

# Sifting

A Weapon of Spiritual Warfare

New Year: 2026

Introduction

Good morning y'all! If you joining with either Live In-Person or Online, please know we are so grateful for you!

The Week of Prayer & Fasting “ Holy Spirit, Come “ ~ He came for sure. Wow.

It was precious, powerful, and amazing.

- We met with God this week
- We encountered His Presence
- We felt and experienced in part His Power
- We were moved to tears, joy, and tenderness of heart
- We drew close to Him & He to us
- For many-the bible became real—God opened His word to our understanding
- The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit were in the House

Since before the pandemic—we had a very steady and larger number of church family and friends participating.

So, in light of the week of prayer I want to share something that is both burning in my heart and a working conviction to so called stoke the fire with fervency.

I am of the conviction that we are both living in the last days and settled that He is coming sooner than we can imagine. Now this is not a scare or fear tactic—I'm not accustomed to such nonsense.

I'm not about scaring us, I'm far more concerned about preparing us as the Bride waiting for her Groom.

Some of the subject matter of what and where I'm going with might sound counter to what many experienced during the week of prayer

Let's Pray...

Our Texts

Luke 22:31-32

**31** And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." NKJV

1 Peter 5:8

**8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. NKJV

I. Knowing Your Enemy (The Devil, his nature)

Isa. 14:12-17

DEVIL

(accuser) - the main title for the fallen angelic being who is the supreme enemy of God and man. Satan is his name, and devil is what he is-the accuser or deceiver. The title "devil" appears 35 times in the NKJV. In every case it is preceded by the article "the," indicating a title rather than a name. The term comes from a Greek word that means "a false witness" or "malicious accuser."

Several descriptive phrases applied to the devil in the New Testament point out

**The nature of his wicked personality and the extent of his evil deeds.**

**The Wicked or Evil One** (Matt 6:13; 13:19,38; 1 John 2:13). This phrase depicts the devil's fundamental nature. He is in direct opposition to everything God is or all he wishes to do. He is the source of all evil and wickedness. While the KJV reads, "Deliver us from evil," the NKJV more accurately reads, "Deliver us from the evil one." Humanity needs this deliverance, for the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

**Enemy** (Matt 13:25,28,39). The devil is man's worst enemy. He is an enemy of Christ, the church, and the gospel; and he is tireless in his efforts to uproot good and sow evil.

**Murderer** (John 8:44). "He was a murderer from the beginning" are strong words from the lips of Jesus. The devil killed Abel and the prophets, and he wanted to kill Jesus before His time (8:40).

**Deceiver** (Rev 20:10). Starting with Eve, the devil has attempted to deceive every living soul. Evil men operating under the power of the evil one will continue to deceive (2 Tim 3:13).

2 Cor 11:12-15 (Paul the Apostle)

**12** But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. **13** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. NKJV

**Beelzebub, Prince of Demons** (Matt 9:34; 12:24). The religious leaders of Jesus' time were guilty of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit because they claimed the miracles of Jesus were actually conducted by the devil. The KJV and some other versions incorrectly translate "demons" as "devils." There are many demons but only one devil. His name is Beelzebub, the chief leader of the fallen angels known as demons.

**Ruler of This World** (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). Three times Jesus called the devil the "ruler of this world." The devil offered the world to Jesus if He would worship him (Luke 4:5-7), but the Lord refused with these words, "Get behind me Satan" (4:8). At Calvary God dealt a death blow to this world ruler. It is only a matter of time before God will win the final victory at the end of time (1 John 3:8; Matt 25:41; Rev 12:7).

His ultimate Aim is to violate, kill & destroy, rob all and anything that is God's...

- Slanderer
- False Accuser
- Lier
- Deceiver, Master of Deception
- Full of malice
- Adversary of both God and God's people
- The god of Pride
- His Kingdom is the Kingdom of Darkness
- He hates anything and everything that is God's

Tools He Uses.

- His very fallen nature are his tools

II. Our Weapons of Warfare

Eph 6:12-13

**12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

NKJV

· The Power & Promise of His Word

Heb 4:12-13

**12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

NKJV

Stand Strong

1 Peter 5:9-11

**9** Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. **10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. **11** To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

NKJV

Stay in the Race

1 Cor 9:24-27

**Striving for a Crown**

**24** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. **25** And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. **26** Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. **27** But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

NKJV

Power Statement

Don't Give Up!

Don't Give In!

Don't Stop Pressing In

Deny the World, Flesh, and The

Devil Lordship Access

In Your Life!

The Name of Jesus

Phil 2:9-11

**9** Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,

**10** That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**11** And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. AMP

Please Stand... Closing

Allow me to Read... this text over you!

Rev 1:12-18 **Jesus, The Lamb of God...**

This Who Serve, This is our defender,

This is the One who Deserves

Our Worship, Our Life

Rev 1:12-18

**12** When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. **13** And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. **14** His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. **15** His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. **16** He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.

**17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. **18** I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave. New Living

Translation