

Lesson 6

Tactics of the Enemy

Opening Verse: **Luke 10:19**

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on **serpents** and **scorpions**, and over **all the power of the enemy**: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Introduction:

The only power that the enemy has against the body of Christ is his WORDS! And that is true only when we BELIEVE in his lies! Therefore, we need to be more aware and mindful of his attacks so that we can always be ready to refute it. This lesson will not only cover more teaching on the devil's three primary types of attacks but it will also provide biblical solutions to erase and be set free from the lies or strongholds that we have unknowingly or carelessly embraced.

Three Primary Attacks of the Enemy:

- **Serpents** – subtle deceptions; appealing to our flesh or will so that we can take ownership of it.
 - **Scorpions** – stinging accusations
 - **Other Powers** – attempts to cause us to be afraid and intimidated
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1. Attack of the SERPENT – subtle deceptions; appeals to our flesh or will so that we can take ownership of it.

• ***Spirits of Offense***

- This is a very common attack of the enemy because we are often oblivious of the enemy's "subtle" voice as he makes it sound just like ours!
- He will make it sound very LOGICAL and APPEALING to our flesh (so that we will attempt to "defend our rights" or feel better about ourselves).
- When we listen to his voice, it often causes division and therefore, disrupts our peace.
- This false pleasure of fighting for your "rights" is not worth the loss of God's peace!

NOTES

Our **DEFENSE** against the spirits of offense: **RESIST** the thoughts by ignoring it!

- You can sense this voice as it will tug on your will and flesh to make "you" feel good.
- Do not justify the voice just because it sounds "logical."

- ***Iniquity = Self-will*** (*Matt. 7:21-23; Matt. 6:33*)
 - The spirit of iniquity appeals to your personal desires, your wants, or your dreams.
 - We are more covetous than we realize!
 - That is why we need to **DIE to ourselves** every day!
 - We need to die to all of our dreams and personal desires because we need to **intentionally and consistently follow God's will** in our life!
 - Pray for God's deliverance from iniquity every day!

- ***Religious Tradition***
 - This type of attack is very prominent in the church because the enemy causes us to believe in his **LIE** that we **become righteousness by our own righteousness**. We can never earn this on our own!
 - The Bible teaches that we become righteous **ONLY** when we are **COVERED by God's righteousness**.
 - Religious tradition results into us performing religious actions "**for**" God, out of our own will and strength and not **by His grace** or His leading.
 - The acts of religious tradition are not genuine to God but only breed pride, self-glory or false hope since they are geared to: (1) satisfy "religious obligation;" (2) to "secure" one's salvation at the minimum; or 3) to look good or appear blameless to others, **versus having a true desire to please God at all times**.

2. Attack of the SCORPIONS– stinging accusations.

Romans 8:1–2 (WUESTNT)

Therefore, now, there is not even one bit of condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit, that of the life in Christ Jesus, freed you once for all from the law of the sinful nature and of death.

Spirit of Condemnation

- This form of scorpion attack is very common which affects those who do not have a **true revelation of being COVERED by God's RIGHTEOUSNESS**.
- For we are **ALWAYS** safe and secure under the covering of God's gift of righteousness!
- It is a **GIFT** because we did not earn it and we never need to earn it or work for it.
- For Christ paid the price for our sins by shedding His blood that covers all our sins every time we repent!

The voice of **conviction** is different from the voice of condemnation. Conviction is a guilt feeling from God that is gentle, drawing us to repentance. But condemnation only brings a heavy feeling of hopelessness that draws us away from God. We need to resist the voice of condemnation and affirm the love of God that provides us with the covering of His righteousness.

Failure to resist the voice of condemnation or the accusations of the enemy can result into an ungodly STRONGHOLD or IMAGINATION.

Understanding STRONGHOLDS & IMAGINATIONS:

Proverbs 23:7a: *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

- THOUGHTS produce ACTIONS
- Wrong thoughts = wrong actions
- Habitual actions = Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

³*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the **pulling down of strong holds;**)*

⁵**Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

STRONGHOLDS = HABITS

- These begin in our MIND (thoughts that we don't resist)
- Ungodly strongholds are false thoughts that we have entertained in our mind, giving the enemy influence (or a strong hold) over our thinking.
- They can result into a stronghold of our FLESH.
 - Wrong thoughts = Wrong actions
- For every work of the flesh (*Gal. 5:19-21*) – there is a demonic spirit that is associated with it.
- When a person gets more involved in the work of the flesh and does not repent of it – it can get worse and then become a SPIRITUAL problem.
 - This becomes a stronger bondage than that of the flesh since it now involves a demonic spirit.

NOTES

- An imagination is a form of stronghold

Galatians 5:19–21

¹⁹Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Thus, a *work or bondage of the flesh* is either ruled by our FLESH or by a demonic SPIRIT.

- For strongholds ruled by the FLESH – REPENTANCE will bring deliverance.
- For strongholds ruled by the SPIRIT – someone needs to pray and TAKE DOMINION OVER THE SPIRIT to set them free because the demonic spirit is a stronger influence than the flesh.

IMAGINATIONS = false images of ourselves that the adversary has put within us that we have accepted as our own.

- The most **destructive** imagination:
That I am UNLOVABLE – this is believing that God’s love for me is conditional or that it’s based on my performance or my own work of righteousness
- **CAST DOWN** = to remove or make powerless
- **The way I feel about myself** is pivotal because it affects the way I love God and others.
- **The only possible way that I can love myself is by the love of God** = the SOURCE of my power to LOVE

1 John 4:19 (*The Bible in Basic English*): *We have the power of loving, because he first had love for us.*

Therefore, I must first believe in the **unconditional love of God for myself**, which will enable me to love myself. And then can I also love God and others (see *the Two Great Commandments in Matt. 22:36-40*).

Deliverance Process:

1. We need to first make the **CHOICE** to **cast down** these false thoughts of ourselves (imaginings) and any other false thought.
2. Through **prayer**, we bind and cast these down.
3. Then our mind needs to be **RENEWED** with the Word of God’s by **replacing his lies with God’s Truth**.

NOTES

For example, if a person who is addicted to alcohol repents of it and is delivered, that means it was a bondage of the flesh. But if he is still an alcoholic after repenting – someone needs to bind the spirit of alcohol to set him free, because it now involves a demonic spirit.

-This imagination drives us away from God and causes spiritual paralysis

Romans 12:1-2:

*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.*

God's Truth about His love for me:
I must be worth a tremendous amount to Him because He died for me!

- He loves me because of **WHO I AM** to Him and not because of what I do.

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Romans 8:31–32

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

**Accepting God's Love
WITHOUT RESERVATION**

is the channel through which I receive EVERYTHING that God does for me, both naturally and spiritually!

- **His LOVE is the conduit through which all of His BLESSINGS can flow to us!**

3. Attack of Other Powers – attempts to cause us to be afraid and intimidated; *Spirits of fear*

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

- Fear is not an emotion but a demonic spirit that we always need to resist or bind (1 Peter 5:8-9).
- This is different from the **fear of the Lord** that is clean and that works for our salvation.

Proverbs 19:23

The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: And he that hath it shall abide satisfied; He shall not be visited with evil.

There are many **types of fear**, such as the fear of rejection, failure and loss, but we need to be set free from all of them. And the **fear of death** should not be an exception or should not be treated as a “normal” reaction since another purpose of Christ’s coming was to **set us free from the fear of death because it creates bondage**:

Heb. 2:14-15:

*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil**; And deliver them who through **fear of death** were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

- **Fear of death** (and any type of fear) = creates a bondage; a lack of liberty in God

Matt. 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

- ❖ Having a healthy fear of the Lord will combat the fear of the enemy!

TRUSTING in God’s Love = NO FEAR

1 John 4:16–19

¹⁶*And we have **known** and **believed** the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.* ¹⁷*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.* ¹⁸*There is no fear in love; **but perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. **He that feareth is not made perfect in love.***

To **KNOW** God’s love = experientially
(not just in knowledge)

To **BELIEVE** in God’s love = to trust in, to cling to

*And as we apply this, we will gain **CONFIDENCE** in His love and then God's love will **work in us to overcome fear!**

For there is NO FEAR in LOVE!

Fear = possessing any worry, stress or care

Perfect, mature, complete love = casts out fear

We need to learn that **God is THERE (with His LOVE) in EVERY situation!**

And God's PEACE will confirm whenever it's God's will for the situations (i.e. *sickness, problems, etc.*) that He allows in your life. For there are no accidents in your walk with God when you have chosen His pathway!

Heb. 13:5-6

⁵ Let your conversation (LIFESTYLE) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

- **This is FAITH!**

FAITH is the confidence in God's voice AND is the opposite of **FEAR**, which is listening and believing in the voice of the devil!

Being FEARLESS = having absolute confidence in Him that I have received His love.

If Doing His Will is the PRIORITY of my life = THEN I WILL HAVE Absolute Confidence in His Will (since whatever happens is what He allows)