt. 4:4 5:6 John 6:51,58 7:38 4:34

- B. You may be tempted to pursue your own glory. v. 5-8 Isa. 14:14**
1. Jesus was offered the crown without the cross.
 2. The devil can offer you a lot. 1 Jo. 5:19
 3. You may be tempted to take shortcuts to gain blessing or avoid trouble and pain.
 4. You may be tempted to live for something other than God. Col. 3:5 Phil. 3:19
 5. Follow Jesus as you grow in your love for God, and as you learn to worship and serve Him exclusively. Deut. 6:4,13
- C. You may be tempted to put the Lord to the test. v. 9-12 11:29-32 Dt. 6:16 Ps. 91:11f**
1. The devil sought to get Jesus to presume upon God's fatherly care for Him.
 2. Don't blackmail God by presuming that He will do what He never promised to do.
 3. Don't take foolish moral and spiritual risks. Js. 1:13-15 2 Tim. 2:22
 4. Don't believe the devil's lie that if you jump into sin God will save you. 1 Jo. 3:10 Rom. 6:1 John 8:44,39 Gen. 3:4
 5. Don't use God's sovereignty as an excuse to be a lazy fatalist. Phil. 2:12-13 Js. 1:13
 6. Follow Jesus in submitting yourself to God's will. 2:42 Mt. 6:10 Js. 4:13-17

IV. You are able to gain victory because of what Jesus has done for you.

- A. How can we hope to do any better than Israel and Adam? 1 Cor. 10:1-13**
1. We have all failed as Israel and Adam did.
 2. Paul warns us not to follow Israel's bad example of sinful failure. 1 Cor. 10:1-12 Lu. 4:3-4 Dt. 8:2-3 6:13,16 Ex. 16:1-3 17:1-7 Acts 7:40-43
 3. Jesus, the true Israel, overcame these very temptations. Luke 4:1-13
 4. Now, because of what Christ has accomplished for us, we have assurance that we will not be tempted beyond what we are able. 1 Cor. 10:13 2 Pet. 2:9
 5. The devil cannot make you sin.
 6. Don't overestimate your own strength to resist. 1 Co. 10:12
- B. Christ not only forgives you, but He also empowers you to overcome the tempter.**
1. You were formerly under the power of the devil and enslaved to fear, sin and death Eph. 2:1-3 Rom. 6:16-17a,19a,20-21 Heb. 2:14-15
 2. Your sins have been forgiven through Christ's work. Heb. 2:17 Phil. 3:9
 3. Jesus has set you free. Eph. 2:4ff Rom. 6:11-14,17-18,22 Heb. 2:14-15 Eph. 2:4ff
 4. You are secure in His love – kept by His power. 1 Pet. 1:3-9
 5. Jesus comes to your aid when you are tempted. Heb. 2:18 4:14-16
 6. Because Jesus has conquered Satan, sin and death, one day it will be impossible for you to sin. 1 John 3:1-2

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. How does Jesus' victory over the devil enable us to overcome temptation?
2. At what moments in your life are you engaged in spiritual warfare?
3. In what areas are you most vulnerable?
4. How does the devil try to deceive you?
5. What resources have you been given to fight against the devil's lies?
6. How thick is your Bible? How do you plan to make it more thick?
7. Are there times when your appetites seem to rule you? How can you fight this temptation?
8. How do people put God to the test?
9. How can we hope to do better in the face of temptation than Adam and Israel did?
10. What might you conclude about someone who claims that he is not conscious of any battle against temptation?