

Spiritual Warfare: Renewing Our Minds | Week 1 - Recognizing the Battlefield**Big Idea**

Recognizing the battlefield is the first step to confronting the enemy's lies.

Scripture

1 Peter 5:8-11, Ezekiel 28:12-17, John 8:44, and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Points to Keep In Mind

1. In 1 Peter 5:8-11, Peter paints a vivid picture of the devil as a roaring lion, prowling about, seeking someone to devour. The word devour refers to not just a quick nibble or two but ripping you to shreds with no time to protest or fight back. But while our enemy may be powerful, he is not all-powerful. He may be cunning, but he is not all-knowing. And most importantly, he has already been defeated! Victory has already been won through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, while we must be vigilant and aware of the enemy's schemes, we can take heart in the fact that we fight from a position of strength and victory. Verse 10 gives us hope that God will restore us and make us "strong, firm, and steadfast."
2. Ezekiel 28:12-17 is a lament against one who has fallen because of his pride and is facing God's judgment. He is identified as the king of Tyre, but the language used here seems inappropriate for a human ruler as he is also described as a "guardian cherub" who was in Eden. Most biblical scholars agree that this passage refers to God's judgment of Satan.
3. In John 8:44, Jesus refers to the devil as a "murderer" and "the father of lies." God only gives life and Truth, rooted in His incredible sacrificial love for us through Jesus and how he conquered death and sin on the cross. This gives us confidence to trust in God and His Truth despite what the devil will try to distract, discourage, or destroy us with, often on a daily basis.
4. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 highlights the importance of using spiritual weapons to fight spiritual battles, specifically God's power to demolish strongholds, arguments, and pretensions that oppose the knowledge of God. The key to fighting these battles is taking every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ. Some practical ways of doing that are spending time in prayer, holding every thought up to the Truth of scripture, and sharing our thoughts with other Christ-followers to hold us accountable to God's Truth and what God says about us.
5. 1 Peter 5:9 tells us to resist the devil by "standing firm in the faith." Standing firm means to be steady and sure and not waver. We can do this practically by spending time in God's Truth so we can be confident when the devil tries to lie to us.

Additional Questions and Resources

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1. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
2. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting communitychristian.org/you/
3. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/support