

Protecting Our Identity

The Way We Usually Think:

Exodus 3-4:18

The Thief Is Smarter Than We Think:

John 8:31-48 John 10:10 1 Peter 5:5-9 1 Thessalonians 3:5

A lie believed as **truth** will affect us as if it were **true**.

- ✓ I'm not **good enough**.
- ✓ This is just the way **that I am**.
- ✓ I am what I **do**, or what I have **done**.
- ✓ I have to be **strong**.

The Owner Is More Powerful Than We Think:

Isaiah 25:4 & 40:30-31 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Ephesians 6:10

For God to be powerful, I need to be:

- ✓ **His**
- ✓ **Obedient**
- ✓ **Weak**

The Way Back Is Easier Than We Think:

Psalms 32 & 51 1 John 1:9 Romans 7-8

Food for Thought for the week of November 19, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Knowing our enemy and his schemes is a big part of the spiritual battle we all fight. As we learn more about the devil, we'll be better prepared to understand his schemes and be able to resist him. What do the following verses tell us about who the devil is and how he likes to operate?

John 8:44 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Isaiah 14:12-15 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!

You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!

¹³ You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to the heavens;

I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."

¹⁵ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit.

Acts 13:9-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"

1 Peter 5:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

What insight from these verses is most helpful to you in fighting the spiritual battle?

2. In John 15:1-8, Jesus uses a vineyard analogy to give us a great picture of what it means to stay connected to God because the power to live an abundant life comes from him. The challenge is to stay connected consistently.

John 15:1-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

The Vine and the Branches

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

What help do the following verses offer us for staying connected in our relationship with Jesus?

Psalm 139:23-24 *New International Version (NIV)*

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

James 4:17 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Matthew 5:23-24 *New International Version (NIV)*

²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Romans 12:18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

3. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, it's fitting to pause and remember all that we have to be thankful for. Read Psalm 118 and join the author in thanking God for who he is, what he has done, what he is doing and what he will do. The Apostle Paul also encourages this kind of prayer in Philippians 4:4-9. Check it out and give it a try.

Philippians 4:4-9 *New International Version (NIV)*

Final Exhortations

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.