

Devotional Guide
Know Your Enemy
Ephesians 6:10 – 12

Monday

Ephesians 6:10 – 11; Isaiah 14:12 – 14; Ephesians 2:1 - 2

Satan is real. He longs to be worshiped; he seeks to hunt and destroy souls; but failing that, he prefers to have people think he doesn't exist.

The nature of our enemy the Devil provides insights into the nature of his schemes. He is a rebel against God. Satan's spirit is the spirit of rebellion.

Think About It: What kind of schemes can we expect Satan to come up with, in light of the fact that he is a rebel? Is rebellion ever justified (e.g. Romans 12:2)?

Prayer: For strength to submit in faith to duly constituted authority.

Tuesday

Ephesians 6:11; 2:2; Luke 4:5 - 6

Satan is prince of this world. Paul calls him the "Prince of the Power of the Air"; he claims to have influence over the kingdoms of this world. Satan manifests himself in world systems, whether political, religious, or fraternal; he shows his hand in power struggles. Sometimes his dominion takes the form of actually possessing a human being (by Satan personally, Luke 22:3, or by demons e.g. Matthew 8:28).

Think About It: What kind of schemes can we expect from Satan, in light of his influence over the kingdoms of this world? How are Christians sometimes seduced by worldly power and influence?

Prayer: For strength to stand firm against the temptations of worldly power.

Wednesday

Ephesians 6:11; Revelation 12:10; Job 1:9 – 11; 2:3 - 5

Satan is the accuser of the brethren. The Greek word, *diabolos*, which is translated "devil" refers to Satan's role as Adversary or Prosecutor. He brings charges, founded and unfounded, against God's people.

Think About It: What kind of schemes can we expect from Satan, in light of his delight at bringing false accusations? How can we stand against the Accuser (Revelation 12:11)?

Prayer: For faith to stand on ground of Christ's shed blood for forgiveness of sins, and therefore to stand against the accusations of the Devil.

Thursday

John 8:44; Genesis 3:1 – 5; Matthew 4:3; 2 Corinthians 11:3

Jesus called Satan the "Father of Lies". Satan says things that may be partly true, (e.g. you will be as God, knowing good and evil, Genesis 3:5); or completely false (you shall not surely die, Genesis 3:4). But Satan's favorite theme seems to be throwing doubt on God's word (Hath God said – Genesis 3:1; ? e.g. also at the Temptation of Christ, after Jesus has been proclaimed God's Son by a voice from heaven, Satan taunts Him, "If you are the Son of God..." Matthew 4:3).

Think About It: What are some of the outright lies that Satan promulgates in the world today? What are some of the half-truths that Satan tells today? How does Satan bring about the questioning of God's word today?

Prayer: For strength to stand against the lies, half-truths, and doubts about God's word that Satan sows.

Friday

Ephesians 6:11; John 8:44; Psalm 106:37; John 13:2, 27

Jesus called Satan a murderer. Some of Satan's bloodthirstiness can be seen in the human sacrifice involved in Baal and Molech worship in Canaan (Psalm 106:37), or in Sun worship among the Aztecs; in Satan's prompting of the murder of Abel; in the deaths of Job's family. Satan likes to shed human blood, and the more meaninglessly, the better.

Think About It: What are some of the schemes that we can expect from Satan, in light of the fact that he is a murderer? What is our protection from his murderous schemes?

Prayer: Praise God that He is a mighty fortress.

Saturday

1 Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:3; 1 Corinthians 7:5; James 1:14 - 15

Satan is a tempter. Like any confidence artist, Satan has nothing to work with until we are led astray by our own lusts. Then he panders to that lust and leads us further astray.

Think About It: Satan's temptations can be very subtle, due to his ability to appear as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). What are some examples of Satan's ability to make temptation to sin seem like the right thing to do?

Prayer: For spiritual perception to see past Satan's illusions to his true intentions and the deadly outcome of his suggestions.

Sunday

Ephesians 6:10 - 12; 1 Peter 5:8 - 9; John 16:33; 1 John 4:4; James 4:7

There is no question of the reality of Satan, and that he is a relentless adversary of considerable power and cunning.

Think About It: How do the Scripture references for today suggest we deal with this powerful adversary?

Prayer: Lord, help me to be strong in your strength, and to stand up to the Devil. Deliver me, O Lord Jesus, by the power of Your blood!