

ENEMY TACTICS

2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV – in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

DESCRIPTION

In the Garden of Eden, the serpent was described as more subtle than any other of God's creatures. Even today, this subtlety makes the evil one an expert deceiver, distracter, and destroyer if we are not aware enough to discern his schemes. Sometimes, it is an event in our lives that triggers an enemy infiltration of our thoughts. Other times, it is a persistent and gradual wearing down and decline of our faith or endurance.

Regardless of how the enemy is attacking us or attempting to divert or deceive us, Jesus conquered it at the cross. Everything we need for victory, godliness, and the fulfillment of God's plans for us was provided through the work of Jesus. We receive it as a free gift, by grace through faith in what Jesus accomplish for us.

In fact, when we do identify the real root of what the enemy is attacking in our lives, we realize that what the enemy is working against us is exactly what God is working in our favor. For example, if the enemy attack is *discouragement*, God is working *courage* in us.

To put Enemy Tactics into practice is about allowing the Lord to reveal the subtle ways that the evil one is laying temptations before us or has worked his way into our thoughts so that we can renew our faith, hope, trust, and freedom in Jesus and the work He finished for us through His death and resurrection.

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus, to destroy the works of the enemy including everything that attempts to separate me from you or discourage and distract me from your plans and purposes. Help me now to discern the tactics of the enemy in my life so that he has no place in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PURPOSE:

To discern the tactics of the enemy.

To remain faithful to Christ and God's purpose for us.

To live established in the truth and hope of the Gospel.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Increased discernment of the attacks of the enemy.

Renewed identity in Christ and the finished work of the cross.

Restored faith and hope.

Repentance from focus on self.

Purging of evil, pride, and discouragement.

CONSIDERATIONS



Consider these enemy tactics, listed in no particular order:

- **Doubt/Unbelief:** particularly in God's goodness or grace
- **Discouragement:** looking to the size of the problem rather than the ability of God
- **Diversión:** turning from God's instructions or greater purpose
- **Failure:** looking at apparent failure, not trusting God for redemption and victory
- **Frustration:** losing patience, not trusting God's timing
- **Flesh:** temptation to do things in our own strength
- **Performance:** thinking God's plan can be thwarted by us
- **Condemnation:** guilty feelings over sins from past or present
- **Success:** accepting exaltation of man out of God's order
- **Shortcuts:** trying to skip stages of God's plan development
- **Weariness:** losing strength due to extended battles/service

PRACTICE

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight one of the enemy tactics above that is relevant to your life right now.
2. Ask the Lord to show you how the enemy has subtly infiltrated your thoughts using this tactic. Talk to Him about:
 - When did the enemy start attacking you in this way? Was there an event which triggered this or was it gradual?
 - Ask the Lord to reveal to you the real root of the issue in your present situation. (i.e. pride, fear, a past wound, etc.)
3. Ask the Lord to show you how He conquered this enemy tactic through His death and resurrection.
 - What else do Scripture and the Holy Spirit say about this?
4. Ask the Lord how He wants you to humble yourself before Him and resist the devil so that he flees from you.
 - How is He guiding you into faith and rest in Him?
 - Is there something He is asking you to do in your situation?
5. Do whatever He says.

NOTES: _____

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Enemy Schemes

Genesis 3:1

Daniel 7:25

Genesis 16

2Chronicles 26:16

1 Samuel 15

Focus/Faith

Luke 4:1-13

Colossians 2:13-14

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 John 1:7

Romans 8:1

Colossians 1:9-14

John 6:15

Galatians 6:9

2 Corinthians 4:16

James 4:7