

Study C: Standing Firm Against Satan

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Come near to God and he will come near to you."
James 4:7,8a*

Why: Reasons for the study:

- Satan and his demonic forces play a part in your ability to live an obedient life.
- We are in a spiritual battle - the battle is with Satan and the battleground is our mind.
- Satan's strategy is to get us to doubt God and depend on ourselves.

What: Principles to grasp:

- Satan is the author of lies – he is the great deceiver.
- Satan cannot “possess” believers; however, he can greatly influence our thoughts and tempt us to believe his lies and act on them.
- Satan encourages us to put self in the place God alone deserves to hold in our lives.
- His attack is always on the character of God and His trustworthiness.
- We can develop “strongholds” that are set up against a true knowledge of God.
- Satan cannot ultimately control us – God, who is in us, is greater and has provided what is necessary to win the battle against Satan.

How: Path to a changed life:

- To be aware of the specific areas in which disciple is in a spiritual battle
- To utilize the weapons of warfare that God provides in fighting Satan
- To develop a disciplined mind that discerns truth from lies
- To learn how to draw near to God in times of temptation
- To practice, when it is appropriate, asking God to rebuke Satan on his own behalf

Helpful ideas:

- Realize demonic forces may have a “foothold” or “stronghold” on your disciple. This may be true if he is “stuck” (not progressing) or has an exaggerated, irrational, and/or persistent sin: i.e. fears, anger, self-condemnation, paranoia, addictions, as well as other afflictions mentioned in the study.
- Pray alone or with him, that God will rebuke the principalities and powers of darkness that have a stronghold on his mind and life. Ask God to...
 - ...silence the lies of Satan so that he can hear God's truths.
 - ...break through the demonic forces to reach your disciple.
- If you see your disciple “disconnect,” be highly resistant to truth, eyes glaze over or get sleepy in a session, ask the Lord to rebuke Satan and the principalities of darkness over your disciple (usually pray silently).

Resources and tools:

- *The Invisible War*, Chip Ingram
- *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*, Neil T. Anderson – Recommended for disciples who have not been released from footholds, strongholds or enslavement to sin and remain entrenched in them after a significant time in the CTO process. The steps and guidance for the discipler are well-defined. Ongoing discipleship and accountability is recommended to practice CTO principles, as well as those taught in *Freedom in Christ*.