

Our Unseen Enemy

1 Peter 5:8-11

Whether we recognize it or not, we face a spiritual adversary, the Devil, who desires to destroy our lives. Knowing his identity and methodology enables the believer to know how to resist him.

1. Wake Up!

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers ... [and] spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” - Ephesians 6:12

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”
- C.S. Lewis

2. Know Your Enemy!

– His Identity

“We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” - 1 John 5:19

– His Methodology

“So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”
- 2 Corinthians 2:11

- Deceive

“He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is not truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” - John 8:44

Know the Truth of the Word of God!

- Distort Pleasure

“Everything has to be twisted before it’s any use to us ... Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy’s ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, it is His invention, not ours. He made the pleasures ...

“... all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He has forbidden.” - C.S. Lewis’ *Screwtape Letters*

Exercise Self-Control & Patience!

- Divide & Conquer

“Keep them from the evil one ... that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You.” - John 17:15, 21

Connect & Confess in Community!

3. Resist Your Enemy!