

Your adversary the Devil

1 Pet. 5:6 – 11

Eph. 4:27 “...give no opportunity to the devil.”

I. Knowledge is key:

A. He KNOWS you

1. He is stalking you:

Job 1:7, 2:1 – 2 Satan was walking about the earth. He knew about Job, and he knew the steadfastness of Job.

Adam and Eve:

We have a lot of influence on our spouses, let's make sure we are using that influence for good.

Judas: He knew Judas was putting his hand in the bag, HE WAS STALKING HIM.

Lk. 22:3 – 6

Peter Luke 22:31 – 32: **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”**

2. **Do you think that Satan was stalking these individuals but you are somehow immune. Satan is stalking you and the danger is real.**

B. He knows your weaknesses:

1. They are the same for everyone: 1 John 2:15 – 17

C. You KNOW his designs there is no excuse for ignorance: 2 Cor. 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

1. He can only use our weaknesses against us. We know the avenues that he is going to use to tempt us so we have the upper hand.

Fight or Flight Reflex (Acute Stress Response): is a physiological reaction that occurs in response to a perceived harmful event, attack, or threat to survival (Walter Bradford Cannon). This response is hard-wired into our brains and represents a genetic wisdom designed to protect us from bodily harm. This response actually corresponds to an area of our brain called the hypothalamus, which—when stimulated—initiates a sequence of nerve cell firing and chemical release that prepares our body for running or fighting.

II. Flight: You have to know when to RUN

A. Joseph with Potifers wife

Gen. 39:7 – 23

B. Whatever sin you are struggling with:

2 Cor. 6:14 - 18

1 Cor. 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

We are to run from sexual immorality as fast as we can.

1 Cor. 10:12 – 14 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he also will provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

will

Prov. 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. If we are proud an arrogant the Bible guarantees we will stumble. Not only that but pride is sinful. If we are unable to accept the fact that we can fall

then we start to let our guard. Once we start to let our guard down, then satan has an opportunity and before long we are fully engaged in sin and we don't even know how it started.

We can fall BUT we are not being exposed to any temptations that someone else has not already struggled with and overcame. Not only does the devil know us, but God also knows us, even better than the devil. God will not allow us to be tempted more than we can bear.

1 Tim. 6:9 – 12 Here are some more things we are going to have to flee: riches, senseless and harmful desires.

Fortunately it also gives us guidance on the things we are supposed to pursue: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. These are things we should be running to. If we are focused on pursuing these things we will be less likely to fall into the harmful desires.

2 Tim. 2:22 – 26 Here we have more guidance on fleeing, this time youthful lusts and foolish, ignorant controversies. Why? Because they breed quarrels and they are not going to help us get to heaven.

This passage also gives us guidance on the things we are supposed to pursue: righteousness, faith, love, peace. Looks kind of familiar doesn't it. These also are things we should be running to.

Fight: You have to know when to STAND: Jas. 4:7 – 8 Sometimes we will have to resist the devil to his face. The best way to do that is by drawing nearer to God. The harder the devil is tempting us the closer we must draw to God. 1 Pet. 5:9-10 God did not guarantee that we would not suffer, but we have hope through the fact that He will come and strengthen us when we are weak from temptation.

Persecutions will come. Matt. 5:10 – 12

We are outnumbered:

Straight and Narrow:

Matt. 7:13 – 14 Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

It's not fun being in the minority, is it? It is not fun being made fun of:

1 Pet. 4:3 – 4: The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;

When we become a Christian we can no longer run with those who are going to lead us into temptation, we have to make a stand for the truth and our former friends are not going to understand. We as humans fear what we don't understand and when we are afraid we lash out to protect ourselves. Our former friends are going to lash out by speaking evil of us.

Stand up for what is right:

Prov. 28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Stand up to your friends 1 Cor. 15:33

Prov. 1:8 – 16

Christian Armor: All faces forward.

Eph. 6:10 – 18

In Conclusion:

Rom. 13:11 - 14