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3 | SPIRITUAL WARFARE (“JESUS’ STYLE”)

As we walk faithfully with the LORD, we encounter a relentless adversary—Satan—whose arsenal is deception, lies, fear, temptation, and exploiting our weaknesses. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us that he prowls like a lion, seeking to devour those who belong to God. Yet, as believers, we are not left defenseless. Through Christ and submission to Him (James 4:7), we are equipped with God’s Armor and authority to resist and overcome the enemy. And He who is in us is infinitely greater than he who is in the world!! (1 John 4:4) This lesson will focus more on effectively resisting Satan’s attacks by using God’s Word with authority and precision.

SATAN’S ARSENAL

1. **He attacks the mind**, our thinking, and our established (at times seemingly unchangeable) paradigm. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
2. **He entices the flesh**, our old, unsubmitted self. (Romans 8:5-8; Galatians 5:17; James 4:7)
 - “The flesh is the self-centered distortion of human nature that makes us want to be our own god. It is that proud ego, that “uncircumcised self,” which is the seat of willful defiance and rebellion against God’s authority.” – Ray Stedman
3. **He uses the pressures of the world to conform us to the world’s pattern.** (Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
4. **He uses relationships in the church to fragment the Body of Christ.** (Ephesians 4:29-32)
5. **He uses the evil, supernatural hordes to steal, kill, and destroy God’s people.** (John 10:10; Ephesians 6:10-12)
6. **Satan looks for and exploits our weaknesses to gain control of our lives.** (2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:26-27; James 1:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8)

WEAPONS OF WARFARE

1. **The Blood of Christ** (Colossians 2:14-15; Revelation 12:11-14)
 - His Blood has redeemed us! (1 Peter 1:18-23; Ephesians 1:7-8). (To release by payment of a ransom)

- His Blood has reconciled us to God! (Colossians 1:19-23; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
- His Blood purifies us (1 John 1:6-10) and frees us from the guilt of sin. (Hebrews 9:11-14)
- His Blood and our testimony have defeated the enemy! (Revelation 12:10-11)
- His Blood has taken away our sins! (Colossians 2:13-15) The Scapegoat in Leviticus 16:8-28. (Psalm 103:12)
- His Blood purchased people from every nation! (Revelation 5:9-10)
- Scan the code to read more about Jesus, our Savior.



2. **The Name of Jesus as our authority.** (Mark 16:17; John 14:14; Philippians 2:9)
3. **Our testimony** (Revelation 12:11)
4. **Praise** (2 Chronicles 20; Acts 16:25)
5. **Repentance** (2 Corinthians 7:8-13)
6. **Prayer *and* fasting** (Mark 9:17-29)
7. **Praying *on* location** (Joshua 6:12-15)
8. **Preaching the Truth of God's Word.** (Matthew 4:17)
9. **Giving** (Malachi 3:10-11)
10. **Unity** (Deuteronomy 32:30; Matthew 18:19)
11. **A holy lifestyle, separate from the world.** (1 Peter 2:11-12)

Our spiritual battle requires us to fight with God's strength in the power of His Spirit. In the wilderness, Jesus faced strong opposition and temptations, giving us a pattern for standing firm against every attack. In the following section, we'll learn to recognize these temptations, understand their origin, and, most importantly, how to use Scripture empowered by the Holy Spirit to overcome them. This teaching goes beyond merely resisting sin—it's a challenge to step boldly into the freedom, power, and authority we have in Christ. (Acts 1:8)

THREE GREAT TEMPTATIONS

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

Ever since the beginning, the enemy has skillfully used these temptations to lure us away from the blessings of God. John sums up these core temptations in 1 John 2:16-17, naming them the “lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.”

Important: They aren’t just passing urges; they tap into deep desires that, if left unchecked, can steer us away from God’s plan causing great destruction in ourselves and the lives of others.

1. **The lust of the flesh** is all about the _____ for physical satisfaction—things that feel good at the moment but ultimately leave us feeling empty. Galatians 5:19-21 clearly lists many of the works of the flesh expressed through the old, unredeemed nature.
 - Sexual Sins include sexual immorality and going against God’s design for sexuality. It’s about pursuing physical pleasure in ways that don’t align with a godly, Biblical life.
 - Idolatry is when we put anything above God, and witchcraft is attempting to use supernatural powers (even misdirected prayer) to control things.
 - The relational areas cover behaviors that harm our relationships, like hatred, jealousy, anger, selfishness, and division. All these things lead to tension and conflict between people.
 - Envy and excessive living means wanting what others have, making us bitter. Drunkenness is about losing control and living for the moment without considering its impact on others.
 - Paul then says, “and the like,” indicating that this is not a complete list.
2. **The lust of the eyes** is a strong desire for the _____, which taps into our craving for things we see but don’t have and often sparks envy or the stronghold of materialism. It’s the temptation to look at something and feel like we need it, even if it distracts us from what God has provided.
 - Genesis 3:1-7 *...When the woman **saw** that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it...*
 - Proverbs 27:20 *Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes.* (Job 31:1; Psalm 119:37; Matthew 6:22-23)
3. **The pride of life** is the pull toward _____, a desire to be seen as important or self-sufficient without relying on God. This pride can lead us to a place where we no longer see our need for God’s grace.
 - Luke 18:14 *...For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*
 - Proverbs 8:13, 16:18; Matthew 23:12; Luke 18:14; James 4:6

GOD’S POWERFUL RHEMA WORD

1. When Paul mentions the sword of the Spirit as the Word of God, he’s referring to something very specific. In Greek, *Rhema* and *Logos* both mean “word” but have a distinctly different meaning in a biblical context.
 - _____ refers to the **general, universal Word of God**—God’s full revelation, truth, and message, as seen in Scripture and in Christ (John 1:1). It represents God’s eternal communication. Even Christ, Himself, is called the Logos of God in John 1:1-5.

- _____ is more specific, referring to a spoken, timely word from God directed at a particular situation or person. It's when God's Word comes alive and speaks personally to a current need, circumstance, or temptation.
2. In the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:17), the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God—refers to the Greek word *Rhema*, meaning the spoken and specific Word of God. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus powerfully demonstrates this by speaking a specific Scripture to counter and defeat each of the devil's temptations. This example reveals the dynamic power of God's spoken Word in spiritual warfare. (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12)

SPIRITUAL WARFARE "JESUS STYLE."

Jesus successfully opposed our adversary's temptations in the wilderness *at his weakest moment as His body began to starve!* He accurately used God's (Rhema) Word to combat Satan's temptations. The account is also found in Luke 4:1-15.

Matthew 4:1-11 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry...*

1. **The temptation of acting independently of God.** (Genesis 3:1-7)
 - Verses 3-4 *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*
 - *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"* (Deuteronomy 8:3)
2. **Putting God to the test, making Him "prove" His Word.** (Luke 4:1-15 shifts the order)
 - Verses 5-7 *Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"* (Satan used Psalm 91:11-12)
 - *Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God (Jehovah Elohim).'"* (Deuteronomy 6:16)
3. **Worshipping anyone or anything besides God.**
 - Verses 8-11 *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."* (This was Satan's continued obsession for God's Position as seen in Isaiah 14:14)
 - *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, (Get behind me) Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God (Jehovah Elohim), and Him only you shall serve.'"* (Deuteronomy 6:13) *Then the devil left Him,...*
4. Both accounts include a uniquely different ending...
 - In Matthew 4:11 *Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

- In Luke 4:13-14 *...when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.*

THE A.R.C. METHOD

Here is a “simple” method of engaging our enemy with God’s Rhema Word using the three words for A.R.C.

1. **ACCURATELY** | David confronted Goliath’s mocking and threats with a specific, God-given word of confidence, speaking boldly against the giant’s defiance. In the same way, Jesus responded to each of Satan’s temptations by quoting Old Testament Scriptures that directly addressed the temptation.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15.
2. **REPEATEDLY** | It took Jesus three times during this one confrontation. Understand that our spiritual enemy attempts to wear us down by fighting us from different angles. Stand firm.
 - Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 10:36
3. **CONFIDENTLY** | Use God’s Rhema Word as our most powerful weapon against the enemy. Stand firm in faith. Let nothing move you.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58

A FEW TEMPTATIONS AND SCRIPTURES (It’s important to personalize them!)

1. Fear
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*
 - Isaiah 41:10 *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* (Psalm 34:4)
2. Anxiety
 - Philippians 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
 - 1 Peter 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you.*
3. Frustration
 - Galatians 6:9 *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*
 - Psalm 37:7 *Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

4. Anger

- Proverbs 15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- Ephesians 4:26-27 *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.*

5. Jealousy

- Proverbs 14:30 *A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*
- 1 Corinthians 13:4 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

6. Sexual Lust

- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 *Flee from sexual immorality... Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...Therefore, (I WILL) honor God with (MY) body.*
- Psalm 119:9 *How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to Your Word.*

7. Pride

- James 4:6 *God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.* (Proverbs 16:18)
- Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves.*

8. Feelings of insanity (Confusion)

- Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:33 *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.*

Can you list other temptations? Find Scriptures that *specifically* address that temptation...

Answers: cravings | forbidden | self-exaltation | Logos | Rhema

NEXT WEEK: A recap of the course and a brief look at “Prophetic Intercession: The Power of Praying God's Heart”