



THE unseen enemy

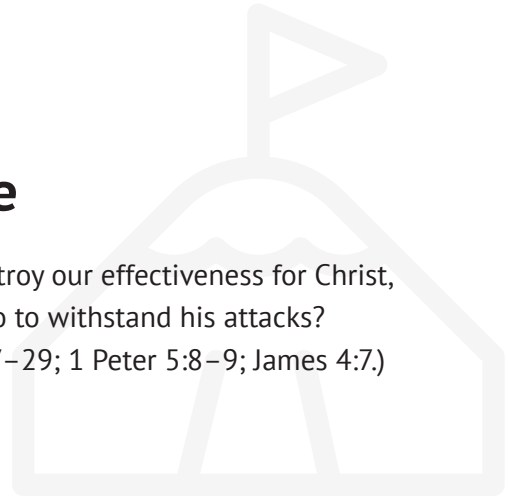
SUMMARY | We live in two worlds—one that is seen and the other that is unseen. Satan (or, the devil) is the leader of the unseen “spiritual forces of evil,” but since, by definition, the spiritual realm is unseen, the Bible gives us visual aids to try to understand the nature and tactics of our unseen spiritual enemy.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. The most familiar of these word pictures is that Satan may be the serpent picture in Genesis 3. How do we know that this serpent is an embodiment of Satan? What can we learn from the methods he used in derailing our first parents in the garden of Eden?
2. In Jesus’ parable of the different soils (see Matthew 13), He describes various things that can prevent the seed of the gospel taking root in the soil of a person’s heart. Which of those things pictures Satan, and what is his approach to those confronted by the gospel?
3. In John 10, Jesus describes our unseen enemy as a wolf seeking to destroy the flock. As the “good shepherd,” what does Jesus promise as His protection for His sheep?
4. Continuing with John 10, Jesus would ultimately go to the cross to protect the flock from the attacks of the enemy. How do you respond to the fact that in the Old Testament sacrificial lambs gave their lives for people, including shepherds, but in John 10 the good, great, and chief Shepherd gives His life for the sheep?

Challenge

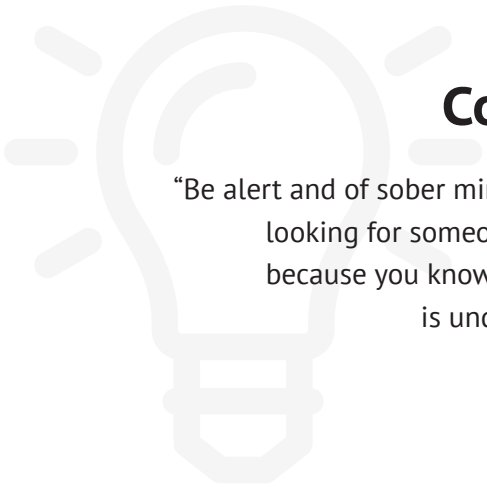
With an unseen spiritual enemy that seeks to destroy our effectiveness for Christ, what are some intentional things you can do to withstand his attacks?
(See Ephesians 4:25–28; Ephesians 6; John 10:27–29; 1 Peter 5:8–9; James 4:7.)



Commit To Memory

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings” .

1 Peter 5:8–9



Prayer

Loving Shepherd, thank You for Your care, protection, and sacrifice on my behalf.
Help me to be wise to the strategies of the enemy and to be able stand firm
in Your grace and strength against his threats.

Amen.

