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Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil

9. Chapter Five: Who Is the Devil?

This chapter surveys the many biblical names and titles for Satan to expose how he operates. It groups seventeen names into four categories — his drive to destroy, his perverted nature, his lust for control, and his mind games — then argues that his main way into a believer's life is through negligence and unsundered areas of the mind. It closes by insisting that a holy, consecrated life is the prerequisite for real spiritual warfare.

Key takeaways

- The devil gains entry mainly through a believer's negligence — an uncommitted, unrenewed 'loophole' in the mind.
- Destroyer: 'Abaddon' (Hebrew) and 'Apollyon' (Greek) both mean destroyer; his demons share that destructive bent.
- Perverted nature: Beelzebub ('lord of the dunghill/flies'), Belial ('worthless'), dragon/serpent, evil one, and murderer.
- Desire to control: 'prince of this world,' 'prince of demons,' and 'prince of the power of the air' show his ranked, organized kingdom.

- Mind manipulator: as adversary, roaring lion, angel of light, devil (diabolos — one who strikes until he breaks through), and Satan (to hate and accuse), he attacks chiefly through the mind.
- His roar is worse than his bite — the Cross stripped his powers; he only seeks those 'whom he may' devour: the weak in faith, ignorant of the Word, and isolated.
- Consecration comes before armor: Paul lists surrendered living (Eph. 4:25-31) before telling us to put on the armor. Yelling at the devil accomplishes nothing if the mind is ungirded.

Passages worth keeping

“The devil is not just passively opposed to the presence of righteousness... He is actively pursuing them and doing all within his power to wipe them out!”

Sums up why vigilance, not passivity, is required.

“A consecrated life is a prerequisite to real spiritual warfare.”

The chapter's practical thesis — holiness first, then the fight.

How it connects

The names are not trivia — each one names a tactic, so knowing them is itself a defense. The chapter ties directly into Ephesians 6: victory is not louder resistance but a surrendered mind clothed in God's armor.

Scripture referenced

- **Revelation 9:11** -- Abaddon/Apollyon — the destroyer
- **John 8:44** -- Satan a murderer from the beginning
- **1 Peter 5:8** -- adversary as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour
- **2 Corinthians 11:14** -- Satan transformed into an angel of light
- **Colossians 2:15** -- Christ stripped and openly triumphed over these powers
- **Ephesians 6:11-13** -- put on the whole armor of God and stand