

February 8/9, 2025

“The Devil”

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SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Ephesians 2:1-3](#) | Enemies of the Soul

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Ephesians 2:1-2

The church in Ephesus is in a spiritual battle. Paul writes to encourage them and warn that three enemies of the soul wage war against believers—the devil, the flesh and the world. After acknowledging the reality of this battle, Paul assures them of the strength and victory found in Jesus. Though a battle rages, there is armor for the believers and victory in the Lord.

The same is true for us today. We are at war—whether we recognize it or not. One of the most dangerous things in the spiritual life is to waltz through one's days, unaware of the spiritual threats to one's soul. We have real enemies seeking to inflict real damage on us and those around us. However, we need not live in fear. We can stand confidently and victoriously, knowing we have a Savior who has conquered the grave and given us everything we need to win the battle.

TODAY: After outlining the battle at hand, Paul commands the believers in Ephesus, “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” ([Ephesians 6:13](#)). Memorize this verse and keep it close to mind throughout this sermon series. Ask God for help putting this verse into practice. We are in a battle but have everything we need in Christ to stand victorious.

Day 2 [1 Peter 5:6-11](#) | The Devil's Goal and Strategy

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Scripture is clear that a real enemy opposes God and his good work. This enemy seeks to inflict real damage on humanity. Peter describes the devil as a lion looking to devour his prey. The devil's primary goal is to destroy. Elsewhere, Jesus described the enemy's work as one who seeks “only to steal and kill and destroy” ([John 10:10](#)). The enemy's primary tactic is lies. He is “the father of lies” (John 8:44). This was true of the devil in the very beginning (see [Genesis 3:1-7](#)) and is still true of him today.

The devil has been lying for all of history, and he lies to us today. Some of those lies are subtler than others, but every lie is dangerous. We may be tempted by lies such as, “No one will know,” “I am unlovable,” or even “Everyone does it.” The whispers of the enemy are deadly to our souls. Through his lies, he seeks to inject poison into our minds and hearts. We can primarily contend with such lies with the truth of God's Word.

TODAY: Spiritual warfare reminds us of our need to engage with the Bible well. Consider what it looks like to be more intentional with your Bible intake. There are many ways to engage with the Bible, such as listening to Scripture, following a reading plan, praying Scripture, memorizing verses or discussing the Bible with Christian friends. Identify a way to (re)engage with the Bible and ask God for help to put his Word into practice.

Day 3 [James 4:7](#) | The Devil Can Be Resisted

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

James, the brother of Jesus, offers counsel to believers about how to contend with the devil and his schemes. Rather than succumb to the enemy's tactics, they are to resist. Jesus himself provides an example of what resisting looks like. When the devil tempts Jesus, Jesus consistently responds with truths from God's Word. He knew God's Word, and he applied God's Word correctly in moments of temptation.

We have the same resource available today. Jesus memorized God's Word, storing precious truths in his heart. It is wise for us to do the same. Our primary battle with the devil is to believe God's truth over lies. We can have confidence that as we study and memorize Scripture, like with Jesus, the Holy Spirit will bring it to mind in our time of need. As we resist the devil with the truths of God's Word, we have the promise of God that the devil will flee from us.

TODAY: Examine what lies you believe about who God is or who he says you are. Spend time journaling by recording lies in one column, including subtle and obvious ones. Then, write the truth from God's Word that offsets these lies in a second column. If you have trouble thinking what the truth might be, talk with a trusted Christian friend or email us at btw@adabible.org. We would love to have a conversation with you. You can also dig deeper into the sermon and how we can resist the devil with this week's [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#). Join the conversation with our teaching pastor and other staff [HERE](#).

Day 4 [Colossians 2:13-15](#) | The Devil is Defeated

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15

The Bible's story begins and ends with a reference to the devil. In the beginning, the devil appears as a serpent, whispering lies to Eve about eating the forbidden fruit. At the end of Scripture's story, the devil is a dragon deceiving the nations. Yet, the devil's defeat is promised at the beginning of the story. God will crush the head of the serpent ([Genesis 3:15](#)) through the work of Christ on the cross. Paul states that God disarmed the devil and the powers and authorities, "triumphing over them by the cross" ([Colossians 2:15](#)). Though the devil is real, his defeat is assured.

Jesus is greater. We have a mighty Savior who has assured victory over the devil and his schemes. Though we need to be aware of the devil and his strategies, we do not need to live in fear. It is not even a fair fight. The devil and his demons beg Jesus not to mess with them ([Mark 5:1-13](#)). As a result, we can live with confidence, knowing we are on the winning side.

TODAY: Victory over the devil and his lies is found in Jesus. If you have never put your faith in Jesus, today is a great day to do so. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the grave victorious so that everyone who believes in him shall be saved. If you have believed in him, rejoice! Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Nothing but the Blood](#)" and praise God for his victory through Jesus's shed blood.



Day 5 [Leviticus 11:44-45](#) | Question 6: God's Nature and Our Lives

Question: How should our understanding of God's nature affect our daily lives?

Answer: Knowing God's holiness and love should lead us to worship him, trust his goodness and strive to reflect his character.

Be holy because I am holy. Leviticus 11:45

This direct command from God reveals the profound connection between who God is and how his people should live. Given to Israel during their formation as a nation, this simple yet powerful statement links God's nature with his people's purpose. As God sets himself apart from all evil and sin, he called Israel to do the same—not merely to follow rules but to understand that their holy God wanted to develop his character in them. This command came as God established his relationship with Israel, teaching them how to live as his distinct people amid pagan nations. Their holy conduct would demonstrate to surrounding peoples the transforming relationship they had with the one true God.

Understanding God's nature transforms every aspect of our lives. When we grasp that the holy God of the universe wants us to reflect his character, it changes how we approach choices, relationships and priorities. His holiness becomes our standard, while his love provides the power to pursue that standard. This isn't about willing ourselves into perfect behavior. It's about allowing God, through his Holy Spirit, to increasingly shape our hearts, desires and actions. As we grow in our understanding of who God is, we desire to reflect his goodness, love and holiness in our daily lives. This understanding should lead us to worship him more deeply, trust his guidance more fully and love others more sacrificially—just as he loves us.

TODAY: Consider one area of your life where you can grow to reflect God's character. Ask him to help you see situations through the lens of his holiness and love. Ask for help to demonstrate his character to others today, whether through patience, forgiveness or sacrificial love.