

STEAL, KILL & DESTROY

A Guide for Today's Christian on How to Disarm the
Adversary

Written By:
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All Scripture quotations are derived from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the bible unless otherwise noted.

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CHAPTER 1 | KNOW YOUR ENEMY

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

(Sun Tzu).



here is an unholy trinity and together they are responsible for most of our daily struggles. Nathan Finochio, a teaching pastor at Hillsong NYC, writes on how this trio impedes the Christian’s ability to hear God in his book *Hearing God* (Finochio, 2019). Likewise, Chip Ingram, Pastor and CEO of Living on the Edge, a discipleship ministry, touches on it in many of his teaching series. What I like about

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Chip's teachings is that they are very practical and he communicates well on how to apply his teachings to your own life. However, when I speak of this trio, my aim is not to contradict their teaching, but to apply what I have learned so far. I will draw from their teachings, which I use as a supplement to God's word and never as a replacement. God's word is the primary source of information for this book.

The first party to this trinity is the **world** in which we live. Yes, you read that right, the world. You might say to me, "Loribel, what do you mean the world? God created the earth and everything in it. God also said it was *all good!* Did you skip that part in the great book?"

My response to your keen observations is this, yes, the world *was* good but not anymore. Now it is a byproduct of the enemy's reign over it. I will go over the enemy's tactics and what the world's role is in his plan for you later on in this book. First, I want to shed some background on what I am talking about and what we are up against. For some of you, this may seem elementary, but I gear this book towards a wide audience so let us be patient as I lay the groundwork.

God gave Adam dominion over the earth and everything in it. Adam signed over his rights to this world when he chose sin over

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righteousness. Jesus took back dominion when He laid His life down on the Cross and rose from the dead on the third day. However, prior to His victorious ascension into the heavens before He took up the Cross, and just before He started His ministry, Jesus also faced temptation by the devil. The manner in which the devil tempted Jesus is the same way he tempted Eve, and it is also how he tempts us today.

Google™ defines temptation as “the desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise” (Temptation). Therefore, in order for something to be a temptation to you, you must first have a desire for it. Otherwise, it’s not a temptation. Therefore, in his efforts to get Jesus off His divine assignment, Satan took Him up to a very high place. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and offered them to Him. Who was Jesus here to save? The world—that is why it was a true temptation. Matthew describes it in Matthew 4:8-9 (NKJV):

8 Again the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

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The devil cannot offer what he does not have and the world, at the time, was his. Jesus came to save the world and so when Satan offered Jesus the world, it was a true temptation. But there is a catch! There is always a catch. I am referring to the whole worshipping Satan part—yes, that catch. That would be the “unwise” aspect of the temptation previously defined. The devil half-offered what Jesus would eventually get on His own through obedience to the Father. Satan offers shortcuts and all the glory without the process for the low, low price of rebellion. All Jesus has to do in exchange is rebel against the Father, ignore God’s word, and worship Satan.

However, Jesus cannot ignore that which He already is! He is the Word made flesh. It was only when Jesus spoke a rhema word to the devil that the devil is disarmed. After, the testing there is always a time for refreshing. Jesus is refreshed and ready for His ministry. Jesus, concludes his earthly assignment by overcoming the world and all of its troubles. John 16:33 (NKJV) confirms it. If the world were not an adversary, then what would there be to overcome?

Next in this unholy trinity is the **flesh**. Yes, the flesh that houses your soul and spirit is an enemy. The Word reads in Romans 8:7 (NKJV) that “*the carnal mind is **enmity** against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*” The flesh is self-pleasing, self-fulfilling, and is after

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its own desires. It is not interested in the things of God.

Do you think it's the enemy that suddenly makes you sleepy when you open up the Bible? There is no mistake—that is the flesh and not the enemy. He is not that powerful. Do you know the level of effort it would take for the devil who is not omnipotent (all powerful), not omniscient (all knowing), and definitely not omnipresent (to be everywhere at once), to attack you every time you open the Bible? No matter how supernatural he may be, he does not have that ability.

Trust me when I tell you, it is not him. It's your flesh—that same flesh that will let you binge on Netflix™ for hours past midnight on a work night —*and* somehow you miraculously make it to work on time the next day —will cause you to feel more tired at 7pm when you open up your Word to read it. Why is that? Because the flesh naturally opposes the things of God. That is why Paul, in the book of Galatians, lets us know what walking in the flesh looks like versus walking in the Spirit: so, we can discern for ourselves in which spirit we are walking in. Let's look at Galatians chapter 5 verses 16-21 (NKJV).

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

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17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Wait, so you are telling me that the devil did not cause me step out of my marriage (adultery)? The devil did not drive me to have sex before marriage (fornication)? The devil did not force me to cuss out that driver who cut me off on the expressway (outbursts of wrath)? No—he did not. It was your flesh.

I have had many outbursts of wrath—in those moments, I was not walking in the Spirit of

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God at all. I was in the flesh. Especially if I felt as if I was being treated unfairly or when I witnessed some injustice. That is when my skin would boil. Outbursts of this type are not of the Spirit. It is not the same as the righteous anger that Jesus speaks about. There is no edification in this anger nor does it provoke positive outcomes for anyone. If left untreated, it can bring with it sorrow and destruction. I recall that during my final months as a child protective investigator (CPI), I experienced more and more of these outbursts. The last outburst left me so deflated.

I remember it like it was yesterday. The grace for me to continue in the role of a CPI was seemingly lifted and I found everything about the job irritating, especially when I did not feel supported. I felt that we, the advocates of the most vulnerable population in the community we served, needed advocates of our own. It also seemed to me that the sense of urgency for the work we did was not visible in the works of others across the board. I began to experience feelings of anger, disappointment, and resentment, which made me short and irritable all the time. Most of all, I felt drained with almost zero energy to focus on the things that were more important. All of this because I shifted my focus off God and His design for me and onto imperfect beings no better than I was. To top it off, I put a high expectation on them, which only led to more disappointment. It was a vicious cycle.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Loribel Maldonado was born in Rio Piedras Puerto Rico in 1979. She is the youngest of five girls that were raised by a single mother. During the mid-80's Loribel's family moved to New York City from Puerto Rico. Loribel holds a master's degree in English Literature and she teaches English at a private Christian school. She is a third-year student of Theology at Faith Christian University and expects to graduate in 2020.

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RECOMMENDED READINGS:

1. The Holy Bible
2. The Invisible War by Chip Ingram
3. Revelation Bible Study by Mark Correll
available only via his website
www.markcorell.com
4. Ephesians: Our Blueprint for Maturity by Bob Yandian
5. Growing up Spiritually by Kenneth E. Hagin
6. Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer
7. The Attributes of God Volumes 1 & 2 by A.W. Tozer
8. Sit, Walk, Stand by Watchman Nee
9. The Believers Authority by Kenneth E. Hagin
10. Bible Prayer Study Course by Kenneth E. Hagin
11. Ever Increasing Faith by Smith Wigglesworth
12. Obedience in Finances by Kenneth E. Hagin
13. The Character of God's Workman by Watchman Nee
14. Changed into His Likeness by Watchman Nee
15. Blessing or Curse: You Can Choose by Derek Prince
16. Hearing God: Eliminate Myths. Encounter Meaning by Nathan Finochio
17. Overcoming Emotions that Destroy by Chip Ingram
18. Destroying the Spirit of Rejection by John Eckhardt
19. Pulling Down Strongholds by Derek Prince
20. Unmasking the Devil by John Ramirez

