

Battling Your Three Enemies

Several years ago, a believing girl of nine years old gave one of the most concise summaries of the entire book of Revelation. She summarized it in just two words: **We win!** How accurate this good news is for you who have believed on Jesus Christ. You are on the winning side! But this does serve as a reminder that you were thrown into a spiritual battle the moment you accepted Christ, and you will need to fight valiantly every day of your life. The final outcome is already settled: **We will win!** But whether or not you experience victory in your life today will depend on how well you know your enemies and how effectively you will battle them.

The World

... is that system organized by Satan, headed by Satan, and run by Satan, which leaves God out and is hostile to Him and His.

The Devil

... is a powerful evil angel who is the enemy of God and His children. He seeks to usurp God's rule and destroy Believers by his schemes and agents who do His will.

The Flesh

... is the old sinful nature you were born with. It is the capacity to leave God out of your life; to generate or encourage sinful thoughts, words, or actions.

Recognizing Worldly Influences

The Bible tells us that one of the marks of *pure and undefiled religion* in God's sight is *to keep oneself unstained by the world* (James 1:27). To keep yourself unstained by the world, you need to be able to recognize the ungodly messages it is regularly bombarding you with and learn how to avoid, delete, or purge them from your mind. The more of the world's philosophy you take in, the more affect it will have on your thinking, speech, decisions, behavior, and dress.

How is the music that you listen to programming your mind? Have you evaluated the words of some of the songs you are listening to on the radio or your mp3 player? Measure their message against the truth of God's Word. Be forewarned! Most of the lyrics are hazardous to your mind!



Look at God's criteria in Philippians 4:8 for what you should expose your mind to:

Whatever is _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____. *Think on these things!*



What you choose to listen to on a regular basis will influence your values and eventually your behavior.

Write out the warning that the prophet Jeremiah gave about your heart as it has been affected by your old sin nature in *Jeremiah 17:9* _____

Although your new nature, by the power of the Holy Spirit, can restrain and control the old nature (Galatians 5:16), you must be careful to feed your spiritual desires (new nature) and starve your fleshly desires (old nature). You do this by *guarding your heart* (Proverbs 4:23). What are some of the fleshly influences youth today need to screen out?



Psalm 119:11 "Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against you."

Memorizing verses that remind you of God's perspective on the areas of temptation you are most

Recognizing Satan's Schemes

Satan has proven himself to be very clever throughout human history. The reason for this is:

- 1) He is of a higher order of being than man (Hebrews 2:7)
- 2) He has been around since the creation of the world, so he has learned a lot about how to successfully tempt people (including you).
- 3) He can transform himself many different ways, including an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Thus, he is a master at making his deceptions look attractive and himself less detectable.

How Satan Seeks to Devour You (1 Peter 5:8)

- ✓ Satan seeks to devour you through lies and deception

John 8:44 What three things did Jesus call the devil? _____

Satan's lies go back to the Garden of Eden when he deceived Eve (Gen. 3:4-5; 1 Tim 2:14). He tries to deceive you into thinking you can enjoy what God has forbidden without suffering the consequences of disobedience. ***Be alert to such deception!***

As a liar and deceiver, Satan is behind all false world religions. He wants you to worship (but not worship the true God) because he wants to take you with him one day to the place of punishment which was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). ***Stay away from cults and false religions!***

- ✓ Satan seeks to devour you by putting wrong thoughts into your mind

Matthew 16:22-23 Peter's words came from thoughts given by _____

- ✓ This is why it is so important to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). This means to measure thoughts against the truth of Scripture. ***Discard all thoughts that are contrary to God's revealed truth!***
- ✓ Satan seeks to devour you by gaining a foothold in your life (Ephesians 4:27)

Notice you, as a Believer, are the one that can give Satan an opening into your life. You do this by believing his lies or by experimenting with sins that open you to demonic influences (such as pornography, astrology, witchcraft, satanic literature, some music and musicians, idolatry, immorality, etc.).

In Acts 19:19 many new Believers at Ephesus burned their demonically-influenced materials. Are there satanic influences that you need to purge from your life?



Never forget: We win!

"Greater is He (Christ) that is in you, than he that is in the world (Satan)."