

Sermon Study Guide

Pastor: Dr. Henry Schorr

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THE MAIN THING: Satan: Understanding and Resisting Him

We need to know and understand who Satan is and how to equip ourselves for the spiritual battle to counter his strategies for pulling us away from God.

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group* (Choose one or two questions)

1. What are some reasons for people NOT believing in Satan?
2. When have you grappled with this question?
3. What evidence have you seen of Satan's existence?
4. Pastor Henry diagrams the 'Spiritual realm' and the 'Natural realm.' Do you agree with his explanation? Why? Why not?

PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. Why is it important to understand Satan's background as told in Scripture? (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19)
2. How do John 10:10; 16:33 and Romans 3:23 intersect with question #1? How does this call us to be aware of the 'spiritual realm' acting in our 'natural realm'?
3. What picture do we have of Satan and the fallen angels from: (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-10; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 4:4)
4. What is Satan's mission and what are some of his strategies? (John 10:10; Matthew 4:1-11; 16:23; 2 Cor 12:7)
How do you understand Satan taking a foothold that can become a stronghold?
5. How does this contrast with Jesus' mission and strategies? What does it mean to claim our position and authority in Christ? (Rom 8:1-2; 2 Cor 4:4, 18; 5:21; Col 2:13-14; Heb 10:14)

PURSUSSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community*

1. In what area of your life might you be allowing Satan to have a foothold? What steps do you need to take to find freedom and claim your authority in Christ over this area? Pray for one another!

C.S. Lewis quote:

'When it comes to the devil, we make one of two mistakes. Some people give him undue attention — while others ignore his reality altogether.'
Preface — "The Screwtape Letters"

THE WORD (NIV)

[Job 1:6-12; Job 2:1-10](#)

[Isaiah 14:12-15](#)

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

[Ezekiel 28:11-19](#)

[Matthew 4:1-11](#)

[John 10:10](#)

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

[Romans 8:1-2](#)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

[2 Corinthians 4:4, 18](#)

⁴The 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...

¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

[Ephesians 6:12](#)

¹²For our struggle 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.

[Colossian 2:13-14](#)

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you ¹⁴alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

[Hebrews 10:14](#)

¹⁴For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

[1 Peter 5:8](#)

⁸Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

[1 John 4:4](#)

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Sermon Study Summary

In John 16:33 Jesus reminds us in this world we will have trouble. One reason for that trouble is this sinful world and the fractured relationships, hardships, pain and suffering that comes along with that sin. The world is not what God intended when He created it. Another reason for trouble is 'self;' we cause many of our own problems. The third reason for trouble is Satan, a spiritual being, who is very real and active. John 10:10 tells us that Satan has come to kill, steal and destroy. He is very much our enemy.

2 Corinthians 4:18 reminds us that we live in two realms: the seen or earthly realm and the unseen spiritual realm. Saying we believe in God, but living as if there is no God is a sort of 'practical atheism.' We may not be aware of the larger spiritual battle going on in the cosmos. Yet, the Bible teaches us that we must be aware of Satan and his schemes; we must be prepared to resist the enemy and be prepared to use the full armor of God. Satan should not be taken lightly. (1 Peter 5:8)

The first key to living in victory over Satan is to know him and his strategy. (2 Cor 2:11) The Bible teaches that Satan is the most powerful angel that God created. As a created being, his power does not and can not exceed that of the Creator God. While we do not know how many angels God created, Job 38:7 refers to stars, suggesting there are as many angels as the stars. God did not create Satan to be evil; He did create the angels with the freedom to make choices. In Ezekiel 28:11-19 (a prophecy against the King of Tyre) we read that this "angelic guardian" (v. 14) was "full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty" (v.12). He was anointed above all other angels. A day came (v. 15) when evil was found in him; he became proud and sought to take the place of God. He was banished to a place of fire. We learn (Rev 12:4) that many angels who sided with Satan also fell; these (amounting to 1/3 of all the angels) we refer to as demons. (Eph 6:12) We understand that Satan continues to have access to heaven and God (Job 1:6) and accuses those who follow Christ before God (Rev. 12:10).

It is important to understand some distinctions between God and Satan: **1)** God is omnipresent, everywhere at once, whereas Satan can only be in one place at a time (although he has other demons working for him). **2)** God is omniscient, all knowing, whereas Satan does not know everything. **3)** God is omnipotent, all powerful, whereas Satan's power is limited by God. God is in control and there is nothing Satan can do without God's awareness and God's permission. Examples of this in Job 1:12 and Job 2:6 show that God drew a clear line of what Satan could do. Peter's denial of Jesus was also an example of Satan's mission to draw believers of Christ away. Job, Jesus and Paul also faced hardships brought on by Satan and they model the redemption process in defeating Satan.

Know that Satan's mission is to deceive humanity to do the same thing he has done, ie. to live independently of God, and to be the centre of the universe. Satan desires to keep unbelievers in the dark (2Cor 4:4). Satan attempts to render Christians ineffective for Christ by removing them from the field of action, by tempting them to worship created things instead of the Creator and by keeping them living hypocritical lives. 1 John 4:4 reminds us that Christ in us is stronger; Satan does not have access to our Spirit. Satan does have access to our body, mind and emotions, therefore we need to be on guard and not give into Satan by sinning giving him more powerful influence in our lives. James 1:14 reminds us that ultimately we are responsible for our own choices having the freedom and the power to choose not to give into temptation. Repeatedly giving into temptations gives Satan power (a foothold) which can then develop into a stronghold.

The second key to living in victory over Satan is to claim your position and authority in Christ.

Satan seeks to discourage/convince you that you are unloved/ unacceptable by your repeated failures; you just aren't good enough for God. These are lies! Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, Satan is the defeated foe! When Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the grave, something happened in the spiritual realm that changes us and the way God sees us. When we put our faith in Christ and His sacrifice for us (2 Cor.5:21) we are totally acceptable in Christ. In the earthly realm we are still being made holy, growing in the grace of Jesus Christ. We are the reflection of the Christ who defeated sin. Don't empower Satan by believing his accusations and lies. Trust the words of Romans 8:1-2