

Finishing Well

Lesson #32 Enemies That War in My Soul - PERIZZITES Sept. 1, 2021

Laura Perry's extra ministry opportunities in September:

1. Sept. 10-11 Conference Speaker in Lincoln, Nebraska
2. Sept. 25 Speaker at Comanche Baptist Hope Conference
3. Sept. 29-30 Filming "Our Watch" in Los Angeles, CA

God repeatedly listed at least 7 groups of people living in the Promised Land who must be driven out before the Israelites could possess their land. Each of these 7 groups represents a dangerous or ungodly area of living or a weakness in us that must be conquered and eliminated if we are to possess all that God has for us in Christ Jesus.

These enemies are workers of the flesh; parasites that want to attach themselves to you and destroy your life. God desires to "drive out" the deeds of the flesh in our lives.

Joshua 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, Tread = darak = do battle; warfare > There are enemies in the land!

The Perizzites are always listed in that black catalogue of the seven nations to be cut off. They are first mentioned in Gen. 13:7 at the time of Abraham.

Mentioned 24 more times until the final mention in Ezra 9:1 during the postexilic period.

All the towns in Biblical times were surrounded by walls for protection, except the Perizzites.

- Perizzite = country as in country villages I Sam. 6:18
- Perizzite = unwalled village or town Deut. 3:5; Esther 9:19

Perizzite comes from a root word meaning to separate.

- Fragment > individuals & body of believers

The Perizzites were nomads who wanted to be "free to wander" without responsibility or accountability to a community.

- Desire to mix and mingle with the wicked world around them.
- Don't care attitude; limited vision; live life with no rules
- Unprotected; holes in the walls of protection; squatters
- Enemy could enter at will; not protected by walls

Goals of the Perizzite Spirit:

1. Cause you to lose courage
2. Let your guard down
3. Cause holes in your wall - allows for easy enemy access - DESTROY your walls
4. Separate you from God and His Word - Tenacious at casting doubt at God's Word
5. Separate you from knowing who you are in Christ
6. Squatter spirit; one with no walls; dispossess you from what belongs to you

7. Give you limited vision, lazy, low self-esteem. See yourself as insignificant with limited potential. Stay out of the way of the people who are "important" in the world.

8. Break down your defenses

9. Rob you of your earthly and heavenly inheritance in Christ

10. Separate a body of believers through false teaching

Warning: The Perizzite spirit seeks an unguarded opening in your life or an unguarded moment, and it wants to squat there. Much damage results when we leave an opening unprotected.

Ezekiel 38:10-11 "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You [the evil army] will say, 'I will invade a land of unwallled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people - all of them living without walls and without gates and bars."

Tactics To Separate Or Fragment Individuals From God & His Truth

Goal #1: Prevent you from a growing relationship with Jesus Christ

- Don't have time to spend with God through His Word
- Busy = Busy Under Satan's Yoke

How many people faithfully attend Bible study?

How many excuses are there which prevent people from studying the Bible? Berean?

- Too tired; too much to do; no desire to start; Bible study is hard

The principle line of attack by Satan on believers is in the teaching.

- Paul warned Timothy about doctrines of demons.

I Tim. 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

II Tim. 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables.

Consider: One who relies on human wisdom and not on God's wisdom > Not Protected Intellectually, man faces an onslaught from the evolutionists against the Word of God, followed by the humanists, who promise man the ability to manage without any help from God.

- Those who do not manage are left on the scrap heap of humanity.

Truth: You are unprotected if you open your mind to every false teaching which is presented. There is a danger that, if a man keeps his mind open long enough, his brains will fall out.

Another line of attack: Encourage compromise with the world to hinder spiritual growth.

A.W. Tozer: Any spirit that permits compromise with the world is a false spirit. Any religious movement that imitates the world in any of its manifestations is false to the cross of Christ and on the side of the devil.

The Perizzite spirit will cause you to neglect the thrust of Scripture that believers are engaged in spiritual warfare and you will go out of the camp with no armor on. Defenseless
If you go into the world without spiritual armor on, you are vulnerable and likely to be robbed and even killed spiritually, if not physically by the enemy, who hates you.

- Satan has done a great work of deception.
- The doors to peoples' lives are unlocked and evil spirits are flooding in.

Command: Eph. 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

"Give Satan an inch and he will be your ruler."

Warren Wiersbe: Sooner or later every believer discovers that the Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, and that he faces an enemy much stronger than he is - apart from the Lord.

Goal #2: Separate You From God

- Use sickness, personal tragedies, disappointments and financial difficulties
- Dwell or meditate on what you are going through; how bad it is for us
- We are given over to what we have chosen to put our faith in.

Goal #3: Cast Doubts in Your Mind

- Use family, unsaved friends or others to make you doubt God's love and care.
- Cast doubt to undermine your faith in God.
- Cast doubt in the inspiration of God's Word. Faith in God comes by hearing His Word.
- If the doubts take root, your faith in God is destroyed.
- You are left unvalled and unprotected.

John DiLemme: When people start to feed negative thoughts, they also feed the seed of doubt. The seed of doubt taken root and that root develops into a tree of despair.

Goal #4: Don't Understand Who You Are In Christ

- Satan's power is extremely effective if he can keep us separated from our place in Christ
- If Satan cannot rob you of your salvation, he will endeavor to keep you from realizing who you are in Christ. Satan can prevent you from living a spirit-filled life now.
- Then he can rob you of your inheritance at the judgment seat of Christ and service in His Millennial Kingdom.

Mission Accomplished: This spiritual power of darkness is sent forth by the Devil for the express purpose of breaking down man's defenses, in order to leave him naked and helpless to attack physically in health, emotionally in his mind and spiritually in his lack of spiritual weapons to deal with the onslaught of the enemy.

Question: How does the Perizzite spirit manifest itself in a believer?

1. Describes a person who is scatterbrained; not focused on God alone
2. Not willing to consecrate his whole life or let the Holy Spirit change his character
3. Cloudy in his mind; not sure of what he wants to do or where he is going
4. Double-minded; fence-sitter; one foot in the kingdom and the other foot in the world
5. At times the mind is sitting with the Lord in the heavenly places with a true desire to serve God, and at times the mind is planning a way for the momentary pleasures of sin.

I Kings 18:21 "And Elijah came near unto all the people, and said, how long go ye limping between the two sides? If Jehovah be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.

And the people answered him not a word."

Truth: We are to be single minded. We belong to Christ Jesus; now nail the passions and desires of your sinful nature to His cross and crucify them there.

Essential Walls needed in our Christian walk:

Our faith is a wall.

Keeping a right spirit (attitude) is a wall.

The way we think (renew our mind) is a wall.

Prayer, praise, and worship are walls.

The Bible is a wall.

God is our shield (wall).

1. Walls for Self-control

Proverbs 25:28 A man without self-control is as defenseless as a city with broken down walls.

The enemy comes when you are angry, when your temper is out of control, when you rage, when you lack faith, when you are depressed, when you criticize, when you gossip, when you lose control of your lusts and more.

Self-control is essential or you will be vulnerable to every pressure to conform to the world.

You must have the ability to say "NO" to the lusts of your flesh.

Good News: God supplies the power of the Holy Spirit to protect you and give you self-control.

Condition: Provided you are filled and under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

2. Walls for Protection

Proverbs 25:28 "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

Proverbs 18:14 "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear?" Our body and our life are upheld by our spirit.

Dan. 5:12 Daniel was upheld by an excellent spirit. He had knowledge, understanding, interpreting of dreams. He could understand hard things and was a dissolver of doubts.

Dan. 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Num. 14:24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit [faith] with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it. When Paul arrived in Rome, after a tragic sea voyage, he was asked about his frame of mind. "What do you think? We want to know why you think and talk the way you do." [Acts 28:22-31] Acts 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him. [The kingdom was in Paul's spirit.] II Tim. 4:22 "The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit" Gal. 6:18 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit"

II Cor. 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

The Subjects of Temptation - Who is tempted? All are subjected to temptation.

Oswald Chambers: Temptations in the life of faith are not accidents. Each temptation is part of a plan, a step in the progress of faith. Being born again will not make you immune.

If you think you can't fall, you are headed for a fall.

Chuck Swindoll: No one is immune to temptation. Not even a hero. Not even a nobody. Not even people like you and me. Lust is never far away. Just when you least expect it, there it is again.

Consider: If God removed the devil and temptations, we would lose the opportunity to be overcomers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Football - play when there is no opposition? No victory - Same with us - God has not called us to a life of ease but to a life of overcoming and victory.

The 3 Sources of Temptation = World, Flesh & Devil > Common To Man

I Thess. 5:23 - May your Body, Soul & Spirit be presented blameless.

1. World System Enemy = External Foe [I John 2:15; Rom. 12:1-2; James 4:4]

The world is cosmos; a system or order; philosophy; entrenched evil

Jesus Christ is #1 in your life or you have bought into the world system.

2. Flesh = Internal Foe = Gal. 5 - The flesh lusteth against the spirit.

Flesh = inclination to do evil; inherited predisposition to sin - the old man - the Adamic nature

The Devil can't make you sin. Sin is an inside job. He can only tempt you and encourage you to sin. If there were no devil, you would still sin. [Millennium]

3. DEVIL = Infernal Foe - Supernatural Enemy

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Consider: The world = a match. Flesh = a pool of gasoline. Devil strikes the match and throws it. He uses the world and your flesh to get you to sin.

The Seat Of Your Temptation - Where will you be tempted? Body, Soul or Spirit?

The World will tempt you primarily in the area of your soul. - self-consciousness.

Mind, will, emotions - You're on an ego trip.

Ex. Abraham and Lot: The land is before us, you choose. Lot lifted up his eyes toward the well-watered plain and saw what would be good for his cattle. Did he need more cattle? He wanted to be the biggest rancher - a big shot on an ego trip. Feed his soul on the things of the world.

Gen. 13:1-13 Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom.

Then Lot moved into Sodom.

Then Sodom moved into Lot & his family.

Lot lost his influence even with his own family.

When Sodom fell, Lot lost everything, including his wife.

Abraham, the outsider, had a greater ministry to the world than Lot, the friend.

Consider: Are you pitching your tent towards Sodom? Are you feeding your soul with things of the world? Have you been seduced by selfish desire for material gain?

Have you been deluded by the spirit for gain and prosperity? IT wars against the soul.

The Flesh will tempt you primarily in the area of the body, using it as a vehicle for temptation.

The body will be tempted in the area of appetites, lust, laziness, violence.

Ex.: King David looking at Bathsheba bathing. He watched her and lust rose up in him.

Sexual temptation - Physical emotions and sexual drive was bombarded by his flesh.

Lot was on ego trip. David's passions were warring against his body, his flesh.

The Devil will tempt you primarily in the area of the spirit; the part of you that communicates with God. God consciousness. Keep you separated and isolated from God.

Our spirit is the vehicle of communication, worship, praise. Satan wants to cut you off from God. He puts doubts in your mind.

Ex: Simon Peter - "Simon, Satan has desired you that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith fail not."

Peter wasn't on an ego trip like Lot or under sexual temptation like David. His faith faltered.

Three Ways to Deal With Temptation

1. Some people just give in to temptation. Don't worry about temptation.

If it feels good; just do it. Live like an animal for self-gratification

2. Some spend all their time fighting temptation in the strength and energy of the flesh.

They fight and fail over and over. We try not to fail, but we do over and over.

3. Overcoming temptation through the power of the Spirit & turn it into triumph

How To Escape The Temptations Of The World, Flesh & Devil

I Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Temptations Of The World That Tempt My Soul [mind, will, emotions]

1. FAITH is the key word for temptations of the WORLD.

I John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our FAITH.

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Consider: Worldliness is a symptom the love of the Father is not in you.

Is the world trying to squeeze you into its mold?

Cure: Spend time with Jesus and fall in love. Turn your eyes upon Jesus. The things of the world will grow strangely dim.

James 1:21b receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Meekness is not weakness. It is strength or power under control.

Willing to submit to God. Under control & allowing God to control.

Ps. 25:9 The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach his way.

Adrian Rogers: "When you feast on Jesus and the devil offers you a plate of stale crumbs, you say no thanks, I'm already satisfied."

If worldliness is a problem, faith is the answer.

Temptations Of My Flesh [indwelling enemy] That Tempt My Body

2. FLIGHT is the key word for temptations that affect your Flesh.

Flee fornication; flee youthful lusts and things of the FLESH.

Is there a magazine, a friend, a movie, TV program that arouses things in you that are wrong?

Prov. 6:27 Can a man take a fire in his bosom and not be burned?

You are not told to fight this kind of temptation; you are told to FLEE.

Note: When Potiphar's wife tempted Joseph, he FLED and left his coat.

You are not told to fight this kind of temptation; you are told to FLEE.

GET AWAY, FLEE. He who will not fall down ought not to walk in slippery places.

Temptations From Satan That Tempt My Spirit

3. FIGHT is the key word for temptations of the DEVIL.

I Tim. 6:12a Fight the good fight of faith.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.

Rev. 12:11a They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.

The Devil is not afraid of our intentions. He FEARS the blood of Jesus.

Bring the blood of Jesus against him, the Word of God and your commitment.

When he tempts you, get on the offensive: I resist you in the name of Jesus. You are trespassing on Almighty God's property. Be strong in the Lord & in the power of His might.

Every sin habit is a supernatural strength or power that's stronger and mightier than us.

It is our responsibility to keep going to Jesus until every giant or sin habit is slain in our lives.

The Word of God is our weapon against all giants. Our total strength is our responsibility of placing our faith and trust in God's Word and power.

Do not trust in the strength and might of the giants.

God's Charge: Joshua 1:7-9 "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

These 7 "traits" being expelled from your life, via the Power of the Holy Spirit, will be living "proof" that God is within you! This evidence will provide a great testimony of the power of the Holy Spirit!