

## STANDING FIRM IN THE BATTLE

### Study Questions Week 3

1. Read through the entire book of Ephesians in one sitting. In light of what we are studying in Chapter 6 on the spiritual battle we are in, what specific scriptures in Chapters 1-5 could you use to memorize or write down and read to battle these lies of Satan that he will use to assault you.
2. Look up the word *schemes* in a dictionary. How might this definition help you understand the means by which the enemy works in the life of a believer? Write down the steps that a plan might have in order to tempt you to sin. Read James 1:13-15. Think of a specific temptation you face and take a moment to walk through the different steps that are used to draw you in to sin from the moment of temptation to the actual "birth to sin."

*Example: Lashing out in unkind words*

*Step 1: I long to feel love but I do not feel secure in my relationship with my husband so when I feel unimportant, I begin to manipulate the situation (James 1:13..."lured and enticed by his own desires")*

*Step 2: I desire validation from my husband so I begin to demand his affirmation by making comments, crying, and/or complaining about what I need OR I begin to withhold from him and ignore him in hopes that he will seek me out and validate that I am loved and needed.*

*Step 3: no matter how he responds, it is not seen as "genuine" because I had to ask for it so I lash out in unkind, hurtful or angry words because my fleshly desire to find my worth and affirmation in my husband was misplaced. Instead of going to God with that need, I did not identify my real need (feeling unimportant was a symptom not the real need) and took control of things myself...which took temptation straight to sin.*

Write down your own situation so you can see the steps the enemy will take and you can arm yourself with truth to combat this temptation.

3. We looked at II Corinthians 10:3-5 which shows us that our fight is not against flesh and blood but "everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God." Can you identify an area in your thinking that has

been affected by the world and become somewhat unbiblical? Have you adopted a certain tolerance for something that does not uphold the righteousness of God so that you can participate in certain relationships with others and not seem “unloving” or “judgmental?”

Look up the following verses:

Psalm 101:3

II Corinthians 6:14-18

I Corinthians 6:19

I Peter 2:1-25

What is our mindset to be as children of the One True God? What characterizes the life of someone who is in the battle for holiness? Make a list and then prayerful consider where you need to repent and make a new resolve to battle for this type of life before God.

In preparation for next week, please read Isaiah 59 as we look at the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

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