

Mind Games

Part One: *strong in the Lord*

February 4, 2024

The premise for this series is Satan wants to corrupt your thinking so you will not be fully devoted to Jesus (2 Cor. 11:3). But you can stand firm against the Devil's strategies by learning to be strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10-18), use Scripture to renew your thinking (Rom. 12:1-2), capture your wrong thoughts (2 Cor. 10:3-5), and guard your mind against Satan lies (Prov. 4:23).

Some things you need to know about the Devil:

- The Devil wants to destroy your life.

The Greek word translated *devour* in 1 Peter 5:8 means "to swallow completely." Satan wants to mess up your life so badly that you have no positive influence on Earth.

- The Devil wants to control your thinking.

The Devil's temptations are designed to get control of your thinking because he knows he must first get control of your mind to get control of your body (Prov. 4:23; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:2-5).

- The Devil is a liar.

Jesus said Satan invented lying because he hates the truth (John 8:42-44). Remember that the next time the Devil makes you a promise!

How did Satan play mind games with Eve in the Garden of Eden?

1st – Satan disguised himself and then befriended Eve. Genesis 3:1a

Satan did not approach innocent Eve and introduce himself as an evil fallen angel who was cast from heaven for trying to steal God's throne. He approached Eve in the form of the shrewdest (cleverly resourceful) animal in the Garden of Eden and befriended her. The Devil wanted Eve to trust and take advice from him.

2nd – Satan questioned Eve. Genesis 3:1b-3

After gaining Eve's trust, the Devil questioned Eve to get her to question God's Word and His will for her life. The Devil wanted to corrupt Eve's thinking so she would rebel against her Creator.

3rd - Satan lied to Eve. Genesis 3:4-5

After getting her to question God, Satan told Eve two big, fat lies. First, the Devil told Eve that she would not die if she ate the forbidden fruit. The Devil wanted Eve to believe God could not sentence her to death if she ate the forbidden fruit. Second, the Devil told Eve that God did not want her to eat the forbidden fruit because it would make her as wise as Him. The Devil wanted Eve to believe God was selfish and holding out on her.

What happened after Satan played mind games with Eve?

- Eve was deceived by Satan, and she ate the forbidden fruit and then gave some to her husband Adam (Genesis 3:6-7; (1 Timothy 2:14).

What do you need to do not to stand against the Devil?

1st – You need to be strong in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10-17

When Paul encourages believers to “be strong in the Lord,” he is calling them to trust Jesus for the power to live an abundant life. We cannot do anything apart from Christ (John 15:4–5), but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13).

What does it mean to put on the whole armor of God?

- It means to live by truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and the assurance of our salvation and to filter everything you hear through the Bible.

All the pieces of the armor of God are found in our relationship with Christ. We must clothe ourselves with Jesus to stand against the Devil (Romans 13:12-14).

Some Personal Questions...

1. *Do you know you have an enemy that wants to devour you?*
2. *Do you know how the Devil is trying to deceive you?*
3. *Are you fighting the Devil with your strength or Jesus’ mighty power?*