

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Overcoming Our Accuser

Revelations 12: 7-12

Objective: To understand how real this spiritual war is in Heaven and on earth and how to defeat the enemy and his army.

In general, court is where somebody is accused of a crime of some sort. The key word here is ACCUSED. That means there is not a conviction or a sentencing yet, until all proof is shown, and a jury of our peers decides the outcome. Whether he is innocent or guilty? The pointing of the finger is done and arguments are put to an end or at least rendered POWERLESS. This is specifically for the innocent. Once the party being accused is pronounced innocent by the jury, the judge makes the final announcement (INNOCENT). The prosecutor's (accuser) arguments are powerless and the innocent are set free. But the weapon that the innocent needs most desperately is an advocate (lawyer) with the truth.

Introduction: In the following study how to overcome our accuser (the devil) will be discussed. The spiritual warfare that happened; how real it is; why things are getting worse in these last days and what to do in the face of persecution. GOD wants us to take these scriptures seriously or else HE would not have put them in The Bible. The devil is real and so are his followers (demons) and they are playing for keeps. JESUS calls the devil a worthy opponent considering that most souls end up in hell (broad road and the narrow road; Matthew 7:13). What a horrifying thought. So yes, he is worthy of a fight but NOT GLORY. Thus we need to OVERCOME him or it's our souls and others as well (1 Timothy 4:13).

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***** NOTE: There is no right or wrong answers to many of the questions and they are intended to be discussed in a group setting that allows people to answer what they think.**

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Accusation-means a charge of wrongdoing

1. Why do you think an accusation is such a powerful weapon in Satan's arsenal?
 - A. It can ruin a person's testimony by how someone looks at them.
 - B. Mind battles.
 - C. It can hurt GOD from the devils point of view because sin is produced and GOD hates sin, especially if it's among the brethren.
 - D. The accusations might bring up past failures that are already forgiven by GOD and somebody else and it could bring condemnation.
 - E. It could bring misery along with condemnation.
 - F. It can stop the work of GOD in a person's life if the accusation is believed.

2. Describe everything you can about the war that is fought in Heaven in Verses 7-9.
 - A. It's spiritual.
 - B. The war is decisive.
 - C. There are only two sides- GOD and the devil. There is no middle ground and there are no neutral corners. Either you are for JESUS CHRIST or you for sin (devil).
 - D. The devil is the leader of the rebellion against GOD.
 - E. Our sworn mortal enemy is a deceiver.
 - F. The devil has many names. Sort of like an identity thief with many aliases. Just to disguise himself to get something for himself (our souls).
 - G. The devil has an army united with him (demons, fallen angels).
 - H. The devil has been around for very long time. The devil knows human nature and The Bible well.

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- I. The enemy must be taken seriously enough to fight him violently (real, intense life struggles against the enemy).
 - J. The devil is not all powerful, he is beaten.
 - K. The devil and his army are on the earth.
3. By the titles given to the devil in v.9, what do we learn about his Character?
- A. Devil- means false accuser; slanderer; one who divides.
 - B. Satan- means adversary or opponent.
 - C. The great dragon-a serpent; a dragon, with acute sight. Like one who looks to and fro seeking whom he devour.
 - D. Serpent of old-a snake; very sly and cunning; creeping; a swallower and a killer; very quiet in his method of death; malicious in nature.
4. What ultimately defeated the devil and his army according to v.10?
The crucifixion and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST.
5. How does THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB overcome all of the devil's accusations' against us?
- A. We are free from condemnation for those in CHRIST JESUS.
 - B. We are covered by THE BLOOD and that is what GOD sees, not our sins as we walk with GOD.
 - C. All our sins are forgiven; past, present, and future. The saints should not get down on themselves when they fall. Just get back up and not practice the sin again.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES FOR EVEN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING (ROMANS 8:31-34; ACTS 26:14-18; 1 JOHN 1:7-9)

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6. When attacked by guilt or shame (not conviction), how has it helped to realize that CHRIST' blood was shed for you? Answer- First of all lets read a few definitions for a better understanding of the question. Shame-disgrace; ashamed; painful feeling arising from our conscience of something dishonorable.

Guilt – is the state or fact of having committed an offense; a feeling of responsibility or remorse for an offense whether real or imagined.

- A. One thing to look at is that GOD can bring healing, even if there are consequences. Consequences are there to help us realize that whatever we did, it was not a wise move, to make a change, and that GOD will eventually bless our obedience and not keep us down.
- B. With healing comes the fulfilling of GOD's purpose in our lives and to live life and more abundantly.
- C. Knowing that CHRIST shed HIS blood for all, we need not worry about who is better than who because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of GOD. WE all fall short but if we humble ourselves, GOD will lift us up and just might surprise us.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES FOR A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: (ISAIAH 53:4-11; PSALM 51; ROMANS 8:1, 9:33)

7. What else is needed to overcome the devil in v.11 and why?
Our personal relationship with JESUS and what HE did in our lives. It is where GOD became real to us for the first time, our faith comes alive, and something powerful, beautiful, holy, and intimate enters our lives and wants nothing in return except our lives so HE can bless it and to communicate with us. TRUE love is impossible to defeat and that is what we have with our savior CHRIST JESUS and this is what the devil can never win against.

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8. In reference to v.11, if we love our lives too much, would we be Hesitant to testify about JESUS CHRIST facing opposition and why? Yes.
- A. Comfort can hinder us.
 - B. People might be too concerned about what they might lose or not gain.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES (Matt.10:39; Mark 8:34-38)

9. The world thinks martyred saints for their faith are defeated. Yet how Can their apparent defeat be seen as an ultimate victory?
- A. They are at peace with GOD.
 - B. The troubles of this world are gone forever. AMEN AND AMEN!
 - C. They have finished the race.
 - D. It is encouraging to others to see other saints standing for JESUS' name and for righteousness even to the death.
 - E. That believing in JESUS and living for HIM is worth the loss of our lives here on earth and to be with JESUS in Heaven.
10. Reflect on v.12 and explain why we should not be complacent about Our struggle with Satan.
- A. The battle is for our souls. We have not arrived yet (in Heaven) and we can still sin due to our free will and the devil tempting us and therefore lose our salvation.
 - B. The devil is going to give it his all knowing that he has a short time. He has nothing to lose. Kind of like a person who does not care about their life anymore but wants to hurt other people even if that persons' life is lost. Anything goes now.
 - C. This is a real war going on but spiritual
 - D. Our pride can consume us and we may have lots of time here on earth to let it blind us.
 - E. If GOD put this verse in The Bible then it would be to our benefit to heed this verse. If GOD says woe to us then it must be bad. We MUST take GOD seriously at HIS WORD.

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11. How can John's vision of the war in Heaven encourage you in the Midst of the spiritual battles you face?
- A. We know that GOD is ultimately victorious and the devil is definitely defeated.
 - B. Though we must still live this life and fight these battles, JESUS tells us to be of good cheer for HE has overcome the world(John 16:33).
 - C. Just stick to THE WORD OF GOD no matter what and we will be with GOD forever and we will be blessed even in the midst of the storm.

SUMMARY: Having just read through the Bible Study about Revelation 12:7-12, we catch a glimpse of what spiritual warfare looks like to GOD. Though we cannot see this war we do see the effects of it here on earth and this nobody can deny. The spread of sin and evil everybody can see and the solution to these problems seems to elude us UNLESS they have come to know CHRIST. Then the spiritual eyes are open and the answers seem clearer. Just stick to THE WORD OF GOD and be not deceived by this flesh, the world, and our arch enemy the devil who brings destruction wherever he goes. Notice how Heaven rejoiced when the devil and his angels were kicked out of Heaven and the earth was to experience woe when they were to arrive there. Like people who you don't want to be around because they are just bad news. As we see in these last days the devil is moving with wreck less abandonment because he knows he has a short time so we MUST be very careful now more than ever with desperation to walk CLOSE to JESUS. THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB HAS GIVEN US ULTIMATE VICTORY, but our testimony must follow it to reach the end of our DESTINY, even in the midst of persecution. Persecution will grow in these last days. Therefore, prayer, church, THE Word, fasting, fellowship, worship, obedience, faith, encouragement, holiness, true agape love, and evangelism are more important than ever. These aren't the 70's, the 80's, or the 90's. This is a new era. The last days are here and it's time we live like it and take our accuser seriously by taking GOD seriously. Tell somebody about JESUS, pray for the lost and ask GOD what you can do to spread THE WORD. He can use anybody if they are willing. THE LORD says the fields are white but the laborers are few. Tell them that JESUS bled for them willingly and wants to wipe the slate clean and start a new life. What a

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great thought it would be to press the restart button and do it GOD's way and be blessed. Tell them that today is the day of salvation for tomorrow is promised to no man. We MUST ask GOD for a heart that breaks for what breaks HIS and those are lost and hurting souls. Tell them that GOD LOVES them so much that HE GAVE HIS only SON for them so they would not have to go hell and what could be more important than that. Until the next Bible Study, GOD BLESS and take care.