



deceive God's people. 1 Peter Ch 5 v 8

Process of thought attack – evil thought or doubt – leads to – Free will choice – leads to - habit of sin or doubt – leads to - Loss of control – leads to – demonic bondage – leads to – almost total possession

What is clear is that Satan can only be in one place at one time. He is NOT all knowing and he is NOT all powerful. BUT what he does have is a demonic structure that covers the whole world that he rules over. Therefore every area of the earth has rulers who oversee smaller demons that are used to tempt people, cause problems in relationship and blind people to the truth. A part of this is an oppressive power to cause depression and failure into the lives of Christians who are not disciplined in their faith. This is all with the intention of discrediting the witness of God's people in the world today. **Read Ephesians 6 v 10 – 19**

Discuss – why do you think it is difficult to control our thought life?

How do you think you can become sensitive to recognise and deal with thought attacks by demons?
what are the weak areas in your life that the devil would tempt you in?

Areas that demons regularly tempt us in:-

Doubts, Temptations, Evil thoughts, circles of depression Desires for independence, Pride, Lust, Materialism, Fears.

Discuss – What impact do you think an undisciplined thought and behaviour life might have on the church?

Jesus calls Satan the Father of lies. (John Ch 8 v43 - 44) His desire is to give you a false impression of truth, pleasure and reality. If he can do this then he gains control and ground in your life (Ephesians Ch 4 v25 – 27) This will eventually lead to habits and slavery to sin that Satan will torment and enslave you by.

One of the most important reasons Jesus came to the Earth was to destroy the work of Satan and set the captives free.

Read – Luke Ch 4 v 11 – 21, Luke 11 v 14 – 28,

Jesus ministry was all about taking back from Satan that which is God's 1 John Ch 3 v 7 – 8

Restoring the image of God to people – deliverance

Healing sickness – result of the fall

Taking away the stain of sin – through his blood shed upon the cross

Restoring people relationships back to God – The cross & sanctification

Defeating death – by raising to new life

One of the first ways that we can have victory in Christ is being aware how the devil attack you as a individual, attacks your family and attacks the church. To do this we need to look at the weak areas in our lives and relationships and cover these areas over regularly with prayer and the authority of Jesus, making sure we do not put ourselves into a place of temptation. This means that we need to spend time honestly looking at individual life, life of family and life of church to see where the weak areas (in behaviour and attitude) are. It is a simple truth that when in a battle you strengthen the weak areas for that is where the point of conflict will come.

Second way we can come to a place of victory is understanding the authority we have been given to overcome

Time and time again we see that the witness of Scripture declares to us that in the name of Jesus we have victory and freedom from evil one.

Read - Matthew 8 v 28 – 34, Mark 16 v 17 – 18, Ephesians 1 v 18 – 23, Colossians 1 v 15 – 20: 2 v 13 – 15

We see in these verses that even the demons recognised who Jesus was and submitted to his authority. As His people we have been given the privilege of both living under his authority and using the authority he has given us. We are united in Christ. We belong to him and have been given his authority today to manifest his full victory over the forces of evil. We see in Luke 9 v 1 how Jesus gives authority to his disciples to use his name to drive out demons. And in Luke 10 v 17 we see how the disciples return to Jesus and testify to the reality of the authority he has given them.

As we seek to live a powerful Christian life and witness to the lost there WILL be times when the forces of evil will attack us and try to cause us to compromise our faith, relationships and witness. As we seek as a church to more and more discharge the full ministry of Christ in this area and win those in darkness we will engage in a spiritual battle for the lost. One thing is clear from studies done on the occult and from those who have come to Christ out of witchcraft – Satanists regularly pray against the church and against God's people. They will know the name of the Christian leaders of churches in their area and they will be praying for sin and problems to oppress them.

We need to take this battle seriously for the lost and for the security of our own faith and together learn to prepare the ground and use the authority Christ has given us.

When experiencing an attack this claiming of the name of Jesus can be done through:-

Commanding the demon to leave you alone in the name of Jesus of Nazareth – singing songs of worship to Jesus – reading aloud words from the bible. If it is a severe attack asking Christian friends to pray for you.

So let us not forget there is a spiritual world all around us made up of good and evil angels which affect / can affect our lives. Demons are there, but their power is limited by God and in the name of Jesus we have the victory.

How do we have victory in our thought life to overcome the lies and temptations of the devil?

Read – 2 Corinthians Ch 10 v 3 – 5 Philippians Ch 4 v 8 James Ch 4 v 7 – 8 Luke Ch 10 v 17 – 20