
ENEMIES OF THE BELIEVER

LESSON TEN

We must realize that since we have believed, we have enemies that war against us. Our enemies are identifiable... the greater knowledge we have about them...the greater ability we have in preparing for the conflicts.

Who are our enemies? Basically, we have four. They are: "...*fleshly lusts, which war against the soul*" (1 Peter 2: 11, 12), our "*adversary the devil*" (1 Peter 5: 8,9), the demons, described as principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness, and spiritual wickedness (Eph. 6: 11,12), and the world (1 John 2: 15 - 17).

The first enemy is from within. It is **Self**. The weakness of the flesh (self) can be seen in a three-fold desire that comes from within. This is given in 1 John 2: 16 (read): "*The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,*". In simple terms this can be said: The desire to **DO** what we want, the desire to **HAVE** what we want, and the desire to **BE** what we want. How can we have victory over the flesh or fleshly desires? The old man (flesh, self) must be daily crucified (Rom. 6:6,7), and we must yield our instruments (body members) to the Lord for righteous living (Rom. 6:13,14 & 16-18).

How does one crucify the flesh and yield his members? We do it by prayer, asking the Lord to crucify our selfish desires, and by definitely yielding to Him our members (eyes, ears, tongue, mind, hands and feet) to be used righteously!

The other three enemies of the believer are from without. They are the devil, demons and desires of this world.

The **devil** was originally created by God as an angel (Ezk. 28:12-15). He was perfect until iniquity (sin) was found in him, which was the sin of pride (Isa. 14:12-15). Since his fall, Satan has been the enemy of God, and God's people. In order to have victory over this evil one, we must resist him (1 Pet. 5:8,9), and we must put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11-13).

The **demons'** main objectives are to disturb believers and get them to disobey God's Word and destroy their testimony for Christ. What should we do when confronted with demonic forces (evil spirits)? First, we must recognize our authority over them in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 16:16-18). Then we must resist them in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of His blood and word of your testimony (Rev. 12:10,11).

The **world** is the materialistic system of Satan. We must live in this world but not be influenced by the world (read Jesus' prayer for us in John 17: 15-17). We can have victory over the world if we are not a friend of the world (James 4:4), and if we do not love the world (1 John 2: 15-17).

TRUTH IN REVIEW: (Look up verses)

God promises to give us victory over our enemies (1 John 4:4).

The Lord Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross, defeated the devil and his followers (Heb. 2: 14,15).

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. What are the four enemies of the believer?

_____, _____, _____, _____

2. How does one crucify the flesh and yield his members?
Do it by _____.

ANSWERS:

Lesson 10: 1. Self, Devil, Demons, World 2. Prayer