

OVERCOMING THE DEVIL

Lesson 9

Introduction: In preparing for this class I decided to go on-line to see if I could find any polls that would indicate what percentage of Americans believed in the devil. My findings were very interesting. A recent poll (2007) showed that 70% of us believe in the devil. This is an all time high, and is up from 68% in a 2003 poll and a low of 51% in 1991. Sadly, it's quite apparent, that just because people believe in the devil, it doesn't necessarily translate into living a life of victory over him. While that would be expected of unbelievers, should that be the case for us who believe.?

In today's class we will cover the following topics...

- A Biblical look at Satan's "job description"
- Does God guarantee that we can walk in victory?
- If so, why is it so elusive to many Christians?
- Are there ways we can cooperate with God to help us walk in victory?

1. SATAN'S JOB DESCRIPTION

A. TEMPTER – TEMPTS US TO SIN

**1 Thess 3:5 – "I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way that the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless."*

1. LIES – Ill of "The Serpent to Eve"
2. TEMPTATION + LUST (WEAKNESS) – James 1:14-15

B. ACCUSER – CONDEMNATION

**Rev 12:10 – "...for the accuser of the brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night..."*

1. He doesn't have to lie. We give him plenty of ammunition.
2. Our defense is JESUS – 1 John 2:1

C. THIEF – STEAL, KILL & DESTROY

**John 10:10 – "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy..."*

1. He hates God, but can't touch him.
2. Therefore, he attacks His children and His Son's bride – US!

2. VICTORY IS OURS FOR THE TAKING

**Romans 8:37 – "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*

**2 Cor 2:14 – "Thanks be unto God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ..."*

**Psalms 18 – Part of becoming a disciple is learning how to conquer. Notice the progression from "fleeing to conquering" in this passage of Scripture...*

A. CRYING FOR HELP

**Ps 18 – “4 The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. 5 The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. 7 The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. 8 Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. 9 He parted the heavens and came down...”*

B. HE RESCUES US

**Ps 18 – “13 The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. 14 He shot his arrows and scattered the enemies, great bolts of lightning and routed them. ... 16 He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. 17 He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me.”*

C. WE LEARN TO PARTNER WITH GOD

**Ps 18 – “31 With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. ... 32 It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. ... 34 He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 35 You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.”*

D. WE PURSUE AND CONQUER

**Ps 18 – “37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. 38 I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. 41 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—to the LORD, but he did not answer. 42 I beat them as fine as dust borne on the wind; I poured them out like mud in the streets.”*

1. Note the PROGRESS & MATURITY
2. As we grow WE NEED LESS HELP

3. COOPERATING WITH GOD TO WALK IN VICTORY – A BIBLICAL RESPONSE

A. BE SOBER, ALERT

1 Peter 5:8 – “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

1. SOBER (K.J.V.) / SELF-CONTROLLED (N.I.V.)
2. VIGILANT (K.J.V.) / ALERT (N.I.V.)

B. BE DISCERNING

**2 Cor 2:11 – “...in order that Satan might now outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”*

1. HIS ARSENAL: Tricks, Schemes, Lies, Disguises
2. DISGUISES: Angel of Light, Uses the Word, First Person Thoughts

C. BE PREPARED

Eph 6:10 – “Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. **Put on the whole armor of God** so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*

1. KNOW THE OPPONENT - WORD
2. CONDITIONING – PRAYER & WORD / AWARE
3. RIGHT EQUIPMENT

D. BE RESISTANT

**1 Pet 5:9 – “Resist him...”*

James 4:7 – “Submit yourselves, then, to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

1. TURNING POINT
2. RESIST: “To strive to fend off” ... “To remain firmly against”
3. IF WE RESIST → HE WILL FLEE

E. BE READY TO FLEE

**1 Cor 6:18 – “Flee from sexual immorality.”*

1 Cor 10:14 – “Therefore, my dear friends, **flee from idolatry.”*

1 Tim 6:10,11 – “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith ... But you, man of God, **flee all this...”*

1. Sometimes we conquer by fleeing.
2. Know when to stand your ground and when to flee.

F. BE FIRM (IN FAITH)

1 Pet 5:9 – “Resist him **in the faith”*

Eph 6:16 – “...take up the **shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”*

1. No matter what you SEE, HEAR, FEEL – STAND IN FAITH
2. Is 9:6 – “NO FAITH / NO LAST”

G. BE CONFIDENT (OF VICTORY)

Heb 10:35 – “Do not throw away **your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.”*

Romans 8:37 – “No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors...”*

2 Cor 2:14 – “Thanks be unto God who always leads us **in triumphal procession in Christ...”*

CONCLUSION: The Word of God says, “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). **HE IS ON YOUR SIDE!** He wants you to win even more than you do. He wants to transform us into champions and winners! Will we allow Him?