

Sneak Attack! (Satan's "Ordinary" Work)

—God at War, Week 7—

(NIV)

I. The World, the flesh, and the Devil _____

- **The World:** 1 John 2:15-16
- **The Flesh:** Galatians 5:16-20
- **The Devil:** 1 Peter 5:8-9

So the Devil is not our only enemy. We have sinful tendencies within us that war against us, and the world and its system also oppose us. So we do not want to give Satan too much credit and assume every challenge or temptation is directly from him.

On the other hand, it is fair to say that the flesh and the world are two tools Satan will use to oppose us. So in the end it is probably unwise to separate any of these three from each other too much, since one is probably rarely involved, at some level, without the others. This is probably why each of these three can be used on its own to represent the spiritual forces opposing us.

II. The Devil's Work of _____

In temptation, Satan and his demonic host use our flesh or the world or some other means to present to us the option of choosing something contrary to God's will. This is a powerful experience, because our flesh naturally is inclined against God, and the promise of sin is seductive and pleasurable—until it turns in our hands and brings death.

- **Title: "The Tempter"** (1 Thess 3:5)
- 1 Corinthians 7:5
- Mark 1:12-13
- Acts 5:1-4

III. The Devil's Work of _____

The Hebrew term "satan" literally means "accuser," or "adversary," and the Greek translation of this word, "devil," similarly means "slanderer." These all reflect well our enemy's tactics. He will often use a sort of "one-two" punch. First he tempts us, then as soon as we have given in, he torments our conscience about what we have done and fills us with shame.

- **Title: "The Accuser"** (Rev 12:10)
- Job 1:6-12
- Zechariah 3:1

IV. The Devil's Work of _____

One tactic Satan uses to attack us is to get us to believe lies about ourselves, God, or Scripture. Oftentimes he will introduce thoughts in our minds that sound like our voice, but in fact may not be from us.

- **Title: "Father of Lies"** (John 8:44)
- Genesis 3:4
- 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15
- 1 Timothy 4:1
- 2 Timothy 2:25-26

The Bottom Line

_____ your _____!

...by cultivating your _____ with the _____.

This will involve:

- Fixing your love, allegiance, and desire _____.
- Understanding and believing the truth of _____.
- Practicing _____ that place you where _____ will _____ you.

...by fending off specific _____ with specific _____.

This will involve:

- Resisting *temptation* by _____ it, renouncing it, and looking to God for the way of escape.
- Countering *accusation* by repentance, confession of sin, and _____ God's _____.
- Replacing *lies* by knowing and believing the _____ which destroys those lies.