

THE FOLLOW UP

Be sure to get these FOUR devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done



For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ~ Ephesians 6:12

DEVO #1— Bullet Proofing Yourself

READ: Ephesians 6:10-18

I have a great deal of respect for law enforcement officials. They put their lives on the line on a daily basis. At any time, police men and women know they may be shot or attacked. Because of this, most wear Kevlar, bulletproof, vests as protection. Their profession demands such precautions.

Likewise, once you chose to follow Christ, you made yourself an enemy of Satan. He drew a target on you and considers you "marked." Because of this, you, too, need protection. You need to put on the whole armor of God. Neglecting to do so may very well put the depth of your faith in jeopardy.

1. What is the purpose of the armor according to verse 11?
2. What are the pieces of God's armor?
3. Are you putting each one on every day?
4. What does verse 18 say about the importance of prayer?
5. What new things will you begin doing in your battle against Satan and temptation?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His Word and Its truth
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not putting on all of God's armor every day
- ~Ask God to remind you that you are in a spiritual battle
- ~Ask God to strengthen you in the fight against Satan and against temptation
- ~Be sure to keep praying for the five people on your list

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Review the Armor of God worksheet you went over during small group. Be sure to apply each piece of armor
- ◆ Seek to isolate your weak areas and understand what times, places, or people that the devil likes to use to get you to fall into temptation
- ◆ Develop a plan to avoid these things so you don't give the devil an opening
- ◆ Continue to pray for those on your card
- ◆ Pray about what impact you could make in your school, in your peer group, neighborhood, etc.

QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

PART 1 — READ: Proverbs 18:10

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

The devil is strong, but he is no match for God, so are you regularly drawing close to God throughout the day?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart and reveal any weak areas that you have. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Tugged by Temptation

READ: James 1

"The devil made me do it!"

Have you ever heard that line before, or maybe even used it yourself? Sadly, it is a pretty common way of deflecting responsibility for our own choices and actions. Now, I am not saying that the devil isn't real. He is real. He is out there to tempt you, and he is actively working to ruin your life. But understand this. Satan CANNOT make you do anything. He has NO authority or power to *force* you into any choice whatsoever.

In the end, the one who makes you do something is you. You are the one in charge of your actions. Satan will tempt and woo, but your own desires will make the final choice to follow him or follow God. So, what do you desire most?

1. According to James 1:14, where does temptation come from?
2. What happens when we start giving into temptation according to verse 15?
3. What is the key to overcoming temptation according to verses 21-25?
4. Each of us have weaknesses that the devil plays on. What weaknesses in your life tend to lead to the most problems for you?
5. What must you do to replace your weaknesses with God's strength?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His power to help you overcome temptation
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, being drug away by your own desires instead of clinging steadfastly to the Lord
- ~Ask God to help you overcome temptation in His strength
- ~Ask God to draw you close to Him and to keep you safe from the evil one
- ~Remember to pray for those written on your card

DEVO #3 — Game Film

READ: Luke 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:9-11

Coach Steven was the head football coach of Frederick High School. Each week to help his team prepare for the upcoming game, he would have his players watch game film of the other team. One day, a player was getting bored watching all the film of Johnson High's team, so he asked Coach Steven why they had to watch it for so long.

"Good question," the coach started. "And here's the answer. You can bet the other team is watching us and they are learning where we are strong and where we are weak, so we need to study them too!"

Did you know that the devil has "game film" on you? Yes, the devil is an expert on you. He knows what your weak areas are, when you are at your weakest, and exactly how to tempt you in that weakness. Yes, make no mistake, the enemy of your soul is a student of you.

1. In what three ways did the devil tempt Jesus?
2. How did Jesus combat the devil each time?
3. How can being a student of Scripture help you overcome the one who is a student of you?
4. Do you read God's Word daily? (If not, you are making yourself a much easier target for the devil.)
5. In 2 Corinthians, Paul says we must be aware of how the devil operates. Do you know how Satan best attacks you and are you working to guard against this?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His Word which combats Satan's lies
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not being a student of the Word
- ~Ask God to mold you into a student of His Word
- ~Ask God to help you view His Word and His ways as infinitely precious
- ~Pray for opportunities share Christ with those on your card

DEVO #4 — The Devil's not Your Dad!

READ: 1 Peter 5:8; Jude 1-11

There's a story of two nine year-old boys struggling with whether or not the devil is real. One boy quickly proclaimed, "Oh, there isn't any devil."

The other, rather upset, said, "What do you mean there isn't any devil? It talks about him all the way through the Bible!"

"Oh, that's not true," replies the first. "You know. It's just like Santa Claus. The devil turns out to be your dad."

Just like many people tend to dismiss Hell, so many people also dismiss the devil. However, the Bible is very clear that he exists. As Cotton Mather once said, "That there is a devil is a thing doubted by none but those who are under his influence."

1. What does Peter say about the devil in 1 Peter 5:8?
2. The devil is real and is powerful. In Jude, what wouldn't even the archangel Michael do?
3. Why would the devil be pleased by people denying his existence?
4. What can you do to guard against the tricks and attacks of Satan?
5. Are you doing all the things you listed under #4?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for defeating the devil and providing victory through His Son, Jesus Christ
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, acting as though our enemy, the devil, is not active in the world ruining lives
- ~Ask God for the strength to put on His whole armor each and every day
- ~Ask God to use you to free those on your card from Satan's grasp and lead them to His Son