




Challenges Dealing with Satan

Closer to God 2023 (62)

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- As we bring our 2022-23 theme to its conclusion, we have been addressing some challenges to drawing closer to God.
 - We have addressed:
Worldliness
Materialism
Busyness
Discouragement
Doubt
 - Today, we conclude this sub-theme by addressing the source of such challenges –
Dealing with Satan



Challenges Dealing with Satan

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Understanding Satan

- He is responsible for our failures and miseries.

He was behind the first sin

He accused Job

He sifted Peter to deny Jesus

He tempted Jesus to try to sin

He was responsible for Jesus being nailed to the cross (both its need AND actions that led up to it)

Understanding Satan

Described as

- A liar and murderer – **John 8:44**
- A thief – **John 10:10**
- A deceiver – **Revelation 12:9**
- An enemy – **1 Peter 5:8,**
Matthew 13:39
- The tempter – **Matthew 4:3**

Understanding Satan

He is powerful!

- **John 12:31** – ruler of this world
- **1 John 5:19** – world lies under his sway
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** – god of this age
- It is foolishness to underestimate his power – **1 Peter 5:8-9**

Understanding Satan

He knows you!

- He knew Eve's weakness
- He knew what to accuse Job of
- He knew Peter was impetuous
- He knew Judas Iscariot was greedy & dishonest

Understanding Satan

He knows you!

- BUT he is NOT all knowing or everywhere
- But he is very observant! He knows your weaknesses. He watches and learns!
- He is shrewd (cleverly aware and resourceful) – **2 Corinthians 11:3,**
1 Peter 5:8

Understanding Satan

He will rule your life IF you let him!

- **cf. Genesis 4:7** – the warning to Cain
- When we love this world, we are letting him rule in our lives.
- When we choose to disobey or rebel...
- When we let down our spiritual guard –

Ephesians 6:16

Dealing with Satan

Realize that God is greater than him

- Satan IS powerful, BUT his power is limited!
- **1 John 3:8** – Jesus was manifested to destroy his works
- **Colossians 2:15** – He disarmed principalities and powers
- **Mark 3:27** – He came to bind him

Dealing with Satan

Realize that God is greater than him

- With God's help, we can overcome –
1 John 4:4 – Jesus is greater
Matthew 6:13 –
“deliver us from evil”

Dealing with Satan

You do NOT have to let him rule you!

- **2 Corinthians 2:11** – we are not ignorant of his devices
- **Romans 6:14** – “sin shall not have dominion over you.”
- Resist him – **1 Peter 5:9, James 4:7, 1 Corinthians 10:13**
- **EVERY sin we commit is a choice!**

Dealing with Satan

Become indignant

- Indignant – to become angry because of what is unjust, mean or unworthy
(**cf. Ephesians 4:26**)
- Far too many today have just accepted brokenness – in the world and their lives as – “it’s just the way it is”
- You may not be able to change the world, but you do not have to let ungodliness rule you!

Dealing with Satan

Become indignant

- Become angry at Satan!
- Why do we struggle with worldliness?
- Why do we find ourselves weak when confronting sin around us?
- Why is striving to change so hard?
- Why do we see so much suffering?
- Why do we have to say goodbye to loved ones in death?

Dealing with Satan

Become indignant

- Become angry at Satan!
- Why do you feel this way?
the
- Why do you feel this way?
- When Satan seeks to “cancel”
you because of your moral standing
- If you are not the Christian you ought to be.
Why?

It is because of
Satan!

Dealing with Satan

Declare war on the devil!

- Our indignation needs to move us to action
- War, by definition, is destructive. You do everything you can to defeat your enemy. We detest physical wars (though at times they are necessary).
- BUT, if you truly want to draw closer to God, you need to declare war on Satan!

Ephesians 6:11

Dealing with Satan

Declare war on the devil!

- We ARE at war with him!
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**
Ephesians 6:11-18
1 Timothy 6:12 – fight the good fight of faith!

Dealing with Satan

Declare war on the devil!

- We cannot simply take a defensive posture. We need to fight him!
IF he gets into your home or life, it becomes far more difficult to overcome him

Dealing with Satan

Declare war on the devil!

- Cut off whatever resources are standing in your way
- **1 Corinthians 6:18, 10:14, 2 Timothy 2:2, etc.**
- Plead your case before God – **Matthew 6:13**
- Go to your brethren for strength – **1 Thessalonians 5:14**

Dealing with Satan

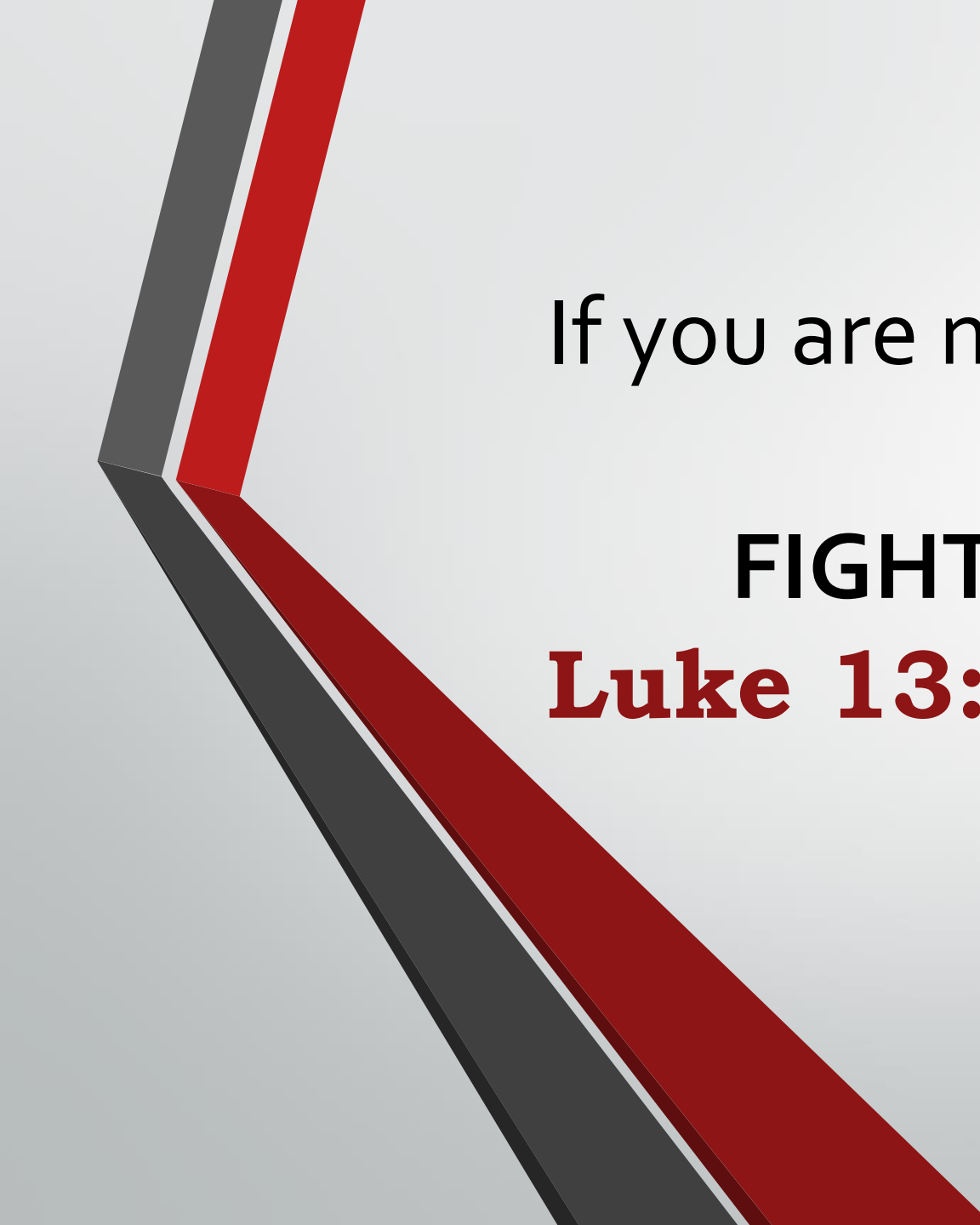
Declare war on the devil!

- Unsheathe, “the sword of the Spirit”

Ephesians 6:17

- Fight, believing you can win!


Romans 8:31 (31-39)



If you are not as close to God as you
ought to be,

FIGHT THE REAL CAUSE!

Luke 13:24, 1 Timothy 6:12



Start preparing now, as 2024
approaches!

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Let us pray!