

First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

March 3, 2019 - Communion Sunday

Scripture: James 1:2-8 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Congregational Prayer: “Our Father”

Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

Message: "Prayer 9: Spiritual Warfare: 1"

Introduction:

- Two men are standing in front of a painting called Checkmate in an art gallery. In the painting, Jesus is playing chess with the devil. The devil is grinning ear-to-ear because he has the Jesus cornered. The title of the painting, “Checkmate,” indicates that the game is over. The devil has

won. His opponent has no more moves. The first man looking at the painting wants to move on to other paintings in the gallery. But the second man, an international chess champion, stares and stares at the chess board, then suddenly he steps back, flabbergasted. “It’s wrong!” he exclaims. “There’s one more move.” He runs to his friend and together they look at the painting. “We have to contact the painter,” the chess champion says. “This painting should not be called be called, “Checkmate.” Instead it should be called: “The King has one more move!”

- Today, we want to talk about spiritual warfare - the battle between those who dare to believe in Jesus Christ, and the devil and his demons. It is a real battle. And it involves you and I.

Part 1: The Devil IS Real

- Satan is a defeated foe. He is powerful, yes, but not as much

as he thinks. A retired pastor once said it this way: “In the Bible Satan is described as a roaring lion. But on the cross of Calvary Jesus removed that Lion’s teeth. Therefore, the worst the devil can do to you is give you a good gumming!” John Eldridge as we have heard in our current DVD Bible Study, “The Epic” says this: “I am staggered by the level of naivete that most people live with regarding evil. They don’t take it seriously. They don’t live as though the Story has a Villain. Not the devil prancing around in red tights, carrying a pitchfork, but the incarnation of every worst of every enemy you’ve met in every other story... the Holocaust, terrorist bombings, genocidal governments. What is it going to take for us to take evil seriously (P 39)?”

- We all know that God is real - we live our lives with this truth deeply ingrained, by God, in our lives. We know that the Bible tells us that Satan is real - 15 Books of the Bible

talks about Satan, including all 4 gospels. We know that Jesus knew the Devil and demons and evil are real - just look at the record of His temptation in the dessert from Matthew 4/Luke 4, where Jesus is attacked and tempted.

- The Devil is real. Satan is a foe. Our enemy. The accuser of the brethren. The master of liars. When the devil’s lips are moving, he is lying. Truth is twisted. Deception and malice reside with him. He is evil personified. He is crafty and he sneaks up on those that are trying to get close to God. If you are walking in his evil, he cares nothing for you. If you are on fire for Jesus, he is all over you like flies on doggie-doo. He will whisper untruths in your ears - like you are “not worthy,” or that you are “not a true believer”, or “how could you do such a thing as a believer.” He is master of discouragement, the chief of depression and disorder. He is a thief, a roaring lion, the master of manipulation. He is puppet

leader of the world's religions, and he wants to overtake the world just to prove that a creation of God can outdo, outsmart, and out manoeuvre God. Satan is the ultimate loser - check the end of the Book, we win, he loses, and he will lose every battle, but he is going to try and sneak up and overpower the truth with his lies. We need to be ready for his attacks.

- Ephesians 6:10-18 reminds us that before we take a step, we need to put on the full armour of God. This is the only way to stop the devil's flaming arrows, his evil schemes.

Part 2: 3D of Satan's Methods

- 1. Distract: Look, everything is okay. No one sees you. You can get away with this. God really does not mind. You can do as you please. Don't be so old fashioned. Don't be so intolerant. It's really not true. God does not exist. God does not love you. You can do better - stick with me. I'm more

fun. There is something you are missing. Distraction.

- 2. Deceive: You cannot live up to God's standards. You are not worthy. You will fail. I will take care of you. You don't need to be like that. You are the only one. I am more powerful. I don't really exist any more than God does.
- 3. Divide: Go into that Church, look right. Talk right. But change things just a little to my way. Or go into that home. Break up the mother and father. Break away the children from their loving parents to be on the streets, or in the arms of someone who will lead them astray, but they will think that they have love. Tell the world that same sex marriage is okay, that euthanasia is okay, that sexuality is fine to teach and live out in our schools. Tell everyone that black is really white, or more so, just a shade of grey. And when you do, make certain that you create sides, then use your words, use your rhetoric to share my new truth so everyone is divided in

all homes, and churches are left broken. Division.

Part 3: The Good News

- But here is the good news. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross, in his life, and every day before and since. And so, as James 4:7 says *"Submit to God. Resist the devil and he shall flee from you."* Resist is not the strongest word in the English language. Just say no. Just stop satan from getting close to you. Just fix you eyes on Jesus, the *"...author and perfecter of the faith...* (Hebrews 12:2)." Romans 12:2 says (NKJV): *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and the perfect will of God."*
- Let me tell you one way to resist Satan: remember the 5 second rule. You know it: when something falls on the floor, and Queen Elizabeth is not around, you can dust it off, and still eat it. This same rule can be applied to your life. If the

devil is tempting you, stop. Count to five. Lift a five second prayer to God. Just five little seconds. And in that five seconds of prayer, you will win over temptation, the devil, his demons, and you will get your life back. 2 Corinthians 10:5 says: *"Take every thought captive unto Christ."*

Conclusion:

- The Devil's lies about 1. Who God is; 2. About who you are; 3. What is truth/error; 4. Temptation and your own will; 5. He is a derider and discourager who will get you to focus on the past and remain in bondage to sin; 6.He causes division and dissension, wanting to divide you from the Lord, from family, from churches, from your life.
- John Eldridge wrote: "Perhaps the story is not as "safe" as we'd like to believe. This is precisely what the Bible... has warned us about all these years: we live in two worlds... part that you can see and part the we cannot. We are urged, for

our own welfare, to act as though the unseen world... is, in fact, more weighty and more real and more dangerous than the part of reality we can see (page 33).”

- Is your back against the wall? Are you in trouble, seeing no way out? Are you walking down the path of destruction, with the Devil and his demons all around you?
- Don't go into battle alone. Go with the Lord, Jesus, on your side. You and God will outnumber the largest of armies. And when things look bleak, always remember: The King always has one more move.