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# THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL

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**Teaching by Joyce Meyer**

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# THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL

## The Spirit Of The World

Foundation Scriptures:

**I Corinthians 2:12** (KJV) – *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

JM Comment: If we will refuse to play “worldly games” to get things, God will give us things beyond our wildest imaginations.

**Ephesians 3:20** – God is able to do exceeding abundantly, above and beyond all that we could ever dare to hope, ask, or think, according to His power that worketh in us!

### I. Temptations Of The World

- A. **Matthew 4:8-9** – Satan tries to tempt Jesus with the world and the things in it.
  - 1. Jesus resisted the temptation – and so must we.
- B. **Matthew 16:26** – What if you gain the whole world and lose your soul?
  - 1. The price is too high!
  - 2. Many men and women lose their marriages and their children trying to get to the top of some worldly corporate ladder – trying to gain a **worldly position and title**.
- C. **II Corinthians 4:4** – Satan is the god of this world and its systems.

1. **I Corinthians 1:19-21** – God has shown the nonsense and folly of this world’s wisdom.
2. **James 3:13-17** – Worldly wisdom compared to wisdom from above

D. What does the world say, and what does the **Word** say?

1. World says: Be greedy, save everything you can, look out for number one, which is yourself – and maybe, someday you will have something.
2. **Word** says: Do not be greedy graspers; give a portion of all you gain away, care about others, do not worry about yourselves – and God will take good care of you.
3. World says: Push to be in first place, be in competition, and don’t let anyone get ahead of you. A little compromising won’t hurt anything – after all, “everyone does it.”
4. **Word** says: The first shall be last; do not try to push yourself forward but wait to be brought forward. Avoid competition and comparisons. Humble yourself under God’s mighty hand; and at the right time, He will exalt you. The little foxes spoil the vine; be uncompromisingly righteous and full of integrity – and God will reward you!
5. World says: Be jealous, want what others have, and fight to get it. The world has no peace, and no real joy – it is full of strife. People in the world are full of bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness – even hatred!
6. **Word** says: Forgive; love those who are your enemies. Avoid strife, and God will prosper you. Stay in peace, and you will defeat the devil. The joy of the Lord is your strength. Avoid things that steal your peace and joy – let peace be the “umpire” in your life.

E. World (definition) - Present condition of human affairs, the sum of temporal possessions, the earth, universe, human race, etc.

- F. **John 17:15-16** – *I do not ask that You will take them out of the world, but that You will keep and protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world (worldly, belonging to the world), [just] as I am not of the world.*
1. This is very important for us to remember – we are in the world; and if we trust God, He will protect us from evil. But He expects us to learn to live here and be a witness for Him, and He expects us not to become worldly.
- G. We are temporary guests, this is not our home, we are merely passing through. We are aliens and strangers, and we should act like it.
1. **I Peter 2:11-12** – As aliens and strangers, abstain from sensual urges that are worldly temptations.
  2. **Hebrews 11:9-10** – Abraham dwelt as a stranger in a strange country, living in tents (nothing permanent). He was looking forward to the city, whose Architect and Builder is God.
  3. He was always ready to pack up his tent and move whenever God led him to do so. He was not **attached** to places, things, positions or people.

## II. Getting Detached From Attachments

- A. **Hebrews 12:1-2** – People
1. Beware of becoming **entangled** in people's lives and problems.
  2. **Jeremiah 17:5-8** – Attachments to people can cause us to depend upon them instead of God. It causes GREAT problems in our lives.
  3. **Hosea 5:11-15** – Ephraim was in trouble due to being worldly. He went to man to solve his problems; but

God said, “You will not be helped until you return to seeking **Me.**”

4. **Isaiah 31:1** – Woe to those who trust in man instead of seeking the Lord.
5. Wrong attachments to people hinder us from seeking God. People can negatively affect our decisions.

Adam had a wrong attachment to Eve, or he would have said NO to her suggestion to do what God had told him not to do.

#### B. Places

1. We can become so attached to a place (church, job, school, neighborhood, city, country, etc.) – that if God tells us to go to another place, we find it difficult or impossible to obey Him.
2. **Genesis 12:1-4** – If Abram had been attached to places and people, he would have never become the father of many nations and enjoyed the radical blessings of God.

#### C. Positions

1. People want positions so strongly that they do ungodly things to get them and to keep them.
2. Multitudes compromise their integrity in the world – and even in the church – in order to be promoted to a position of power and to keep it.
3. God is not impressed with the positions that men hold!

### III. Godly Promotion Compared To Worldly Promotion

- A. **Psalm 75:6-7** – *For not from the east nor from the west nor from the south come promotion and lifting up. But God is the Judge! He puts down one and lifts up another.*

- B. The sin of Balaam
  - 1. **II Peter 2:15**
  - 2. **Jude: 11**
- C. **Numbers 22:1-32** – Balaam’s sin was greed for things and promotion.
- D. **Numbers 16:1-32** – Korah and his friends did not like their position; they wanted Moses’ position. So they took matters into their own hands, and the ground opened up and swallowed them.
- E. **Proverbs 4:8** – Exalt wisdom, and she will promote you!
  - 1. The beginning of wisdom is reverential fear and awe of God.
  - 2. Wisdom is full of common sense!
- F. **Esther 5:11-6:11** – Haman was a wicked man who was doing dishonest and underhanded things to get position and promotion. Mordecai was a good, godly man who wanted to help people and was not trying to gain anything that God did not want him to have.
  - 1. God spoke to the king, and the king promoted and honored Mordecai. The king made Haman humble himself and lead Mordecai before the people.
- G. **Daniel 3:1-30** – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to evil in order to keep a position – and in the end, they were promoted above all the others.

#### IV. Attachments to Things

- A. **Matthew 19:21-23** – Are your possessions between you and God?
  - 1. Spiritual maturity is accompanied by self-sacrificing character.

2. The rich must always keep their possessions in their proper place.
  3. They must be **stewards** and not **owners**.
- B. A balanced attitude toward possessions and things is the key to staying out of trouble.
1. **I Timothy 6:17** – God richly and ceaselessly gives us all things to enjoy.
  2. **I Corinthians 7:31** – Don't overuse the enjoyments of this world. Live as though you are not absorbed by them, as if you had no dealings with them. The outward form of this world is passing away.  
  
(Worrell translation) – not using it wastefully or excessively
  3. Excess is the devil's playground!
- C. The Spiritual must always precede and have first place over the material.
1. **Revelation 3:17** – The church at Laodicea was lukewarm, rich, prosperous, wealthy, in need of nothing – and did not realize they were wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.
  2. **I Corinthians 3:1-3** – The Corinthian church had all the gifts of the Spirit – they prophesied, spoke in tongues, held wild charismatic meetings – BUT THEY WERE CARNAL!
- D. **Ezekiel 16:49** – *Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, overabundance of food, prosperous ease, and idleness were hers and her daughters'; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*
1. Their possessions were between them and God!
- E. **Matthew 26:7-11** – Woman pours perfume on Jesus' head, even though it was worth one year's wage.

1. Her possessions were not between her and God, and her sacrifice proved it.
- F. **Matthew 26:14-16** – Judas is willing to betray Jesus for money.
1. His original sin was greed!
- G. **I Timothy 6:10** – The love of money is the root of all evil.
1. Almost all people in prison are there because of the love of money. Theft, drugs, and murder usually have at their root the love of money.
- H. **I Timothy 3:3** – Spiritual leaders must . . . *not be given to wine, not combative but gentle and considerate, not quarrelsome but forbearing and peaceable, and not a lover of money [insatiable for wealth and ready to obtain it by questionable means].*
- I. **Acts 8:14-22** – Simon tried to pay Peter to lay hands on him for a transference of power.
1. Does the same thing go on today?
  2. There are ministers who will prophesy to you for a certain size offering.
  3. There are others who will pray special prayers for you and minister to you personally for certain size offerings.
- J. **Matthew 6:24** – . . . *You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in).*

**It is imperative that we maintain balance and keep a proper attitude toward possessions (money and things).**

**LET US PRAY THAT GOD DEALS WITH US IF WE ARE OUT OF BALANCE IN ANY WAY WITH ANY POSSESSION THAT WE HAVE.**

## V. A Proper Attitude Toward Things

A. **I John 2:15-17** – Do not love the world or the things that are in the world.

1. Be watchful not to be ruled by the following:
  - a. The lust of the flesh
  - b. The lust of the eyes
  - c. The pride of life (assurance in self and stability in earthly things)
2. The world passes away and with it all these forbidden desires.

B. Desire blessings in order to be a blessing.

1. **Matthew 6:19-21** – Do not gather, heap up and store treasure **for yourselves** on earth where moth, rust, and worms consume and destroy.
2. **Genesis 12:1-3** – You will be a blessing (dispensing good to others).
3. **Acts 10:38** – See how God Anointed Jesus of Nazareth, Who went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were oppressed of the devil.

C. **Luke 12:15-50** – Beware of covetousness.

1. No need to worry about your provision or your possessions.
2. Be a giver, even if you have to sell possessions to do it.
3. **Verse 43** – The steward who will be placed in charge of all the Master's possessions must be found doing the right thing when the Master comes.

4. We must be on fire with the will of God and have a passion for being a blessing.
- D. **Matthew 6:31-34** – Gentiles (unbelievers) seek after things; believers are to seek the kingdom, and the **things** will be added.
1. **Psalm 37:4** – Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give the secret petitions of your heart.
- E. **II Peter 3:10-11** – Since all material things are in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought each of us to be?
1. Remember, when you bring a material possession into your house from the store, it is already decaying and passing away.
  2. We drive by junkyards; and Dave often comments, “That piece of junk was once someone’s dream.”
  3. He says the same thing when we drive by a house that is old and falling apart.

## VI. A Proper Attitude Toward The Poor

- A. **Proverbs 14:21** – *He who despises his neighbor sins [against God, his fellowman, and himself], but happy (blessed and fortunate) is he who is kind and merciful to the poor.*
- B. **Proverbs 19:17** – *He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and that which he has given He will repay to him.*
- C. **Proverbs 28:27** – *He who gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes [from their want] will have many a curse.*
1. I wonder how many people are living under a curse simply because they are not reaching out and meeting other people’s needs.

D. **Deuteronomy 15:7-11** – You shall not harden your hearts toward your kinsmen that are poor, but you shall open **wide** your hand to him.

E. **James 2:1-17** – We can have powerful churches and ministries if we:

1. Are not partial, and prejudiced, showing regard to the rich and ignoring the poor.
2. Add works to our faith by meeting practical needs.

Merely saying, “be warm and be filled” does not meet needs.

NOTE: Share about the couple who had been in several of our meetings; they got in the book-signing line and greeted me. The man asked that I pray for them to get home. They came in faith and had one-half tank of gas, no money, and 1400 miles to drive home. My mind went through a process as I listened to them. I thought:

- 1) They did not use much wisdom in coming here with no way to get home.
- 2) Desperate people do desperate things.
- 3) I can judge them or show them mercy.
- 4) What if they start doing this all the time and expecting us to get them home?
- 5) I cannot live in fear of being taken advantage of.
- 6) I cannot just say, “I’ll pray for you” and send them away with nothing.

We gave them \$100 and put it in God’s hands.

F. Set aside some of what you have specifically to give to the poor.

1. The Israelites were taught not to glean their fields clean, but to leave some grain (on purpose) for the poor.

G. Job was the most righteous man on the face of the earth at that time.

1. **Job 29:11-13** – He delivered the poor.

2. **Job 30:25** – We see his heart toward the poor and hurting.
  3. **Job 31:16-22** explains Job’s discourse on how he handled the poor and needy.
- H. **Isaiah 58:6-12** – God’s chosen fast is one of freedom from selfishness and aggressively meeting needs.

## VII. You Will Be Tested!

- A. God will sometimes ask you to give away something that means a lot to you.
1. If you disobey or find that you cannot do it, it is a clear message that your possessions are between you and God.
- B. God will sometimes ask you to give away something that is brand new that you just obtained.
- C. God will sometimes ask you to plant some money you have been saving for something else.
1. **Proverbs 16:9** – Man’s mind plans his way, but God directs his steps.
- D. God will sometimes ask you to give away something that you really like to someone you do not like.
- E. Sometimes, you may give something to someone and they won’t show much, or any, appreciation.
1. Give with pure motives – not to be appreciated, loved, or well thought of.
- F. Sometimes you may give something to someone that really meant a lot to you – and they don’t take care of it, or they give it to someone else.
1. When we give something away, we must die to it and have no relationship with it any longer.

**Be free from possessions – free to have them – or free not to have them. Enjoy what you have – but do not allow yourself to be in love with things.**

**IF YOU CAN STAY BALANCED IN YOUR ATTITUDE  
TOWARD THINGS, GOD WILL BE ABLE TO TRUST YOU  
AS A CHIEF STEWARD IN HIS KINGDOM!!**





# “I” Problems

## I. “I Will.”

- A. **Isaiah 14:12-15** – Lucifer says five times, “I will”; and God said, “You shall be brought down.”
1. Lucifer had “I” problems.
- B. **Daniel 4:20-37** – The king had a dream that was a warning about his pride. He was full of “I” and refused to listen.
1. God had lifted him up, and God brought him down – until he repented and gave God the glory.
- C. **Galatians 2:20** – I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer “I” who live, but Christ lives in me.
1. One cannot say what Paul said and be sincere unless he has been “crucified with Christ.”
  2. Crucifixion means death, and death means pain!
  3. Death to self, death to “I will”
- D. “I will” never produces any good fruit.
1. **John 21:1-6** (paraphrased) – Peter said, “I am going fishing.” The disciples said, “We are going with you.” Jesus said, “Has your decision produced your desire?”
  2. **John 15:5** – *I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.*
- E. **James 4:2** – Strife occurs in people’s lives because they try to get things themselves instead of waiting on and trusting God.

1. When **“I”** try to do it or get it, “I” always cause trouble and turmoil.

## II. **Jacob – A Man Who Saw What He Wanted And Went After It!**

- A. This type of attitude is applauded by the world, but not by God.
- B. **Genesis 25:21-26** – Jacob came out of the womb trying to be first.
  1. His name meant “supplanter, schemer, and trickster.”
- C. **Genesis 25:27-34** – Jacob took advantage of his brother’s weakness.
  1. Esau was wrong, but so was Jacob.
- D. **Genesis 27:1-36** – Jacob wanted to be first so much that he lied, cheated, and deceived to get it.
  1. **Verse 22** – Isaac went with what he felt instead of what his heart was telling him. This is a mistake that many of us make!
- E. **Genesis 29:15-30** – Laban deceives Jacob concerning Rachel and Leah.
  1. What goes around comes around!
  2. Jacob worked seven years for Rachel in marriage, and Laban made sure Jacob was drunk on his wedding night and gave him Leah instead.
- F. Later in life Jacob’s own sons deceived him concerning Joseph.
  1. They said a wild animal killed him, and it was untrue.
- G. **Genesis 32:1-26** – Jacob had lived in fear of Esau for years and was tired of running.
  1. **Verses 17-21** – Jacob is still trying to take care of himself. He is not depending on God. He is trying to buy his way out of trouble.

2. Jacob finally got alone to get some answers.
  3. The Angel of the Lord wrestled with Jacob.
  4. The Angel touched Jacob's thigh, causing him to have to lean.
  5. Jacob refused to give up – God likes this trait in His servants.
- H. **Genesis 32:27-32** – Jacob continued to limp as a reminder of his need to lean on God.
1. Often God leaves some weakness in His servants to force them to lean on Him.
- I. Jacob had a lot of “I” – but when he was broken and all his determination was turned toward doing the will of God, he was very valuable to the Lord.

### III. The Soul of Man

- A. **Galatians 6:7-8** – If we sow to the flesh, we reap from the flesh; if we sow to the Spirit, we reap from the Spirit.
1. We might say, “If we submit to the flesh, we reap from the flesh.”
- B. **Galatians 5:16-17** – The flesh is continually attempting to force the believer to submit to its control.
- C. The flesh is a combination of the soul and body of man.
- D. The soul is the mind, will, and emotions.
1. Your mind tells you what YOU think.
  2. Your will tells you what YOU want.

3. Your emotions tell you what YOU feel.
- E. Submission to the flesh is certain disaster – first to the spiritual life of man, and then ultimately to the good plan that God has for him.

#### IV. I Think.

- A. **Philippians 4:6-8** – Think on these things, and you will have peace and joy.
1. If “I” am doing the thinking, “I” will think the opposite of these things.
  2. I will worry, be anxious about the future, think suspicious thoughts about people – impure and unlovely thoughts, etc.
- B. **Proverbs 3:3-8** – If “I” am doing the thinking, I will reason and try to figure everything out.
1. This is why many people are nervous.
- C. **I Corinthians 2:2** – Paul who said, “It is no longer “I” who live,” also said he was determined to “know nothing.”
1. Paul had to reach a crossroads in life where he made a decision to stop trying to figure things out and simply trust God.
  2. **I Corinthians 2:1-5** – He did not come to the people making a big display of what he knew and trying to impress everyone. He wanted their faith to rest in GOD, not in him.
  3. Until we cease trying to BE everything and KNOW everything, we are not really placing our faith in God.
- D. If “I” am doing the thinking, all my thoughts will be about me and what will benefit me.

1. **I Corinthians 13:11** – When I was a child, I talked, thought, and reasoned as a child. But now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways.
2. Paul is obviously saying that he came to a place of “death to self” – where he stopped doing his own thinking, walking in his own will, and living according to his own feelings.

## V. I Feel.

### A. **I Corinthians 3:3** – Ordinary impulses are feelings.

1. Paul said living like this belongs to the carnal stage (or baby stage of Christianity).

### B. The flesh is often lazy.

1. Lazy (Webster’s) - Slothful, sluggard, disinclined to exert oneself, resulting in little or no pain, doesn’t want to suffer or be uncomfortable.
2. **Proverbs 20:4** – He will not plow if it’s cold!  
(He doesn’t want to be uncomfortable.)
3. **Ecclesiastes 10:18** (KJV) – *By much slothfulness the building decayeth . . .*
4. **Hebrews 6:11-12** – Spiritual sluggards never make it to the end of anything. It is too much effort.
5. They never see their dreams come to pass because **Ecclesiastes 5:3** says that a dream comes to pass with much business and painful effort.
6. **Matthew 25:24-27** – The servant who received one talent said he never did anything with it because he was afraid, but the Master said he was lazy and idle.

Often people use fear as an excuse when laziness is the real problem.

- C. Feelings are fickle.
  - 1. You can feel 1,001 ways in thirty days.
  - 2. You cannot trust your feelings.
  - 3. Your feelings will help you start a new exciting project and then leave you when the going gets tough.
  - 4. Feelings cannot always be explained – sometimes they are up and at other times down. And you never know when they are going to be which way.
  - 5. One may go to bed feeling quite up and good and awaken to deal with a totally different feeling.
- D. Feelings get hurt easily.
  - 1. They are tender and touchy.
  - 2. They are easily offended.
  - 3. They do not want to forgive and forget.
  - 4. They do not want to pray for their enemies.
- E. Feelings don't like correction.
  - 1. Chastisement from God or man does not FEEL good.
  - 2. They don't like confrontation.
- F. Feelings may swing to the opposite end of lazy and be a “workaholic.”
  - 1. When “I” am working, I feel good about myself.

2. When “I” am accomplishing, other people admire me for my accomplishments.
3. When “I” am working, “I” feel that God accepts me.
4. When “I” am working, “I” feel superior to others who are enjoying life.

G. Decisions made from feelings court disaster.

1. **Luke 14:28-31** – Calculate the cost before undertaking to build or undertaking any project.
2. Calculate the long-term cost of purchasing expensive items on time payments.
3. Calculate the cost before getting married.
4. Calculate the cost before deciding it is time to have children.







# Childish or Childlike?

## I. The Qualities Of Childlikeness

- A. **Luke 18:17** – *Truly I say to you, whoever does not accept and receive and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child [does] shall not in any way enter it . . .*
- B. **Matthew 18:1-4** – The childlike are the greatest in the kingdom according to Jesus.
- C. They are trusting.
  - 1. If an adult says, “Jump, and I will catch you,” they jump because they trust.
  - 2. Adults would usually say, “How do I know you will catch me, and what is going to happen to me if you don’t?”
- D. They are humble in that they are teachable.
  - 1. They make lots of mistakes and sometimes are very stubborn; but if you stick with them, they eventually learn.
  - 2. This explains why God used people like Paul and Peter.
    - a. **Acts 9:6** – The secret of Paul’s success
    - b. **Luke 22:54-62** – Peter was extremely broken and repentant when he finally saw his sin.
  - 3. **Luke 11:1** – True disciples say, “Lord, teach us.”
- E. They are simple.

1. **Romans 16:19** (KJV) - . . . *I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.*
2. **II Corinthians 11:3** (KJV) – *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the **simplicity** that is in Christ.*
3. Serving Christ is supposed to be simple, but we make it extremely complicated. A child says, “Jesus loves me this I know.” If you tell them they are forgiven, they simply believe it and go on.

F. Children are forgiving.

1. They can be in a major fight with a friend; and two minutes later, they have their arms around them, wanting to give them their bicycle.
2. They do not hold grudges. A friend can hurt them deeply, and one simple “I am sorry” erases the entire thing. They don’t dwell on it; they don’t act cold toward the friend. They simply forgive!

G. Children know how to receive.

1. They do not get suspicious over free gifts; they have an instant increase of joy.

(Share about the children I gave the money to and how they responded.)

2. Adult Christians spend their life trying to earn what Jesus died to give us freely.
  - a. To as many as received Him, gave He power to become the sons of God.
  - b. Have ye received the Holy Ghost?
  - c. Receive forgiveness.

- d. Receive mercy for your failure.
  - e. Receive the love of God.
- H. Children know how to enjoy life.
1. **John 10:10** – The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy; but I came that you might have and enjoy life.
  2. **John 16:24** – Ask and receive that your joy may be full.
  3. **John 17:13** – I want . . . *that My joy may be made full and complete and perfect in them [that they may experience My delight fulfilled in them, that My enjoyment may be perfected in their own souls, that they may have My gladness within them, filling their hearts].*

## II. The Elder Brother Was Childish, But Not Childlike.

### **Luke 15:11-32**

- A. The elder brother was angry that anyone was having fun while he had been working.
- B. He was jealous.
- C. He was unforgiving.
- D. He was stubborn (he refused to come inside the house but stayed outside).
- E. He was accusing; and by repeating his brother's sins, he hoped to make his father angry at his brother also.

## III. Put Away Childish Things.

- A. **I Corinthians 13:11** – When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child – now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things.

1. A child thinks and talks mostly about himself.
- B. **I Corinthians 14:20** - . . . *do not be children [immature] in your thinking; continue to be babes in [matters of] evil, but in your minds be mature [men].*
1. Remember that wrong action always begins with wrong thinking.
  2. **Ephesians 4:22-24** – To live holy lives, we must maintain a fresh spiritual and mental attitude.
- C. Immature thinking includes:
1. Negative thinking
  2. Self-centered thinking
  3. Judgemental thinking
  4. Self-pity thoughts
  5. Defeated, give up thoughts; hopeless, depressed thoughts
  6. Greedy thoughts
- D. Childish believers do what they want, what they feel like, and what they think.
1. They are not submitted to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. They are not led, guided, and controlled by Him.
  2. **Romans 8:14** – *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*
    - a. Not children, but sons
  3. **Matthew 5:9** – Peacemakers and maintainers are called the sons of God.

- a. Maturity is required to dwell in peace.
- b. **Romans 12:16** – One must be willing to adapt and adjust to people and circumstances.

E. Qualities of childishness

1. They lack self-control.
  - a. **Genesis 49:1-8** – Reuben was born to lead but could not because he was unstable and lacked self-control.
  - b. Simeon and Levi were headstrong, deceitful, vindictive, and cruel. They did not control their anger.
  - c. **I Timothy 3** – Leaders must be orderly, self-controlled, and disciplined.
2. **Galatians 5:19-21** – A large portion – or perhaps all of the doings of the flesh – manifest in a childish person.
3. They pout and wallow in self-pity when they do not get their way.
4. Throw fits (act unseemly)
 

**I Corinthians 13:5** – Love does not behave itself unseemly.
5. Excuses are made for all their faults; childish people do not want to take responsibility for anything. Everything that goes wrong is always someone else's fault.
6. **James 1:2-5; 5:7** – Childish people are very impatient!

**THE PLACE BETWEEN THE PROMISE AND THE  
MANIFESTATION IS THE PLACE WHERE THE CHARACTER  
OF JESUS CHRIST IS DEVELOPED IN THE BELIEVER.**

F. It is time to grow up!

1. **Ephesians 4:14-15** – *So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine . . . Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things . . . let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head . . .*





# Public Enemy Number One

## I. How Did David Become King?

- A. You might say, “God Anointed him;” but there are many who are anointed that are not ruling, not reigning, or not even doing anything.
- B. You might say, “The people made him king when Saul died.”
  - 1. They may have officially installed him in office, but that was not when he really and truly became king.
- C. **I Samuel 17:32-51** – David actually became king when he killed Goliath!
  - 1. No person becomes king until they face their giants and slay them.
  - 2. **Numbers 13:27-33** – Joshua and Caleb became rulers and true leaders when they were ready and willing to face the giants – the other ten would never be king!

They all had an **equal opportunity!**

- D. **James 4:7** – Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee.
  - 1. **Resist** (defined/Vine’s/Greek) – To set against, to withstand, oppose, to stand firm against, to be anti-or against.  
  
WE SHOULD BE ANTI-DEVIL! He is anti-Christ.
  - 2. In **James 4:7**, the primary meaning is to withstand, which means to hinder. We should be hindering the devil in all of his actions toward us.
  - 3. “Submit to God” cannot be ignored. Those who want to resist, but not submit, will never be king.

- E. **I Peter 5:8-9** – The devil roams about seeking whom he may devour. Resist him steadfast (at his onset) in the faith.
- F. **Ephesians 6:12** – We wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with principalities, powers, and wickedness in high places.
  - 1. Know you have an enemy and get ready to resist him the rest of your life.
  - 2. He is public enemy number one.

## II. Resist Temptation.

- A. Every kind of temptation must be resisted.
  - 1. Temptation to quit and give up
  - 2. Temptation to be negative
  - 3. Temptation to be condemned
  - 4. Temptation to withhold your tithes and offerings in hard times
  - 5. Temptation to hold grudges, to be offended, or to be unforgiving and resentful
  - 6. Temptation to have a chip on your shoulder and feel sorry for yourself
- B. **Luke 22:46** – Pray that you enter not into temptation.
  - 1. He did not say, “Pray that you will not be tempted.”
  - 2. **Matthew 18:7** – *Woe to the world for such temptations to sin and influences to do wrong! It is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the person on whose account or by whom the temptation comes!*

- C. **I Corinthians 10:13** – No temptation has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man. No temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance. But God is faithful, and He can be trusted not to let you be tempted beyond your ability to endure. But with the temptation (JM – that Satan brings), God also provides a way out.
1. Trials are often referred to as temptations because it is during trials (hard times) that we are tempted the most! They are tests!
  2. We never really know what we believe until it is tested. We never really know what we are made of without being tested.
- D. **James 1:12** – *Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who is patient under trial and stands up under temptation, for when he has stood the test and been approved, he will receive [the victor's] crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him.*
- E. **I Samuel 10:5-8; 13:8-14** – Saul did not resist temptation. He could have been king forever, but lost his throne.
- F. Also remember that in **I Samuel: Chapter 17**, we read how David killed Goliath. Saul was not willing to kill Goliath himself – he was waiting for someone else to do it for him.
1. This tells us his true strength.

### III. Resisting Satan Is A Part Of Christianity.

- A. **I Corinthians 16:9** – A wide door of opportunity has opened unto us and with it many adversaries.
- B. **Psalms 34:19** – *Many evils confront the [consistently] righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.*
- C. **Luke 4:1-14** – Jesus was attacked by the devil; and He was not doing anything wrong – He was serving God and doing His will.

1. **Verse 13** – When the devil ended his cycle of temptation; he went away to wait for a more opportune time.

#### IV. Satan Messes With Your Mind.

A. **II Corinthians 10:4-5** – The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of (mental) strongholds. Casting down imaginations, theories, and reasonings, and every high and lofty thing that exalts itself against the true knowledge of God.

B. The devil lies to you about your capabilities.

1. “You can’t do that – you are not able.”
2. **I Samuel 17:33** – Saul told David that he was not able to kill Goliath. He was too young, and Goliath was too strong and experienced.

C. The devil lies to you about your past – “You will never be okay, never overcome your past failures.”

1. In Christ you can overcome a bad start!  
  
I did, and so have multitudes of others.
2. **Isaiah 61:3** – He will give us beauty for ashes, but we must give Him the ashes.
3. **Isaiah 44:20-22** – Certain people feed on their ashes all their lives, and they never become king.
4. **I Samuel 16:1** – How long will you mourn over past failures?
5. **Hebrews 11:15** – If you keep looking back, you have constant opportunity to return to it.
6. **Isaiah 43:18-19** – Stop remembering the former things. Behold, I do a new thing. Will you not give way to it?

D. The devil lies to you about your future – “There is no hope, nothing out there for you. Nobody will ever want you; nobody will ever love you. You will be alone and the outcast all your life. You’ll never have any money, own your home, or a new car. You’ll never get well and feel good.”

1. The “never lies” and “always lies”
2. **Psalm 27:13** – I would have despaired had I not believed to see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.

E. The devil lies to you about people – “They do not like you, you cannot trust them, don’t get involved, you will only get hurt.”

1. He does not want you to have any good relationships. He knows that one can put a thousand to flight, and two, ten thousand.

**THE DEVIL IS A LIAR, THE FATHER OF LIES;  
AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM.**

F. The devil lies to you about what God expects of you – “You don’t do anything right enough, or enough of it. God is not pleased with you; you must try harder. It does not matter what you have done right, you have done this **one thing** wrong, so now everything is ruined. You don’t pray right; God cannot answer you.”

1. What does God expect?
  - a. **Romans 8:28** – All things work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.
  - b. **John 8:31b-32** (KJV) – . . . *If you CONTINUE in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
  - c. **II Corinthians 3:18** – God expects holiness and obedience, but we get there from glory to glory.

- d. **Hebrews 7:25** – Jesus is our Intercessor; intercessors stand in the gap. There is a gap between me and the Father due to my imperfections and sins, but Jesus stands in that gap continually.
  
- G. The devil lies to the lost – “God will not accept you until you change!” (They cannot change until they accept Christ.) “You don’t want to be a Christian; you’ll never have any fun.”
  - 1. (Share about Marilyn Hickey being on a plane with the unbeliever and telling him she could do anything she wanted to. She could smoke, drink – even commit adultery.) The truth is: **she doesn’t want to!!**
  - 2. **II Corinthians 5:17** – If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things pass away; and all things become brand new.
  - 3. **I John 3:9** – When a person is born again, they receive the Seed (divine sperm) of Almighty God into their spirits. We receive the nature of God; we no longer want to sin!
  
- H. To the young, the devil says: “You are too young.” To the old, he says: “You are too old.” To the woman, he says: “You can’t do that, you are a woman.” To the man, he says: “Don’t help your wife with those dishes; that is woman’s work, and you’re a man. Do not cry or show any emotion – you are a man; act like one.”

## V. The Big Problem

- A. The big problem is not what he says, but what we believe!
- B. “Be it unto you even as you believe.”
- C. **Proverbs 23:7** – As a man thinketh in his heart, so does he become.
- D. Deception is Satan’s number one weapon. Deception is lies that are believed and become real for the person who is deceived.
- E. Know the Word, resist the devil, and pray that you will not be deceived.



