

(SMBC) **“Whack-a-Mole”** Bible Studies Series **Handout #3**

“Believers need to learn how to Recognize, Respond and Repeat the process to “Whack-the -moles” that keep popping up in our lives. It is also just as important to know what battlefield you are fighting on to find the right strategy for success.

Christians fight a spiritual war to overcome temptations and sin on three (3) fronts:

The World, The flesh and The Devil.

- 1) The World...** *refers to the world’s system of values, culture and philosophies that are opposed to God. The pressure to conform comes from the Outside.*

List examples in everyday life?

What’s our weapon against “conforming” according to Romans 12:1-2?

- 2) The Flesh...** *refers to our natural inner instincts to sin, not the physical body. The struggle against temptation and sin comes from Within.*

Identify your “inner-struggles” listed in Galatians 5:19-21

List how Believers overcome “fleshly temptations” and identify what that looks like according to Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25

- 3) The Devil...** *refers to direct attacks of Satan on Believers from demon forces. This type of spiritual warfare can be varied but always strategic and personal.*

What does Ephesians 6:10-20 teach us about the Fight, the Enemy and our Defense?

Scriptures [Casual English Bible]

Give All of Yourself to God

1 Dear family, I'm coming to you because of God's mercy. I'm asking you to give yourselves completely to him. Instead of showing your devotion to God by sacrificing an animal on the altar, give him your entire body as a living sacrifice. Present your body in complete devotion to God, for him to accept. This is a reasonable way to worship him. 2 Don't adapt your life to fit this world. Transform yourself by expanding your mind. Do it so you can recognize God when he's guiding you. He'll take you in the direction of what is good for you, and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Spirit, Yes; Wild, No

16 So I'm telling you, let the Spirit guide your life. If you do that, you won't give in to unhealthy desires. 17 Those harmful desires go to war with the Spirit. And the Spirit goes to war with those desires. The two sides are enemies, fighting for control of your life. This battle keeps you from doing what you want to do. 18 But if you let the Spirit guide your life, Jewish law won't control you anymore.

19 The harmful desires I'm talking about are pretty obvious: sex sins, dirty minds, acting depraved, 20 idol worship, sorcery, arguing, bickering, jealousy, temper tantrums, selfish ambition, pointless debates, 21 envy, getting drunk, sex parties. You get the idea. I'm warning you again, like I did before. If you live that kind of life, whatever you inherit, it won't be God's kingdom. 22 It's just the opposite when the Spirit's in control. We live a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, devotion, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There's no law against any of that.

24 People who follow Jesus the Messiah don't let selfishness and self-destructive behavior control them. They've nailed all of that to the cross. 25 Since the Spirit lives in us, we ought to go where the Spirit wants to take us. 26 And let's not get a swelled head about this. We don't want to get each other jealous and mad.

Galatians 5:16-25

Suit Up for Battle

10 I'm going to close with this. Grow your spiritual muscles from the nourishing strength of the Lord. 11 Strap on all of God's spiritual armor. You'll need it to fight the devil's tactics.

12 We're not fighting flesh-and-blood humans. We're fighting otherworldly beings. These are spiritual forces: leaders, authorities, and rulers of spiritual darkness and evil in the heavenly dimension. 13 Suit up into every piece of God's armor. You'll need it if you want to do everything possible to stand your ground on the day evil comes calling. 14 Do it. Stand your ground. Strap the belt of truth around your waist and tug it tight. Protect your chest with the body armor of spiritual integrity. 15 Slip on boots of the good news of peace, to help keep you on your feet. 16 You'll need the shield of faith too. Its heavy armor will protect you from deadly flying objects and from your main enemy, Satan. 17 Don't forget your helmet of salvation. And take the sword that the Spirit forged for you: the word of God.

Don't Stop Praying

18 Keep yourself in a spirit of prayer. Pray all the time, asking for the help you need. Keep at it. Never give up praying for believers everywhere. 19 Pray for me too. Pray that when I need the right words to speak, they'll find their way out of my mouth. Pray that I'll be able to boldly tell people the mysterious story of the good news about Jesus. 20 After all, that story is why I'm now the Lord's ambassador in chains, under arrest.

Ephesians 6:10-12