

Alpha Week 6 How Can I Resist Evil?

“The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”

2 Corinthians 10:4

1. How do you feel (or what do you think) **about the existence of a real devil or Satan?** Were you aware of what the Bible has to say about this topic?
2. If you and I believe in a spirit realm and recognize that there are good and evil in the world, is it more or less reasonable to assume that the evil we see could be caused by spiritual forces that are intent on our (other’s) destruction? Why? Why not?
3. Do you believe that there is **evidence to show that evil is alive and well** on planet earth today? To what would you attribute that?
4. **The Bible states that Satan is a liar (John 8:44, p.991)** and that his two major means of lying are through temptation and accusation. He either tempts us to believe that there’s no real problem with self-indulgence that is sinful. He then accuses us that we are too “bad” for God to forgive or accept us. Ever felt that way? Feel that way now? What’s the truth?
5. What do you believe is the freedom Jesus was talking about in **Jn 8:31-32 (p.991)** when he said, *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”*?
6. **John 10:10 (p.993)** clearly indicates a difference between Satan’s job description and Jesus’. How do you feel about each description? Do you believe these different roles are real?
7. Read **Matthew 4:1-11(p.897)** on the temptation of Christ pertaining to doubting God being Provider, Protector and source of Power. How does/could that help us in everyday life?
8. Read **1 John 3:8**. In light of the resurrection of Jesus what do you believe the Apostle John is communicating? What do you think destroy means here?
9. Read **1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (pg. 1733)** What does this passage seem to be saying in regards to understanding the activity of things in the spirit world? Who is the “natural man”? Who is the person with the Spirit? (Relate this as being in Adam or in Christ)
10. Go over each piece of **the full armor of God (Ephesians 6, Page 68 in Alpha Manual)** and relate each of those pieces of armor as representing the person of Jesus Christ. What would that tell me about the importance of knowing God in every one of those ways, particularly in light of the evil around us?
11. **If the Bible clearly states (and it does) that entering** into a relationship of forgiveness, acceptance and new birth in Christ is by *grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9)* and nothing of our merit or accomplishments, what word or words would you use to describe the belief system that states we must contribute to our salvation by our own efforts, be they religious or otherwise? *Let this go for a while and then throw out the word, “evil” if not already mentioned. Is “evil” too strong of a word to describe that?*