Our Adversaries
When you became a Christian, you automatically made 3 Enemies.

- The World: a system of thinking and values that opposes God’s Truth
- The Sinful Nature: the nature within us that opposes God’s Will
- Satan: a spirit being who opposes God’s Rule

But, you allied with the one true God, who will one day destroy these adversaries.

The World

13 “Do not love the world or the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world—
the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—
is not from the Father but is from the world.”
17 And the world is passing away along with its desires,
but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

1 John 2:15-17, ESV

- Underline two things God says we should not love (in verse 15).
- Circle each of the three things “in the world” (in verse 16).
- Circle what is “passing away” (in verse 17).
- Underline who “abides forever” (in verse 17).

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.
Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

1 Timothy 6:10, NIV

- Circle what the “love of money” is called.
Notice that money is not the root of evil. Scripture calls the “love of money” the root of evil.
- Underline two things that happen to “some people” who are “eager for money.”
The Sinful Nature

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”

Galatians 5:17, NIV

- Circle what the “sinful nature” desires.
- Underline the result of the “conflict” between our “sinful nature” and “Spirit.”

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

Galatians 5:16, NIV

- Frame how we should “live.”
- Underline the result of living “by the Spirit.”

“Christian Maturity is not indicated by the infrequency of temptation but by the infrequency of succumbing to temptation.”

~ Douglas Moo

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Colossians 3:1-2, NIV

- Underline what we should set our “hearts” on.
- Underline what we should set our “minds” on.

Because of all Christ did for us, we should focus on living for our Savior instead of our self.

SET YOUR MIND is often used for taking part with one side when two parties or interests come into competition.

So when HEAVEN and EARTH...come into competition, choose the better part.

~ Adapted from John Tillotson

Satan

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:8, NIV

- Frame two attitudes we must have when combating the “devil.”
- Underline an animal the “devil” is compared to.

“And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

2 Corinthians 11:14, ESV

- Circle how Satan “disguises himself.”

Satan’s goal is to deceive Christians. That is why we must be “self-controlled and alert.”

- SATAN uses the WORLD to entice our Sin Nature. Like the Fisherman we began with, Satan baits his hook with empty promises of the World to tempt our Sinful Nature. Once he gets us to bite and swallow his “line”, we are hooked!

- GOD uses His WORD and the Holy Spirit within us to enable our New Nature to live victoriously for Christ. When we trust God’s Word and live by His Spirit, we “cut” Satan’s “line” and free ourselves from his deceptions!
Resisting Satan's Attacks

"And the devil said to Him [Jesus],
'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.'
But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written,
'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'”

Luke 4:3-4, NKJV

This conversation happened after Jesus had fasted 40 days in the wilderness.

- **Circle** what the “devil” said to Jesus.
- **Underline** how Jesus responded to temptation.

"The chief **weapon** we ought to use in resisting Satan is the **Bible**.

- **3 times** the great enemy offered temptations to our Lord.
- **3 times** his offer was refused, with a text of Scripture as the reason, ‘it is written.”

(Luke 4:4, 7, 10) ~ J. C. Ryle

Guard Your Thoughts

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.
The **weapons** we fight with are not the weapons of the world.
On the contrary, they have **divine power** to demolish strongholds.
We **demolish** arguments and
every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and
we **take captive** every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

2 Cor. 10:3-5, NIV

- **Circle** what our “weapons” have “divine power” to do.
- **Underline** two things we should “demolish”.
  - The word “**stronghold**” refers to a fort or castle. We often use “arguments” and “pretensions” (reasons) to **fortify** an opinion against an opposing idea.
- **Underline** why we should “take captive ever thought.”

"**SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS** begin with a **thought**.

- **One thought** becomes a **consideration**.
- **A consideration** develops into an **attitude**, which leads then to **action**.
- **Action** repeated becomes a **habit**, and
- **A habit** establishes a ‘**power base for the enemy**’, that is, a **STRONGHOLD**.”

~ Elisabeth Elliot

“and do not give the devil a foothold.”

Ephesians 4:27, NIV

- **Frame** what we should **not** “give the devil.”
  - A “foothold” is a starting place which helps you make more progress in the future.
  - Sin gives Satan a “foothold” which makes it easier for him to claim more ground later.
  - Satan is trying to control our lives a “foothold” at a time! Don’t even give him an inch!

Examples of Using Scripture to “**Take Captive Every Thought.**”

Complete these verses. (ESV version)

God Doesn’t Love Me … Romans 5:8 “But God shows his love for us in that
while we were still ________________, Christ died for us.”

I Am Depressed …… 1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your _____________ on Him,
because He cares for you.”

I Can’t Forgive …….. Matthew 6:15 “But if you do not forgive others their trespasses,
neither will your Father _______________ ________ trespasses (sins).”

BIBLE Example

The **Serpent** tempted **Eve** to eat from a tree God forbade.
Instead of resisting Satan’s temptation, Eve ate this fruit and gave some to **Adam**.

Genesis 3 records the long-term consequences from their disobedience.

“**SATHAN**
gives Adam an apple (fruit), and **takes** away Paradise.
Therefore in all temptations let us **consider not** what he offers,
but what we shall **lose**.”

~ Richard Sibbes

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them,
for He who is in you is greater
than he who is in the world.”

1 John 4:4, ESV

What types of things does Philippians 4:8 say we should think about?

"**GRACE**

- does not grant **permission** to live in the flesh
- it supplies **power** to live in the Spirit.”

~ John MacArthur
When Under Attack!

1. **STOP & PRAY!**

   "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."  
   Mark 14:38, ESV

   ❖ Circle two things that will help us “not enter into temptation.”

   Don’t let your emotions or physical desires control your decisions when tempted.
   ♦ Instead, **Stop** and **Pray**! **Focus** your **mind** and **heart** on God!

2. **RESIST THE DEVIL!**

   "I have hidden your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You."  
   Psalm 119:11, NIV

   ❖ Circle where we are to hide (or store) God’s Word.
   ❖ Underline the benefit of knowing God’s Word.

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

   ❖ Circle what happens when we “resist the devil.”

   Use the **Sword of the Spirit** (the **Word of God**) to cut through Satan’s lies.
   ♦ **Memorizing** God’s Word prepares you to fight temptation.
   ♦ The more Scriptures you know, the **bigger** your Sword!
   ♦ Declare God’s Word **out loud** as you confront Satan’s lies.

3. **STAND YOUR GROUND!**

   "Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”  
   Ephesians 6:11, ESV

   ❖ Circle what we are to “put on.”
   ❖ Underline what the “whole armor of God” enables us to do.

   Determine to **stand** against Satan’s goal to defeat you and turn you against God.
   ♦ **Remember** that you serve the all-powerful King of Kings and Creator of the universe!

   "This is the great business of life - to ‘**put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks.**’"

   "I know of no other way to **triumph over sin long-term**, than to gain a **distaste** for it, because of a **superior satisfaction in God.**"  
   ~ John Piper

**AFFIRMATION**

1. God is greater than all my enemies.
2. God is my protector.
3. I will guard my heart & mind.
4. I will stand my ground.
5. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13, NKJV)

**APPLICATION**

“**And do not be conformed** to this world, **but be transformed** by the renewing of your mind….”  
(Romans 12:2, NKJV)

 ❖ What are ways Christians “conform” to this world?

 ❖ How can you resist these temptations and instead be a “transforming” agent for righteousness at your school, job, home, etc?