

Unlocking Freedom In Your Life, Part :10 Free From the Devil's Schemes

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **This Week: Free From the Devil's Schemes**

- You have an enemy that is trying to destroy you whether you like it or not.
 - o I've heard that a number of Christians don't believe that there is a devil.
 - Don't be naive and don't be paranoid. Just be ready.
- Let's look at two things the Devil does (directly or through demons):
 - o 1) Prowls. **1 Peter 5:8-9**
 - Satan tries to hurt us and get us to turn from God. (Job)
 - Can include physical and emotional attacks, persecution, etc.
 - o 2) Schemes. **Ephesians 6:10-12**
 - Satan tries to lie to us and fool us.
 - Can include pitting people against each other, temptations, confusion, etc.
 - Often these two are mixed together.
- Your enemy is no match for your Savior!
 - o Let that sink in. Do you believe that?
 - o Now, you are no match for the devil when you stand alone. But when you stand in Christ you gain the victory through God's power!
 - Fun story: **Acts 19:13-16**. What does this teach you about being connected to God?
- How do we get free from the Devil's schemes?
 - o Resist. "Shut up and get out!" **James 4:7**
 - Don't get James 4:7 backwards!! (Resist God and listen to the devil.) Have you seen that?
 - Submit to God. That saves you from the fate of the 7 sons of Sceva!
 - Resist the Devil! Simplest form is "Shut up and get out!" What are other ways?
 - 3 steps: what do you learn?
 - o Pick up your shield. **Ephesians 6:10-18** focus v16.
 - What percentage of Christians need to pick up their shield of faith?
 - Everyone!! Quit mincing words like "oppressed" vs "possessed" etc. This is necessary for ALL believers!
 - How does faith act as a shield?? 3 steps.
- Shut up and get out is only part of it. **Matthew 12:43-45**
 - o Be filled with the Spirit. Don't leave room for the Devil. Why is this so necessary?
 - o What does it mean to shut the door on Satan but leave the window open?
 - o Don't fall for the lie that you can walk with the devil but not get burned.
- When we are born again we become someone in the Kingdom of God.
 - o Remember **Acts 19:15**.
 - o Jesus died so we could be someone our enemy knows as a real adversary.
 - o Don't fall for the lie that turning to God opens you up more to the devil's attacks.
 - Turning to God gives you the power to resist and a big shield!
 - The safest place you can be is in the Army of God with your shield held high and with Jesus backing you up!
 - o So let's submit ourselves to God. The God that loves us. Then, we can resist the Devil and gain victory!
 - o Pray for each other before you finish up!