

Resisting Satan

The Spiritual Battle

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the

rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12)

A REAL BATTLE WITH A REAL ENEMY

1) Describe the picture that comes into your mind when you think of Satan.

- Does that picture help or hinder our understanding of his nature? How?

2) Does the devil want us to fear him or embrace him?

THE REALITY OF THE SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

3) We struggle to believe in the spiritual world, but which existed first, the physical or spiritual

world (Job 38:4-7)?

- Which world will outlast the other (Luke 20:34-36)?

4) Describe the nature of the battleground for our souls—the “heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:3,20;

2:6; 3:10; 6:12; cf. Hebrews 12:22-24).

- Is this talking about something in the present or future (1:3,20)?

- Is this a realm where we actively participate, while still in this world (2:6)?

- Who else operates in this spiritual realm or domain (2:6; 3:10; 6:12)?

- Does all of this sound a little weird?

5) What is Satan fighting for (John 12:31; 1 John 5:19)?

6) What does he do to draw men away from God (Ephesians 2:2-3; Colossians 1:13)?

7) What does he use to exert his power and influence over us (Luke 22:31; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4;

1 Thessalonians 3:5)?

8) What does he like to use to deceive us (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; cf. 1 Timothy 4:1-3;

1 John 4:1-3)?

FIGHTING THE BATTLE ON TWO FRONTS—The Battle Within And The Battle Without

9) Describe the battle (the ‘civil war’) that wages within each of us (Galatians 5:16-18; Romans

8:5-9)?

- What kinds of fruit does it bear when we give in to the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)?

- What kinds of fruit does it bear when we give in to the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)?

10) Describe the battle that we wage against the world (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

- Why does the nature of the world stand opposed to God (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:2-4)?

- Why is Satan able to use it so effectively against us (1 John 5:19; Luke 4:6; Ephesians 2:1-2)?

CONCLUSION—“The Devil’s cleverest ruse is to make believe that he does not exist” (Donald Barnhouse, *The Invisible War*). Satan is a terrible adversary, but the one who is in us “is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4; Romans 8:35-39).