

Know Your Enemy

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12)

It is important to know that we have enemies and we need to know them so that we would be able to avoid them and protect ourselves from them. We need to know our enemies not to fight back or to take revenge but in order to be spared from troubles, and to live a life of peace with everyone. Our enemies are not the people around us. Many times we get involved into quarrels and fights and then we keep grudges or rather we try to retaliate assuming that the people are our enemies.

But who are actually our enemies? The Bible has defined to us the enemy: They are not the people who are around us. Our enemies are the same as the enemies of God.

1- The world is our enemy: ***“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)*** When you look to what surrounds you, you find many beautiful things: buildings, houses, gardens, cars, appliances, jewelries, gold, up to date technology, money affairs and currencies. Satan. When he was trying to tempt Jesus, ***“took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.” (Matthew 4:8)*** Satan was trying to tempt Jesus and entice Him by the splendor of this world. It is not wrong to have money, car, house, or other material things but it is sin if we have the love to those things. The Lord Jesus says: ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up yourselves treasure in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)*** From these very words of the Lord Jesus Christ we can get two things.

First: The things of this world are perishable, they will disappear, and their value is for temporary use. These things should serve us not to master us. But if we start to love these things, we start to store them until finally we live for such things and then instead of these things that are made to serve us, we find ourselves enslave to them.

Second: When such perishable things become treasures for us, our hearts are fixed on them and we forget what God wants us to do, because our love is no more for Him, but for the perishable things. ***“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)***

2. Our own body is our enemy: When we are born from our mother we are born with the flesh that carries the sinful nature. ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)*** Our body bears the culture, the tradition and the customs of ancestors that motivates us to do things even contradictory to the Word of God. Our body has the natural sinful desires: ***“The act of sinful nature are obvious: Sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21)*** Such acts hinder us to receive God’s blessing and to enter God’s kingdom. Likewise, these sinful acts make us ineffective and unsuccessful in life.

But God has sent His Son Jesus Christ to the world; He died for us on the cross and He paid the price for our sins. He was buried and raised from death on the 3rd day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him. So when we believe in Jesus and receive Him as our personal Saviour and Lord we receive the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God in us wrestles against our sinful desires until our body is subdued and sin is overcome.

3- Satan is our enemy: There are evil forces and evil spirits that we cannot see by our eyes but they are present around us. These evil forces represent Satan and the demons that are working with Him. They are all fallen angels who had rebelled against God, and God did not spare them when they sinned, but sent them from His presence. Satan is our real enemy who really wants to harm and destroy us. The word of God warns us to, ***“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)*** Satan and his demons to harm us they need a base so they can put their feet in. The Bible says, ***“Do not give the devil a foot hold.” (Ephesians 4:27)*** The foothold for the devil is the sin that we are doing and the sinful nature that we carry in our bodies. If there is any sin in our lives it is like the open door for the Satan to attack us; it is the solid ground for the devil to destroy our lives.

My dear and beloved: When we believe in Jesus and receive Him as our personal Saviour and Lord we become children of God. And being children of God we need to be discerning people, to know our enemy, in order to be spared from troubles and to walk faithfully with God.

My prayer: ***“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord, cleanse me from any love of material things and from my body’s sinful desires. Cleanse me from any lust and make me alert and self-controlled. Satan, I rebuke you in the name of Jesus. Lord Jesus, help me; I want to live for You. Thank You, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”***