

How can we experience victory in our warfare with the kingdom of darkness?

Matthew 26:36-46

- "Watch and pray"; stay alert

I. Watch for the enemy's strategy

A. Deceives - John 8:44; Genesis 3:1-5

- Lies that you have heard and believed for years

B. Exploits weaknesses - Luke 4:1-3, 13

- KNOW YOURSELF
- How does your flesh betray you?

C. Divides and conquers - John 17:22; Ephesians 4:1-3

- Get in a small group

II. Use your weapons

A. The people of God

- Set up phone appointments for encouragement and accountability

B. The Word of God - Ephesians 6:17

- If Satan's primary tactic is deceit, what is an effective weapon? TRUTH

C. The language of God - Ephesians 6:18

- Matthew 6:13
 - o "tempt" and "trial" are same Greek word
 - o God doesn't tempt us
 - James 1:13-14
 - o God does test us
 - Genesis 22
 - James 1:2-4
- "Lead us not into testing"
 - o But if you do, let it not become a temptation
- Lord's Prayer prepares us for testing/temptation - Matthew 6:5-13

D. The Spirit of God - Luke 22:31-32

- When you pray, the Spirit joins in - Romans 8:26-27

You will be tested and you will be tempted

Why does God do this? Why does God allow this? Ephesians 3:8-10

Summary

Since the beginning of human history, Satan has purposed to destroy the people of God. We are foolish to pretend that we are immune to his assaults. Instead, we must discern his strategies and employ all of the resources God has given us, especially the weapon of prayer.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- a. What are the various schemes/strategies that Satan uses to trip up God's children?
- b. Read Satan's temptation of Eve in Genesis 3 to remind yourself of some of his schemes.
- c. To which of Satan's schemes are you most vulnerable?
- d. What practical steps can you take this week to protect yourself from Satan's schemes?