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# The Spiritual Fight

## Victory Life Church — Pastor Jacob Sheriff

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Part 3 - "Truth and Lies" – Sunday May 15th, 2022

**Ephesians 6:10-12 (ESV)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the **schemes** of the devil. For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**John 8:44 (ESV)** You are of your father **the devil**, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was **a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in **the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**.

"The devil's strategy: deceitful ideas that play to disordered desires that are normalized in a sinful society."<sup>1</sup> ~ John Mark Comer

The Flesh: "the corruption that sin has introduced into our very appetites and instincts."<sup>2</sup> ~ Eugene Peterson

**1 John 4:1-6 (ESV)** Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is **the spirit of the antichrist**, which you heard was coming and **now is in the world already**. Little children, you are from God and **have overcome them**, for **he who is in you** is greater than he who is in the world. They are **from the world**; therefore they speak **from the world**, and **the world listens** to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know **the Spirit of truth** and **the spirit of error**.

**1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is

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<sup>1</sup> John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*

<sup>2</sup> Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, commemorative ed. (Downers Grove, IL InterVarsity, 2000), 113.

from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

**James 1:12-15 (ESV)** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

**John 8:31-34 (ESV)** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."

**John 17:15-18 (ESV)** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

**John 16:13-14 (ESV)** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.