

Understanding Ways to Fight a Spiritual Enemy, part 3

Message Summary: We have a spiritual opponent and we need to prepare for the methods he uses against us. Satan wants believers to think and feel powerless, weak, timid, afraid and overwhelmed. WHY? So he can control them and keep them paralyzed by fear while offering nothing for the kingdom of God. Far too many believers are unaware and unprepared for this conflict. Today, we are going to reveal some of Satan's tactics.

Evil Schemes and Methods

1. Satan's purpose is to exalt self and oppose God.

- A. **Satan's desire is to be like the Most High.** Isaiah 14:14
- B. **Satan opposes the people of God.** Matthew 28:18-20

2. Satan's methods in this World.

- A. **Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers.**
- B. **Satan deceives people with partial truth.**
- C. **Satan distracts people with counterfeit religions.**
- D. **Satan fascinates people with the supernatural.**

3. Satan's nine methods against Believers.

- 1) **Satan deceives us of our identity.** 1 John 3:1
- 2) **Satan deceives us of our purpose.** Ephesians 2:10
- 3) **Satan deceives us of our freedom.** Galatians 5:1
- 4) **Satan deceives us of our unity.** 1 Corinthians 1:10
- 5) **Satan deceives us of our power in Christ.** 2 Timothy 1:7
- 6) **Satan deceives us trusting the Word of God.** James 1:22
- 7) **Satan deceives us about our loyalties.** Matthew 6:24
- 8) **Satan deceives us regarding reality.** 2 Corinthians 4:18
- 9) **Satan deceives us with religion.** 2 Timothy 3:5

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT- (5min) Praise & opening prayer.

OPEN IT- (10min) Growing up, do you remember a bully at your school? What was the bully's evil tactics?

Do you think the world has become less loving in the past few years? What have you observed? What do you think has changed?

EXPLORE IT- (60min) Review Sunday's sermon outline and allow the group to share their notes and comments. Now answer the following questions:

1. How do you see Satan's tactics in your own community?
2. Do you see how he is trying to deceive you – control you – steal your freedom in Christ?
3. Are you going to learn to fight back? Explain.

APPLY IT- (15min) What did God reveal to you in the sermon or among your discussion group? How will you apply this new understanding to your life? Pray for each other to live in the freedom found in Christ.