

# STAND ON GUARD

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. NIV

## **We have a spiritual enemy who engages in battle in the physical world.**

Daniel 10:12-13 "...I have come in response to [your prayers]. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me..." NIV

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

2 Corinthians 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. NIV

## **What are Satan's Schemes?**

### **Bringing division**

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 Anyone you forgive, I also forgive...I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, <sup>11</sup> in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. NIV

### **Deceiving**

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. NIV

Acts 5:3 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?" NIV

### **Causing doubt**

Genesis 3:11b [The serpent] said to the woman, "Did God *really* say..." NIV

Job 1:11 [Satan said to the LORD,] "But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." NIV

Luke 4:3-6a The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread..." <sup>6a</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down." NIV

### **Lying**

John 8:44 [Jesus said,] "...[The devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." NIV

Genesis 3:4-5 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." NIV



## Twisting / perverting

Matthew 4:6b [The devil said,] "For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" NIV

## Sifting / Testing

Luke 22:31 [Jesus said,] "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." NIV

## Smelling out weakness

Luke 4:13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. NIV

## Destroying

Job 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. NIV

2 Corinthians 12:7b Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I [, Paul,] was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. NIV

1 Thessalonians 2:18 For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. NIV

Matthew 13:19 [Jesus explained, ] "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path." NIV

## Performing signs

### Stand strong!

#### Be alert

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

#### Resist

1 Peter 5:8-9 ...Resist him, standing firm in the faith... NIV

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. NIV

## Rely on strength of God

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But [the Lord] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. NIV

## Pray

Matthew 6:13 [Jesus prayed,] "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." NIV

Matthew 26:41 [Jesus said,] "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." NIV

