



#### 4 • THE DISCIPLE'S VICTORY

Consistent victory is experienced IN Him — John 16:33 *I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous, be confident, undaunted, and filled with joy; I have overcome the world. My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.*” (Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Galatians 5:16-18)

Although Satan should never be the center of our theology, it's important that we understand his place in Scripture and in the unfolding of God's ultimate plan. No other individual is given such a place from the Bible's beginning to its end than the character we know as Satan. (Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 20:10)

Not believing in the reality of Satan works to his advantage and allows him to easily deceive entire nations and cultures in darkness and base superstitions. 2 Corinthians 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Effective ministry today demands that we walk in the knowledge and experience of the “spirit world” that the early church possessed. (Judges 3:1-3)

#### UNDERSTANDING OUR ENEMY, THE DEVIL

##### Biblical History

1. Satan (adversary), also known as the Devil (accuser, slanderer), began his rebellion against God in Heaven as Lucifer, “the morning star.” And as the “Anointed Cherub,” Lucifer was perfect in beauty and, because of this, he lifted himself up with pride against God.
  - A. **Read Ezekiel 28:11-19** — This is a lamentation (prophetic warning) against the King of Tyre where we see Lucifer's glorious position in Heaven and resulting fall.
  - B. **Read Isaiah 14:12-15** — This is a judgement against the King of Babylon and Lucifer's rebellion in Heaven. Here he declares five “I wills” against God's authority.
    - **I will ascend** into heaven — There are three heavens: the earth and its atmosphere, the cosmic, spiritual heaven (Daniel 10:12-14), and the highest Heaven where God's Throne is (2 Corinthians 12:1-4). Lucifer desired God's place and throne in Heaven.
    - **I will exalt** my throne above the stars of God — The “stars of God” refers to the angels in Heaven (Job 38:7) and wanted to rule over all the angelic beings.
    - **I will sit** on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north — Kings would sit when they had conquered so this indicates some form of rulership.
    - **I will ascend** above the heights of the clouds — God's Divine Glory is often described as a cloud and Lucifer wanted this glory. (Exodus 40:34-38; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

- **I will be like the Most High** — This is the pinnacle of the other four desires, to BE God. All of these desires represent independence from God and a willful, personal ambition against God’s Person, glory and power, the ultimate usurping of authority. This was the temptation he presented to Eve.
2. Revelation 12:3-9 and 20:10 gives us the account of Satan’s fall from Heaven (see the issue of the “Recreation below) and ultimate end.
    - A. Revelation 20:10 *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*
  3. Read Genesis 3 — After Lucifer was cast out of Heaven, he brought his rebellion to the Garden of Eden, to Adam and Eve, and ultimately to the entire human race. (Romans 5:12-21)
 

*Satan’s sin originated within himself before he was cast to the earth.  
Man’s sin originated from an internal response to an external tempter and temptation.*

### THE ISSUE OF THE “(RE)CREATION”

Genesis 1:1-2 *In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. The earth was **without form**, and **void**; and **darkness** (was) on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was **hovering** over the face of the waters.*

When the words in bold are studied in the Hebrew, a different picture emerges, one not typically taught, and explains the age before the creation story in Genesis 1:3-31. The words are keyed to the Strong’s Concordance and The Complete Word Study Old Testament (Spiros Zodhiates)...

1. Created – (1254 bara) The initiation of an object, creation out of nothing.
2. Without form – (8414 tohu) A desolation, a desert, wilderness, desolate city, worthless, confusion, an empty place thing. This word has a very negative connotation.
3. Void – (922 bohuw) To be empty, a vacuum, an undistinguishable ruin.
4. Darkness – (2821 Chashak) To be dark, withhold light, cause darkness, hide.
5. Hovering – (7363 rachaph) To brood, to be relaxed, flutter, shake.

Genesis 1:1-2 *In the beginning God initiated the creation of the heavens and the earth out of nothing. The earth was (became) a desolation, and an undistinguishable ruin; and darkness withheld light on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was brooding, relaxed, fluttering, and shaking (bringing order) over the face of the waters.*

### Satan’s Strategy

Many times when “Satan” is referenced, it is referring to the entire evil kingdom: Satan, his demon lords and all the evil, unclean spirits interfering in human life. (Ephesians 6:11-13)

1. Our enemy, the devil, still uses the same approach today as he did in the Garden in Genesis 3:4.
  - A. He challenges the authority of God’s Word and perverts the character of God.
  - B. He minimizes God’s standards and tempts us with human autonomy, “*you will be like God...*”
2. He is deceptive, crafty, calculating and scheming — 2 Corinthians 2:11 *...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*
3. He is fully committed to evil. He is a thief, a murderer, a liar, and the father of all lies.
  - A. John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill (slaughter, sacrifice, slay) and destroy (ruin with death and destruction);... (John 8:44)*
4. He is a spirit being but with limitations. (Job 1:12, 2:6) but able to influence and seduce us. 1 Chronicles 21:1 *Satan rose up against Israel and incited (seduce and stimulate) David to take a census of Israel.*
5. The hook is baited and vulnerable areas are attacked. He appeals to our sensual desires and hides the consequences. (David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11:2-3; James 1:13-15)

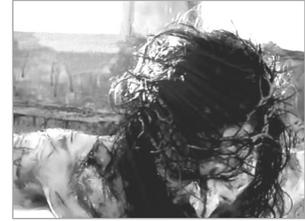
### **A Highly Organized Kingdom**

1. Ephesians 6:12 *For our struggle (wrestling) is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
  - A. **Rulers:** “Arche” — First, possibly *the* prince of this world. (Matthew 4:8-11)
    - John 12:31 *Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince (Archon) of this world will be driven out. (John 14:30)*
  - B. **Authorities:** “Exousia” — The power beings that receive authority from Satan’s delegation. This seems to be a “second” layer of rulership over nations.
    - Daniel 10:12-14 *...But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.*
  - C. **Powers:** “Kosmokrator” — World rulers of darkness dealing with philosophies, witchcraft, and spiritual blindness, darkening people’s minds, resulting in catastrophic events.
    - 2 Corinthians 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ,...*
  - D. **Spiritual forces of evil:** “Poneria” — Unclean spirits and forces of evil that induce sinfulness and lawlessness in individuals. These demons infiltrate our environments at home, work place, recreation and even the church. (Matthew 4:24)

### **JESUS DESTROYED THE POWER OF THE DEVIL**

1. Christ has destroyed (to loosen, dissolve, and melt) and has disarmed the devil of his power! His ONLY recourse is to deceive us to act upon his influence.

- A. 1 John 3:8 *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy (to loosen, break up, dissolve, melt) the works of the devil.*
- B. Colossians 2:13-15 *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities (Arche) and powers (Exousia). He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*



*Although we are involved in a supernatural war against powerful, invisible enemies, we must understand that our struggle is against an already defeated foe! This changes how we see and how we engage our enemy!*

## AREAS OF SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

Our enemy targets our weaknesses, which range from our thought life, our unsubmitted flesh nature, the world and relationships. Take a look at the areas he uses.

1. The MIND, our thinking and the way we view the world. Satan bombards our minds with thoughts of doubt, fear, insecurities, and offenses. These thought patterns can develop into a stronghold, an entrenched pattern of thought or behavior that is contrary to Biblical truth and exploited by satanic forces.
  - A. **Our weapon** -- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...*
2. The FLESH, our unsubmitted self, that natural inclination to sin and the seat of willful defiance and rebellion against God's authority. (Romans 7:21-23, 8:5-8; Galatians 5:17; James 4:7)
  - A. Satan has authority in areas we have not given over to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
    - The "handle" and the "Velcro" principles. (John 14:30; James 1:13-15)
  - B. **Our weapon** -- Galatians 5:16-18 *Walk in (step with) the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;... But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*
3. The WORLD conforming us to its pattern.
  - A. 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 (dominant desires of our old nature), the lust of the eyes (captivated by outward show), and the pride of life (self-sufficient boasting of independence and abilities) — is not of the Father but is of the world...*

- B. **Our weapon** -- Romans 12:1-2 *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (by God's Word),...*
4. The **CHURCH**, the enemy's focus is to divide relationships (Ephesians 4:30-32) and to tempt us to exchange our First Love for something of lesser value. (Revelation 2:4-5)
- A. **Our weapon** -- Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

### Overcoming Anger and Offenses

1. **Joseph's example of overcoming an offense in Genesis 37-50.** By human standards, Joseph had cause to be greatly offended and angry with his brothers and those in Egypt when he was slandered, mistreated and forgotten in prison. But God saw his righteous spirit and delivered him with a great deliverance, making him second to Pharaoh himself! When he finally had the opportunity to reveal himself to his brothers, he made very dramatic and freeing statements. Read Genesis 50:19-21...
- A. *Joseph said to his brothers, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"* Joseph understood that vengeance was God's responsibility. (Romans 12:19 quoting Deuteronomy 32:35)
- B. *"But as for you, you meant evil against me;"* Joseph dealt realistically with the motive of his brothers. (2 Timothy 4:9-18)
- C. *"...BUT GOD meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."* Joseph understood that God could bring His purpose out of an evil situation and he saw the greater picture from God's perspective. (Romans 8:28)
- D. *"Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones."* And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. Joseph overcame evil with good, one of the most powerful principles in God's Word. (John 3:16-17; Romans 12:9-21)
2. **Use the QR code** to read about conquering an offense and guarding against the defilement of an offended person. The word for offense in Matthew, Luke and many other places in the New Testament is the Greek word "skandalon" and refers to the part of a trap to which the bait is attached, much like a modern day mouse trap. Read Matthew 18:6-9, 24:10-13 and 1 Peter 5:8-9.



### OUR BATTLE DRESS: THE ARMOR OF GOD

**Read 2 Timothy 2:3-4 and Ephesians 6:10-13** — The armor of God represent characteristics of the victorious disciple. Character, not brute force, wins the spiritual battle.

1. The Belt of TRUTH — Aletheia: The understanding of reality, what is *really* taking place. (2 Chronicles 20:22-23; John 18:10-11)
2. The Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS — Diakaios: Conforming to God's rightness, the warrior's

character and right behavior growing from a right heart. (1 Samuel 15:22-23; Song of Solomon 2:15; Psalm 19:13-14; John 14:30)

3. The Footwear of READINESS — Hetoimasia: Preparation, adjusted, to (always) be ready with an internal peace and willingness to obey. (Matthew 25:13; Mark 14:32-42; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 2 Timothy 2:21; Revelation 16:15)
4. The Shield of FAITH — Pistis: To be persuaded, choosing to believe God and His Word in the face of conflicting reality. (2 Chronicles 20:20-24; Hebrews 11:1-2, 6, 32-40)
5. The Helmet of SALVATION — Soterion: The confident and anticipative hope of salvation, past, present *and* future. It is our hope and public statement over the devil! (1 Thessalonians 5:8-9)
6. The Sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD (Rhema) OF GOD. In Matthew 4:1-11, read how Jesus used God's Word (Rhema) in the wilderness. He was in His weakest, physical state and conquered Satan with Old Testament Scripture.
  - A. Satan's temptation: *"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*  
**Christ's response:** *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Deuteronomy 8:3)*
  - B. Satan's temptation: *"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 the Logos in Psalm 91:11-12)*  
**Christ's response:** *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" (Deuteronomy 6:16)*
  - C. Satan's temptation: *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."*  
**Christ's response:** *"Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13)*
7. Then, in the armor of God and in the power of His strength, *PRAY in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.* (Ephesians 6:18) **Prayer is the initial engagement with the enemy.**

## SPIRITUAL CLEANSING AND RENEWAL

Psalm 139:23-24 *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* (2 Timothy 2:3-4)

Use the **Personal Cleansing and Renewal** as a guide when you put aside an hour to prayerfully (and honestly) bring those areas before the Lord. REMEMBER, there is NO condemnation. EVER! (Romans 8:1)



## PRAYER-WALKING

Genesis 13:14-18 *17 ...Arise, walk (make a thorough reconnaissance) around in the land, through its length and its width, for I will give it to you..."*

**Prayer-walking** is praying on-site (location) with insight (cognitive observation) and inspiration (Holy Spirit revelation). Prayer walking is prayer beyond the walls of the church; it is talking to God about people rather than talking to people about God; it is preparing the land for a visitation and revival.



**FOR NEXT WEEK...**

1. **QR Codes below** — **Main course**, QR code 1 | **Lesson notes**, QR code 2 | **Video**, QR code 3.
2. **Lesson 5** — Read “The Task of Discipleship,” and view the video, “Beautiful Feet.”
3. **Memory Verse** — Matthew 9:37-38.
4. **Weekly Time Sheet** and journal what God is speaking to you.
5. **Meet with your accountability group.**

*Do the best you can and we'll see you next week. Pastors Jack and Jane.*



QR Code 1  
Main Page



QR Code 2  
Lesson 5



QR Code 3  
Video

**WEEKLY ACTIVITY SHEET** Ephesians 5:16 ...*redeeming the time...*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

My accountability partners are \_\_\_\_\_

Write the memory verse from memory before class. Journal on the back.

Check  each box below as you do the activity for that day.

| ACTIVITIES                        | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Personal Prayer Time              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bible Reading                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Lesson Reading                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Fasting                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Scripture Memorization            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Journaling                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Sunday AM                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Accountability Meeting            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Volunteer Service (specify below) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|                                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |