

ENEMY REVEALED

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Beginning thoughts...

"BREAKING NEWS! A school shooting...six adults and 20 kindergarten students killed...another body found a few miles away, the shooter is presumed dead!"

My stomach turned, my head ached, my heart hurt as I heard this report—the worst school shooting ever. But for how long? In the day and age we are living, this incident may not be the last. Why do these things happen? Sin. The Sandy Hook shooter may have been mentally ill, but somewhere in the chain of events, sin was involved.

Since the fall of man, Satan's done his dead level best to wreak havoc in people's lives. As Christians, we will all have problems of one kind or another. We are not promised an easy life, just help in day to day living. We have the help of the Holy Spirit who is living in us when we accept Christ as Savior. He comes in to abide and to guide us in our thought life, decisions, activities, relationships, and spiritual well-being. Because He dwells in us, we have access to Him at any time. Many times, I have not consulted with Him before speaking or acting; afterward, I am distressed that I did not remember to ask before I acted on my own. None of you ever do that, right?

We give the Devil too much credit for making us do things when it's often our own spiritual lack—not in tune with the Holy Spirit. We could avoid a lot of miss-steps if we would communicate with Him more and avoid going off on our own whims less. Don't get me wrong. Satan is a powerful enemy, a deceitful, lying enemy. He wants to indulge us in sin until wrongdoing is ingrained within us and we become confused about what is right. Our best defense against him is to be so totally in love with Jesus and the things of God that we don't take the time to think about sinning. We're not perfect, and at times we do wrong. But we don't have to continue to do wrong. We can ask for forgiveness and live in the glorious light of God's presence. I, for one, think that is much, much better than trusting anything the devil offers.

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Identifying the Enemy

HANDPRINT: Knowing our enemy helps us remain victorious in warfare.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (*to be memorized*): "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).). Write this Scripture on a 3x5 card. Place where you can see it several times during the day.)

- Read Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-19.
- Write the titles of the enemy ("Trace His Hand") on a white board or large poster board. Together, match the titles and activities. These Scripture references will help you: 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 2:2; John 17:12; 1 Timothy 6:9; Ephesians 6:12. [KEY: (1) c; (2) a; (3) 3; (4) b; (5) d.]
- Let's get this clear. Who is the enemy? (*Satan, the Devil, Lucifer and all the other titles we've written down.*)
- Did you notice what God called him in Ezekiel 28:14? (*The anointed cherub*)
- So why would Satan want to leave Heaven? (*Sin, in the form of Pride—because he wanted to be like God—Isaiah 14:14.*)
- In what form did Satan first rear his ugly head on planet Earth? (*As a serpent in the Garden of Eden—Genesis 3:1*) How do we know this was Satan (Revelation 12:9)?
- As a result of Satan's appearance to Adam and Eve, what entered this world? (*Sin and death—Romans 5:12.*)
- Read Romans 3:23. Who has sinned? (*All*) What happens because of this sin? (*Death—Romans 6:23*)
- How long have we been sinners? (*From birth—Psalm 51:5*)
- Why did Jesus come to the world? (*To destroy the devil's work—1 John 3:8.*)
- How does Christ help us against the Devil? (*Makes a way to escape temptations—1 Corinthians 10:13; delivers the godly from temptations—2 Peter 2:9*)
- Is temptation sin? (*No, but giving in to it is sin—James 1:2; Revelation 3:10.*)
- What will give us strength to not give in? (*The armor of God—Ephesians 6:13.*)
- Name pieces of armor mentioned in Ephesians 6:14-18: *Girdle (Belt) of Truth; Breastplate of Righteousness; Gospel of Peace Shoes; Shield of Faith; Helmet of Salvation; Sword of the Spirit; Prayer.*)
- What will happen if we endure temptations? (*We will receive the crown of life—James 1:12.*)
- Dismiss in prayer and ask God to make you aware of Satan's temptations. Pray He will enable you to stand firm against the Devil.

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The Battle

HANDPRINT: A war exists between the kingdoms of light and darkness.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (*to be memorized*): “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh” (2 Corinthians 10:3).

- Read 1 Chronicles 21:1; Job 1:12; Luke 22:31; 1 Thessalonians 3:5-8; 1 John 2:14. Go over the sentences and answers on p.15 in Treasure. [KEY in order: Job, Simon, Thessalonians, Young men, and David.] Discuss the questions after answering each statement.
- Read Luke 4:1-13. What was Satan’s purpose in tempting Jesus? (*Satan wanted Jesus to “prove” who He was, but Satan already knew.*)
- Jesus countered Satan’s words with what? (*The Word of God—Luke 4:4.*) Say these words, aloud, together: “IT IS WRITTEN..”
- Does Satan have a plan when he tempts you/me? Is there a way to withstand or overcome the devil? (Yes. Put on the armor of God—Ephesians 6:11; Submit to God, resist the Devil and draw near to God.— James 4:7-8.)
- How can we know what God’s Word says? (*By hearing and reading—Proverbs 15:31; Luke 16:31; 2 Timothy 2:15.*) How else does hearing the Word help us? (*Strengthens our faith—Romans 10:17*)
- What does Matthew 13:19 remind us will happen if we don’t understand the Word? (Satan comes in to steal it away.)
- Review the Parable of the Sower in Luke 8:4-15. Who takes away the Word? (*The Devil—v. 12*) If someone is not grounded in the Word, what could happen? (*Can fall away because of the pleasures of this life—v. 13.*) Which verse is most encouraging? (*v. 15—“having heard the word, keep it.”*)
- Does Satan want Christians to read the Word of God? (*Certainly not; he tries to draw them away with anything he can imagine.*)
- Do you have a time of daily devotions and prayer? (*Don’t answer aloud.*)
- Is there a war raging in your life with Satan?
- To defeat the devil, you must remember that you have weapons of warfare available. Look up these Scriptures and write them in your journal: 2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:11,17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Samuel 17:45; Psalm 34:7; Revelation 12:11.
- What does God promise believers in our battle? (*Divine protection—Psalm 91:4; 125:2; 2 Chronicles 16:9.*)
- Dismiss in prayer, thanking God for His power, provision and protection over your life.

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The Battlefield

HANDPRINT: In this war for human souls, the battlefield is the mind.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (*to be memorized*): “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

- Write the five steps for cleaning your heart house in your journal. [KEY: *Pray, Meditate, Memorize, Prayers and Witness.*]
- After identifying the enemy and recognizing the battle involves Satan, do you believe that your mind is the battlefield?
- How does the world corrupt our minds? (*Radio, TV, movies, computer, magazines, work places, people, etc.*)
- How can we be victorious in the battlefield without surrendering to the enemy? (*Believe, internalize and act upon the Handwriting on the Heart verse. (1) Be not conformed to this world; (2) Be transformed; (3) Renew your mind; (4) Prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.*)
- Think about your daily activities. Do you plan time for God?
- What are some ways you can improve your mind in order to fortify it for battle? (*(1) Don't complain—Philippians 2:14-16; (2) Be in the spirit and not the flesh—Romans 8:5-9; (3) Be renewed in your mind—Ephesians 4:23-32.*)
- Are there worries and concerns that consume your mind? Who is the cause of this? (*Satan. He is the cause of everything bad in the world.*)
- Satan wants people to have a carnal mind, which leads to evil things. Look up these Scriptures: Proverbs 15:26; 23:7; Matthew 9:4; 15:19; Genesis 6:5; Romans 8:7, 21.
- Whose mind do we need and should desire? (*The mind of Christ—1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5; 1 Peter 4:1.*)
- Write these Bible verses in your journal to meditate upon: Philippians 4:8; Psalm 48:9, 119:59; Romans 12:3; Proverbs 12:5.
- Would you rather your thoughts be dominant toward Satan or Christ? (Romans 14:4; Titus 1:5)
- Do you feel that your life is filled with darkness (John 3:19-20) or light (John 8:12)? What name is the devil given in 2 Corinthians 11:14-15? (*Angel of Light*) Why was he called that? (*He is the Arch-deceiver—2 Corinthians 11:13.*) What happened when God created light? (*The darkness had to go away—Genesis 1:1-5*)
- Dismiss in prayer and ask God to both keep your mind acceptable to Him and protect you from Satan's devices.

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Enemy Weapons

HANDPRINT: Recognize the weapons the Enemy uses to derail Christians.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (*to be memorized*): *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds..." (2 Corinthians 4:3).*

- Write the Scripture above on a 3x5 card. Have you memorized all the verses thus far? Keep trying.
- What are some weapons that human enemies use? (*knives, guns, poison, arrows, ropes, anything hard, drugs, bombs—you may think of more.*)
- Are we to live in fear because of them? (*No—Matthew 10:28.*) Who is the "him" in this verse? (*Satan*)
- Does Satan himself use the actual weapons? (*No. Remember he is not all seeing, all knowing, all powerful, or visible.*)
- What weapons does he use? (*Treasure, p. 19—Deceit, temptation and accusations.*) Have you ever been attacked with any of these weapons?
- What is Satan's agenda? (*(1) Slandering Saints—Job 1:9-11; (2) Tempting to disobedience—Genesis 3:3-5; 1 Chronicles 21:1; (3) Removing the good seed—Matthew 13:19; (4) Ruining body and soul—Luke 13:16; (5) Causing men to sin—John 13:2; Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 22; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; (6) Lying—John 8:44.*)
- How do you overcome Satan's weapons and work? Will Satan ultimately be defeated? (*Luke 4:13; John 12:31; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:8.*)
- Do you get excited when you read Revelation 20:2,10? What will happen to the devil? (*He'll be thrown in the lake of fire.*)
- And what will happen to those who have overcome the devil and are God's children? (*We get to be in Heaven and walk in the midst of Jesus, Himself—Revelation 21:2-3, 7, 24.*)
- Do you need more proof? (*Luke 13:29; Revelation 7:14-17; Revelation 22:14*)
- What are some of the joys of eternal life? (*(1) No more death, sorrow, crying or pain—Revelation 21:4; (2) No curse—Revelation 22:3; (3) No night—Revelation 22:5; (4) Saints glorified—Romans 8:17; (5) Joy in Christ's presence—1 Thessalonians 4:17*)
- Will the Devil ever be reunited with God? (*No. These characteristics of the devil will forever keep him away from God —Revelation 21:27.*)
- Dismiss in a prayer of thanksgiving for your salvation and redemption.

In closing...

The words, “Sing above the battle strife, Jesus saves, Jesus saves” came to mind often while doing this study. I am so very thankful that Jesus does save. He saved me many years ago, and I try to spend my life worshiping, thanking and praising Him. Sometimes it’s difficult to live above the daily warfare, the heartaches, the troubles and the battle strife. But the Holy Spirit arms us with weapons of endurance, strength and hope. He provides us with guidance to one day live eternally in Heaven, where there will be no more battle cries of anguish and pain. We may have to go through a lot here on this earth. It may seem we cannot stand one more thing wrong in our life. Just hang on! We know the end of the story. We know who wins the final battle—the one that counts the most. Jesus will one day return and kick the old Devil into the bottomless pit where he will be tormented forever and ever. I know it will be worth it all on that glorious day.