

## **“GOD CAN” (Part 6)**

### **“... Subdue our Enemies” (2 Pet. 2:9)**

**INTRO:** God can subdue our enemies. Nothing is too hard for our God, and I mean nothing! All power belongs to Him, so He is able. His acts of power (can = dynamite) are always consistent with His character of goodness and compassion.

**REVIEWING:** Save the lost, Secure the Saved, Satisfy our Needs, Strengthen the Tempted.

**TODAY:** God is also able to Subdue our Enemies. Connected to last on strengthening the tempted. We are waging a spiritual war against multiple enemies (2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; Eph. 6:10-12). It began in the Garden and still rages today. Intensifying? Time is short! It largely takes place in the mind. This war impacts every aspect of our life: physical, emotional, etc. We have a trinity of enemies. Together, they are constantly working against us. Let's look at each enemy, how each attacks us and how God can help us to subdue it with our cooperation.

#### **I. THE DEVIL (1 Pet. 5:8) – supernatural enemy**

- A. Who is he? Created archangel named Lucifer who rebelled against God (Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:7-9). He became Satan. He is the ultimate bully. He hates God and His children. He is our adversary. Jesus says he “is the god of this world” (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). Paul agreed (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2). Yet, 60% agree with this...
- B. What is his strategy? “wiles” (Eph. 6:11). Progressive pattern:
  - 1. Discover ground (1 Pet 5:8). Doors of access (Eph. 4:27) – unconfessed sins.
  - 2. Deceives our minds – Began with Eve in garden. He lies to us, esp. in trusting God's goodness (2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3, 14).
  - 3. Develop strongholds (2 Cor. 10:3-5) – habits of disobedience.
  - 4. Devour (1 Pet. 5:8) – destroy our testimony for Christ.  
See Continuum of Sin...
- C. How work with God to subdue? FIGHT (Jam. 4:7). Resist him (1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:13). Do so in the name and power of risen Christ. Apply the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17; Matt. 4:1-11). Let Him take the lead.

#### **II. THE WORLD – the enemy without**

- A. What is it? Mindset of a system that leaves God out – worldliness (Jn. 15:18-19; Jam. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17). This fallen world under Satan's rule wants to rob you of God's best.
- B. How does it work? It is constantly offering and suggesting temptations to disobey God (Matt. 18:7). A downward progression... World has 3 gates to enter temptation and potentially into sin (1 Jn. 2:15-17) – lust of flesh, eyes, and pride – same gates in Gen. 3:6.
- C. How do we partner with God to overcome? Don't love it (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Don't be transformed by it (Rom. 12:2). Have FAITH in the goodness of God (1 Jn. 5:4) Take up “shield of faith” (Eph. 6:16). We are to live in this fallen world but not become like it. We are called to witness to it, but to never love it. Besides, unlike God, it is temporal (1 Jn. 2:17) – unlike Demas.

#### **III. THE FLESH – the enemy within**

- A. What is the flesh? Jam. 1:13-15. It is in our fallen, sinful, adamic nature within us that wants to do its own thing. Paul struggled (Rom. 7:14-25; 6:11-14).
- B. How does it work? Our flesh craves the bait the devil and the world offer. We are lured and enticed by our fallenness to take the bait and sin.
- C. How work with God to subdue it? Die to self (Rom. 6:11-13). Let Holy Spirit take control over it (Gal. 5:16-25; Rom. 8:1-8). FLEE its desire (1 Cor. 6:18 flee immorality; 1 Cor. 10:14 flee idolatry, 2 Tim 2:22 flee lusts).

##### **How these three enemies work together:**

- 1. Our flesh craves, “I want that...” (catch here) – FLEE!
- 2. The world offers “Here it is.” – FAITH!
- 3. Demons suggest, “Go for it! Now!” – FIGHT!

**CONC:** If we're breathing, we're battling. God has provided a way of escape from each of these enemies. We must choose to use it (Fight, Faith, Flee). He can subdue our enemies. He has the power. Are we willing to cooperate? Repeat Eph. 3:20 . . .