

“The Enemy’s Strategy For The Fight”
Ephesians 6:11
Sermon Series: “The Fight Of Your Life”

Introduction:

Wiles refers to Satan’s wicked, deceptive schemer and strategies to destroy us. He tempts us in order to harm us (Proverbs 14:12). However, we must remember that being tempted is not the same as actually sinning. Being tempted is not wrong. It is giving into it that is wrong.

Satan’s desire is to destroy us and his method is deception. Thomas Brooks: “Satan’s first device to draw the soul into sin is, to present the bait-and hide the hook.” He has to try to deceive us because his authority over us is broken so he cannot force us to sin.

Over the next two weeks, we are planning to look at four strategies that we see Satan use directly against people in Scripture (analogy of studying game film). These strategies are pointed out in a book called The Strategy of Satan, by Warren Wiersbe.

Strategy #1: Satan is a deceiver.

1. His weapon is lies (John 8:44, Genesis 3:1-9). What are some of his lies?

A. God’s Word is not true (v. 1-5). He questioned, denied, and twisted God’s Word, and his strategy has never changed.

B. We can live independently of God and be our own god (v. 5). This is the ultimate lie according to Romans 1:25.

C. God is not good to you so you have to find what is best for yourself (v. 5-6).

D. We can define our own identity instead of letting God define us.

E. We can choose to disobey God without experiencing the consequences (v. 4).

2. His target is our mind.

2 Corinthians 11:3, Romans 12:2

We are set free by knowing the truth. Why are we set free through knowing the truth? Rick Warren says, “My thoughts control my life.” Why is this the case? Here are some ideas adapted from Rick Warren that I think are true:

A. All behavior is based on a belief (Hebrews 3:16-19).

B. Behind every sinful behavior, there is a lie I believe (Genesis 3).

C. Therefore, change always starts in the mind. In other words, we live differently by thinking and believing differently.

D. The key to changing our feelings and behavior is changing our beliefs and thinking by replacing the lies with truth.

3. Our defense is the truth of God's Word.

Ephesians 6:14, 17 John 8:32

So, how can we change the way we think through the Word of God? Romans 12:2 tells us that we can “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” We do this by:

A. Feeding our minds with truth (Matthew 4:4). This is what we were talking about in point #1.

B. Freeing our minds from destructive thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). We are told to take thoughts that are not from God captive to the obedience of Christ. Here are some key convictions in doing this:

- I don't have to think what I am thinking.**
- I don't have to believe what I am thinking.**
- I don't have to do what I am thinking.**
- I don't have to say what I am thinking.**
- I don't have to post what I am thinking.**

C. Focusing our minds on right things (Philippians 4:8) and especially on Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Strategy #2: Satan is an accuser.

1. His weapon is accusations (Revelation 12:10, Zechariah 3:1-7). He tempts us on the front end and condemns us on the back end.

2. His target is our conscience and heart.

3. Our defense is the work of Jesus on our behalf.

Romans 8:1, 1 John 2:1, 1 John 1:9, Genesis 3:7-9

We can confess, repent, and live differently through the power of Jesus. Satan is defeated through the cross, and his accusations will not stand under the blood of Jesus. Come to Jesus for salvation. Come back to Jesus for restoration. Rest in the finished work of the cross. Be transformed by the indwelling Holy Spirit.