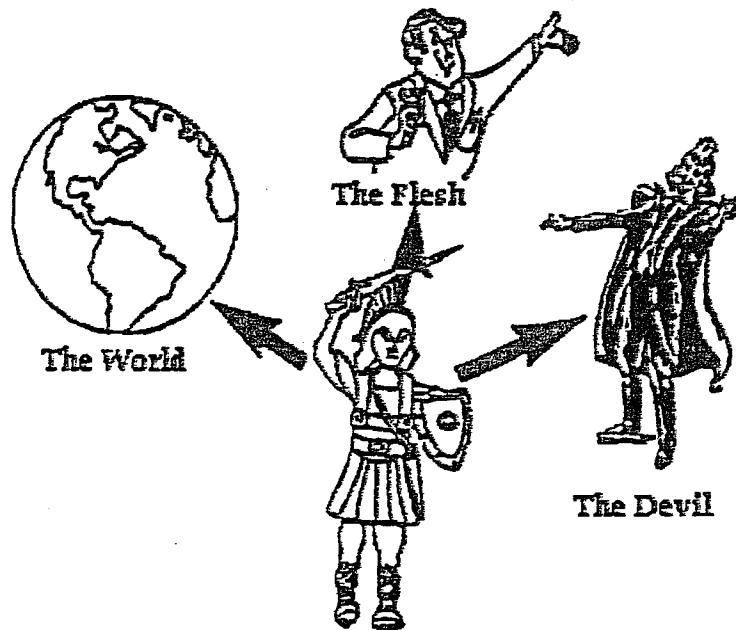


Lesson 6

Our 3 Enemies



"And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Ephesians 2:1-3 (KJV)

Every Christian faces three great enemies in his walk with God:

1. The World
2. The Flesh
3. The Devil

These enemies are out to destroy us. If we are unaware of their presence and their battle tactics, we will lose in our warfare against them. Each one of these enemies has the power to rob us of our victory.

When we speak of the "world" we are referring to Satan's world system. His world system includes: WAR... FLESHLY LUST ... DECEPTION ... GREED ... DISOBEDIENCE ... VAIN PHILOSOPHY, and every form of wickedness and sin. It is this worldly system that we are not to allow ourselves to become attached to.

When we speak of the "flesh", we are referring, not to the skin that covers our bodies, but to the enemy within all of us, that would have us yield to temptations, were it not for the grace of God.

When we speak of the "Devil", we are referring to a real, personal Devil. He is a spirit being who vigilantly walks the face of this earth to destroy everything God has made good and right. The Devil is your personal opponent and enemy. He longs to destroy your effectiveness as a child of God. He has the capability of robbing you of joy, peace, and victory in the Christian life. (Read Ephesians 2:1-10)

THE WORLD IS OUR ENEMY

- When the Bible speaks of the “world” as it is used in Ephesians 2:2, it is speaking of the world system we live in. Ephesians 2:2 says that before you were saved you walked “... according to the course ...”
- What does 2 Corinthians 4:4 say “*the god of this world*” (which is Satan) has done to the minds of men?
- According to 1 John 2:15, are we to love the world? _____ If we love the world, what will we miss?
- The world system seeks to engulf the Christian with its promises of fame, fortune, and power. But the Christian has the power within him to overcome the world. What is it that gives us victory over the world? (1 John 5:4) _____
- In John 17:14-15, Jesus prayed for us not to be taken out of the world “... *but that thou shouldest* ...”

THE FLESH IS OUR ENEMY

We dealt with the flesh in previous lessons. The flesh is that part of our being that wants to sin, and do what the Devil would have us do, instead of obeying the Lord Jesus Christ. It is human nature without God’s influence and control. We were each born with a sinful nature which constantly tries to regain control of a believer’s life after we are saved.

- Ephesians 2:3 says, “... *we all had our conversation (lifestyle, or way of life) in times past in the* ...”
- We lived our lives to fulfill “... *Desires of the* _____ and of the _____ ...” (Ephesians 2:3)
- Read Romans 7:22-23 and notice that God says there is a war going on in the mind, trying to bring us “... *into the captivity to the* ...”
- The apostle Paul asks a question in Romans 7:24 about how can I win the victory over this “*body of death.*” Who will give us the victory according to Romans 7:25? _____

THE DEVIL IS OUR ENEMY

- In Ephesians 2:2 the Devil is called “... *The prince of the* _____ *of the* _____ ...” The devil is a powerful prince, watching and knowing what is going on in his world system.
- Every believer will be in a never-ending battle with Satan his entire life. Satan never gives up. But if we know him and are aware of his tactics, he can be defeated. Look up the verses below and write down the different names given to the devil:
 - 2 Corinthians 11:14 _____
 - 1 Peter 5:8 _____
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:5 _____
 - 2 Corinthians 11:3 _____
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:18 _____

(READ Ephesians 6:10-18)

3. According to Ephesians 6:11, in order to defeat Satan we must put on the “*whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand the wiles of the devil*.” (The word “wiles” means strategy or strategic plans Satan uses to defeat us.)
4. Ephesians 6:12 says, “*For we fight not against flesh and blood*.”
(The war we fight against the devil is not ordinary. It is spiritual warfare fought in the mind against forces of evil which Satan commands.)
5. In Ephesians 6:14-17, there are 6 pieces of armor mentioned that the Christians must have to defeat Satan. In the space provided below, list these in order:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

6. What does Ephesians 6:18 say we must add to our armor in battling the devil?

7. According to 1 John 3:8, who was sent into our lives that we might destroy the works of Satan?
