

Sunday, July 11, 2021

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Vulnerability to Spiritual Warfare, Part 1

Series: Vulnerability ... 5

Text: Ephesians 6:10 - 24

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of some of the adversary's devices used against us in Spiritual Warfare; these devices are so subtle that we perceive them as our own thinking, not recognizing their true source.

Introduction:

Review of July 4 devotional:

Vulnerability to the Headship of Christ

1. Divinely CALLED, Ephesians 1:3-6
2. Divinely PLACED, 1 Corinthians 12:18 - 21
3. Divinely GIFTED, Romans 12:1 - 21
4. Divinely TASKED, Ephesians 2:8 - 10

~ Device: meaning, from Oxford Languages; noun:

2. a plan, method, or trick with a particular aim

1. Device of Temptation:

~ Mark 1:8 - 13, vs. 13 *"And he (Jesus) was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him."*

~ Hebrews 4:15 - 16, *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need."*

~ John 20:21 - 22, *"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

~ James 1:13 - 14, *"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one." (14) But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."*

~ Matthew 6:13, *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen"*

NKJV Matthew 6:13, *"And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen"* ("one" is not in the Greek)

~ THOUGHTS

If God will not and cannot tempt us with evil, why the prayer instruction in Matthew 6:13?

Ephesians 6:12

~ Dealing with the enemy's devices:

- ACKNOWLEDGE (includes confession, accountability), James 5:16, *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."*

- REPENT, James 4:7, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

- RENOUNCE, Proverbs 28:13, *"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes (NIV, renounces) them will obtain mercy."*

- SUBMIT, Ephesians 6:13 - 14, *"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (14) Stand therefore, having fastened the belt of truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,"*

The greatest defense against TEMPTATION is to daily, moment by moment, garment oneself with the "breastplate of righteousness!"

2. Device of Doubt:

~ Matthew 4:6 & 7, *"and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." (7) Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

~ Genesis 3:1, *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"*

Notice in Genesis 3:1 the serpent is described as being "crafty," but he is not all knowing!

~ 1 Corinthians 2:8, *"None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."*

~ James 1:6, *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."*

ACKNOWLEDGE, REPENT,

RENOUNCE and SUBMIT

Ephesians 6:13 - 14

The greatest defense against DOUBT is to daily, moment by moment, garment oneself with "the belt of truth!"

Conclusion:

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12