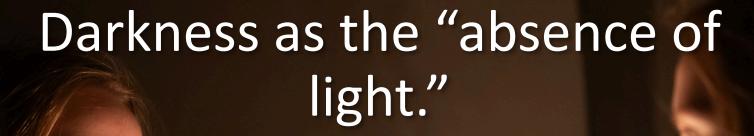


Winning the Invisible War Ephesians 6:10-19

- Paul begins his last instruction to the church with an important word – "Finally..." Paul began this instruction in 5:18. Do you see the "so that" in v11?
- 5:18 ..., but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, [so] that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

- 1. The devil -- Jesus speaks of this spiritual being 6x+. He is real, not a delusion. He describes him as a "murderer," a liar, incapable of telling the truth. He is invisible, always anti-God, anti-followers of God, and seeking to control the world through his lies (1 John 5:19).
- A. Serpent, satan in Genesis 3, he lies to the 1st couple.
 - Jn. 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)
- B. Names prince of the power of the air, god of this world, ruler of this world, serpent, dragon, satan (accuser), the devil, the evil one; Lucifer (KJV) Isaiah 14:12, Ezek 28:12-19.

- 2. In Scripture, the devil's power is through his lies and deceptions. He acts in and thru humans. As a liar, he is the deceiving voice in our heads that leads us to oppose God, and God's ways in our lives.
- A. His pathways darkness regardless of the arena:
 - Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against the rulers, ... the authorities, ... the cosmic powers... against the spiritual forces of darkness in the heavenly places..."
- B. His voice in my head, "sounds like" accusations of:
 - fear, pride, condemnation, and an appeal to my lusts.
- C. His "works" are revealed by the half-truths he tells lined up against God's word. 1 John 3:8



2 Cor. 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (ESV)

- 3. How does a believer win the invisible war with the devil? How do we "put on the armor of God." James 4:7.
 - A. Belt around waist Truth (v14)
 - B. Chest Righteousness (v15)
 - C. Feet preparation of Peace (v15)
 - D. Shield extinguish the flaming missiles [LIES] of the devil Faith (v16)
 - E. Helmet mind; certainty of salvation (v17)
 - F. Sword offensive and defensive weapon Word of God weaponized against the adversary (v18)

We must replace the lies ("you" statements) with the truth of the word of God and submit to what the Word says. We "cast out" the lie when we do what God says.

- Works of darkness (lies).
- 1. Lie: "You can't do it. How could God ever use you, want you, or trust you to do anything?" Belt of Truth. Rom 8:1
- 2. Lie: "You gave in to your temptation again. Are you even saved?" Helmet of salvation. 2 Cor 5:17.
- 3. Lie: "They hired a new boss. You will never make it.

 Better find another job." Feet grounded in peace. Jer
 29:11

We must replace the lies ("you" statements) with the truth of the word of God and submit to what the Word says. We "cast out" the lie when we do what God says.

- Continued "Works of darkness":
- 4. Lie: "No one will see you cheating. If you don't cheat, you will never pass." Breastplate righteousness. Shield of faith. Rom 13:12
- 5. Lie: "Why should you stay in this marriage? God wants you to be happy so the sooner you end it, the sooner you will have what you want. Sword of the Spirit. Mal 2:16

- 4. Believers must not fear the devil; rather, be aware of his "works." Jesus defeated him on the cross, and as a follower of Jesus, he is defeated for me.
- In. 1:5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (NAU)
- Col. 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (NAU)
- Rev. 12:11 "And they overcame him [the devil] because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (NAU)
- Jas. 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (NAU)

Call to Action:

- A. How are you doing on winning the invisible war with the powers of darkness? Why not begin walking in victory by:
 - 1. believing that the devil is real;
 - 2. Believing that the way we overcome him is by "being filled with the Spirit";
 - 3. Accessing the power of the Spirit by intentionally submitting to God and His word in my daily life choices and decisions.