

ENGAGING SPIRITUAL BATTLE

SOME IMPORTANT “SCHEMES” OF THE ENEMY

Session 1

I. Key verses:

A. Ephesians 6:10: “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

B. Corinthians 2:5-11 (with focus on verse 11): “...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

II. Some Common “Schemes” of the Enemy.

A. Deception.

1. It grows out of the Enemy’s very nature (John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
2. It supports the Enemy’s other “schemes.”
3. In personal healing ministry we run into two basic types of deception:
 - a. Cognitive deception
 - b. Affective deception
4. The Goal of Deception:
 - a. Serves as a basis for other “schemes.”
 - b. To create a Barrier between Us and the Lord.
 - c. To Create a barrier between us and the Body of Christ.
 - d. To create a chasm between our mind and our heart.
 - e. Death and destruction.
5. The “antidote” to cognitive deception.
 - a. Confess to the Lord that we have believed a lie.
 - b. Reject the lie verbally in prayer.
 - c. Embrace the truth.

B. Temptation.

1. Key verses:

- a. Matthew 6:13
- b. 1 Corinthians 10:11-13
- c. James 1:13-15

2. The goal of temptation

- a. To undermine our relationship with the Lord.
- b. To create patterns of sin and accusation.
- c. To destroy lives, families and ministries.

3. Resisting temptation

- a. Look for the “way out” and take it!
- b. Seek support from a Christian you can trust.
- c. If the temptation continues, ask the Lord, “Lord, why is this temptation so strong?”

C. Accusation

1. Key verse: Revelation 12:10

2. Key observations:

- a. Accusation is often based on deception.
- b. Accusation is often paired with temptation.
- c. Accusation often leads to discouragement and despair.

D. Discouragement and Despair.

1. Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 and John 21:15-19

2. The Role of Deception in Discouragement and Despair

3. Key responses:

- a. Don't let yourself move into isolation.
- b. Search the Scriptures.
- c. Take your struggle to the Lord.

GETTING PRACTICAL ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Session 2

How do we recognize the enemy's schemes? What are some of his most common ploys?

I. Deception

A. Cognitive – we know we believe something that isn't true.

B. Affective – we have a feeling about statements that are true.

II. If recognizing the lie, confessing it and affirming the truth doesn't seem to solve the problem what do we do?

A. Recognize that we have a deeply rooted deception that only God can address.

B. Ask the Lord to give insight into where the lie began and why.

C. Respond to what the Lord has shown you.

1. Ask the Lord to bring you truth.

a. Do you need to forgive someone who hurt you or taught you this lie?

b. Do you need to confess that you have accepted the lie as truth?

c. Reject the lie and embrace the truth – ask God to plant it deeply in your heart.

d. Take authority over the enemy – he has no right to continue to condemn or to push you toward sin in this area.

III. Questioning God and anger with God.

A. It started in the garden! Genesis 3

B. It stems from deception.

C. We often deny the fact that we are angry with God because it isn't what good Christians believe.

D. Ask the Lord to show you what you believe about him that isn't true.

E. Ask the Lord to show you the truth and then respond to it.

F. Take authority over the enemy – he has no right to continue to condemn or to push you toward sin in this area.

IV. Loneliness and Isolation

A. This also started in the garden.

B. Rejection and fear of rejection.

C. Shame and guilt.

D. Comparison – Instagram and Facebook.

E. Deception—no one wants me, if they knew my secret sin they would be disgusted, I have nothing to offer, etc.

F. Ask the Lord to show you the truth and respond to it.

G. Take authority over the enemy.

V. Pornography

A. The roots of pornography are in feelings of loneliness and isolation.

B. Pornography and masturbation are often used to self-comfort or soothe.

C. This is a difficult pattern to break—it will need deep level work as well as accountability.

D. Ask the Lord to reveal the roots of this pattern.

E. Respond to what the Lord has shown you.

F. Take authority over the enemy!

VI. One of the most effective ways to defeat the enemy's schemes is to know who we are in Christ and to stand firm in that truth.

A. Ephesians 1-3

B. Psalm 23

C. Psalm 103

D. Meditate on scripture such as these.

1. Ask the Spirit to show you what prevents you from believing what is true.

2. Respond to what the Spirit has shown you.

VII. Carry one another's burdens – Galatians 6:2