



Freedom in Christ

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Schedule

- Sept 10 Lecture 1: What we lost in the fall
- Sept 17 Lecture 2: What we regain in Christ
- Sept 24 Lecture 3: Walking by the Spirit /
Renewing the Mind
- Oct 1 Lecture 4: Renewing the Mind /
Strongholds
- Oct 8 Lecture 5: The Vulnerability of the
Believer



Freedom in Christ: Strongholds

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Cor 10:3-5)

Strongholds

3. The first step in destroying strongholds is believing truth and submitting our minds, emotions, and wills to Christ.

- Keep renewing your mind (Rom 12:2)
- Keep your mind alert and sober (1 Pet 1:13)
- Take thoughts captive (2 Cor 10:3-5)
- Immerse your mind in truth (Heb 4:12)
- Focus on truth and goodness (Phil 4:8)



Freedom in Christ: Vulnerability of the Believer

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

Vulnerability of the Believer

Misconceptions about the demonic:

1. Demons once roamed the earth but no longer exist.
2. Demonic activity is just an archaic way of describing mental illness.
3. Christians cannot be affected by demons.

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. (2 Cor 12:7)

4. Resisting the demonic is about power encounters.



Who is Satan?

1. Satan was originally created as a cherubim (Ezek 28:12-14), which is apparently the highest type of angel. His sin was pride: he placed himself above God (Isa 14:12-15)—the same sin he incited in Adam and Eve in the garden.

¹² “Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden,
the garden of God;

every precious stone adorned you:

carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,

topaz, onyx and jasper,

lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.

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You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.

¹⁶ Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.

Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.
So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings. (Ezek
28:12-17)



Who is Satan?

2. Satan is ruler of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). He offered Jesus “all the kingdoms of this world and their splendor” (Matt 4:4)—and says they were given to him, along with the power to give them to anyone he chooses (Luke 4:6).

Now judgment is *upon* this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. (John 12:31; NASB)

I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in regard to Me... (John 14:30; NASB)

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⁵ And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I want. ⁷ Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” (Luke 4:5-7; NASB)



Who is Satan?

3. When Satan fell (at some time previous to the account in Genesis), he apparently was joined by a third of the angels, who became demons (Rev 12:3-4, 9). Jesus tells us that hell was prepared for “the devil and his angels” (Matt 25:41).

³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. ...

⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Rev 12:3-4, 9)

Who is Satan?

4. Our battle is against Satan and the spiritual powers he commands (Eph 6:11-12). He is free and actively roaming the earth in our time (1 Pet 5:8). We are told to be on guard against him. Jesus prays and asks the father to protect us from him (John 17:15). The activity of the demonic did not end after the resurrection (see Acts 19:13).

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (John 17:15)



Who is Satan?

5. Satan is the “prince of the power of the air”; he is at work “in those who are disobedient”—i.e., non-Christians (Eph 2:2). He is not our ruler; we have been transferred from darkness into the kingdom of God’s beloved son (Col 1:13). Jesus has been awarded a higher power and authority (Matt 28:18). We are, nonetheless, passing through this kingdom of darkness, where Satan has power.

...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.
(Eph 2:2)



Who is Satan?

6. Satan has a scheme (Eph 6:11; 2 Cor 2:11)—to undo the work of God by attacking his people. He does this by accusing (Rev 12:10), tempting (Matt 4:3; 1 Cor 7:5; 1 Thess 3:5), and deceiving (Gen 3; John 8:44; 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Tim 4:1; Rev 20:3).

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor 4:4)



Who is Satan?

7. Satan will be defeated in a final battle by Jesus Christ and his holy people, and cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity (Rev 20:10).

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Rev 20:10)



The Personality of Demons

1. Demons can exist inside or outside organic bodies.

²⁴ “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.” (Luke 11:24-26)

The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” (Mark 5:12)



The Personality of Demons

2. They are able to travel at will, unaffected by physical structures.

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The Personality of Demons

3. They are able to communicate with humans and each other.

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Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” (Mark 5:9)



The Personality of Demons

4. Each one has a separate and personal identity.

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The Personality of Demons

5. They are able to remember and make plans. They can evaluate and make logical decisions.

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The Personality of Demons

6. They are able to combine forces.

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The Personality of Demons

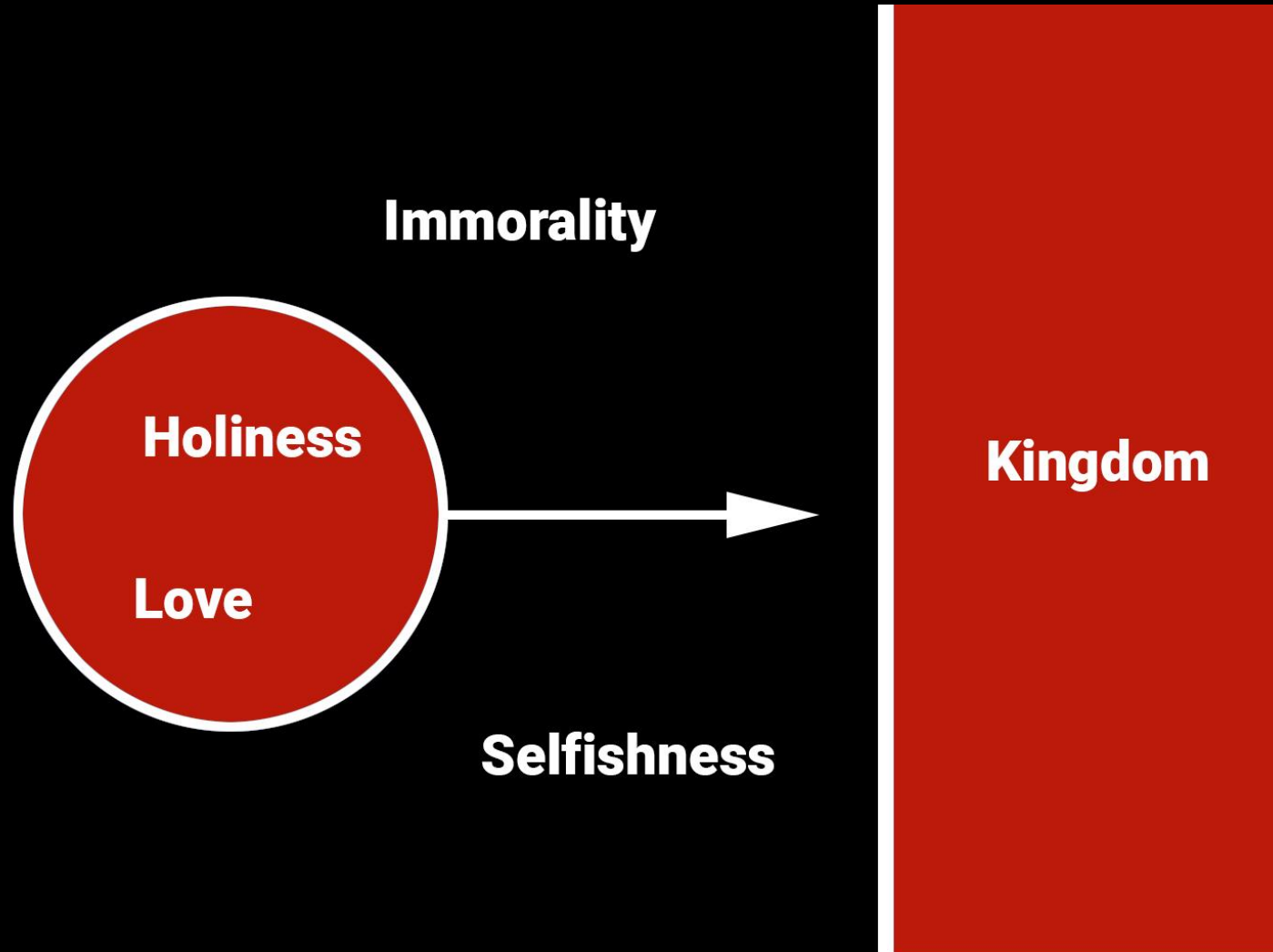
7. They vary in degrees of wickedness. They also vary in degrees of power over a human life (Mark 9:29).

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²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” ²⁹ He replied, “**This kind can come out only by prayer.**” (Mark 9:28-29)



Resisting the Power and Appeal



Resisting the Power and Appeal

I. Temptation

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)



Resisting the Power and Appeal

2. Accusation

⁹ “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. ¹⁰ “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” (Job 1:9-11)



Resisting the Power and Appeal

3. Pride

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen 3:4-5)

Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall. (Prov 16:18)



Avenues of Control

I. Demonization (Matt 4:24; 8:28; 9:32; 12:22; 15:22).

a) The scriptural protection of a believer is partly dependent upon a believer's actions.

- What if we make provision for the flesh? (Rom 13:14; 1 Pet 2:11)
- What if we do not resist the devil? (James 4:7)
- What if we do not put on the full armor of God? (Eph 6:10-17)

b) Scripture indicates we have vulnerability (Eph 4:26-27; 6:10-17; 1 Cor 5:4-5; 2 Cor 10:5; 11:3-4; 12:7; 1 Pet 5:8)

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Eph 4:26-27)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Pet 5:8)

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. (2 Cor 12:7)

Avenues of Control

2. Ananias's heart was filled by Satan (Acts 5:3) but he himself thought of the sin (Acts 5:4).

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that **Satan has so filled your heart** that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? **What made you think of doing such a thing?** You have not lied just to human beings but to God." (Acts 5:3-4)



Avenues of Control

3. We become slaves of sin if we obey sin (Rom 6:12-16). Slavery means a loss of control in a believer's life.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Rom 6:12-16)

Ready for Battle

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:10-17)

Ready for Battle

1. The belt of truth
2. The breastplate of righteousness
3. Feet fitted with readiness from the gospel of peace
4. The shield of faith
5. The helmet of salvation
6. The sword of the Spirit

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb 4:12)



Steps to Freedom in Christ

