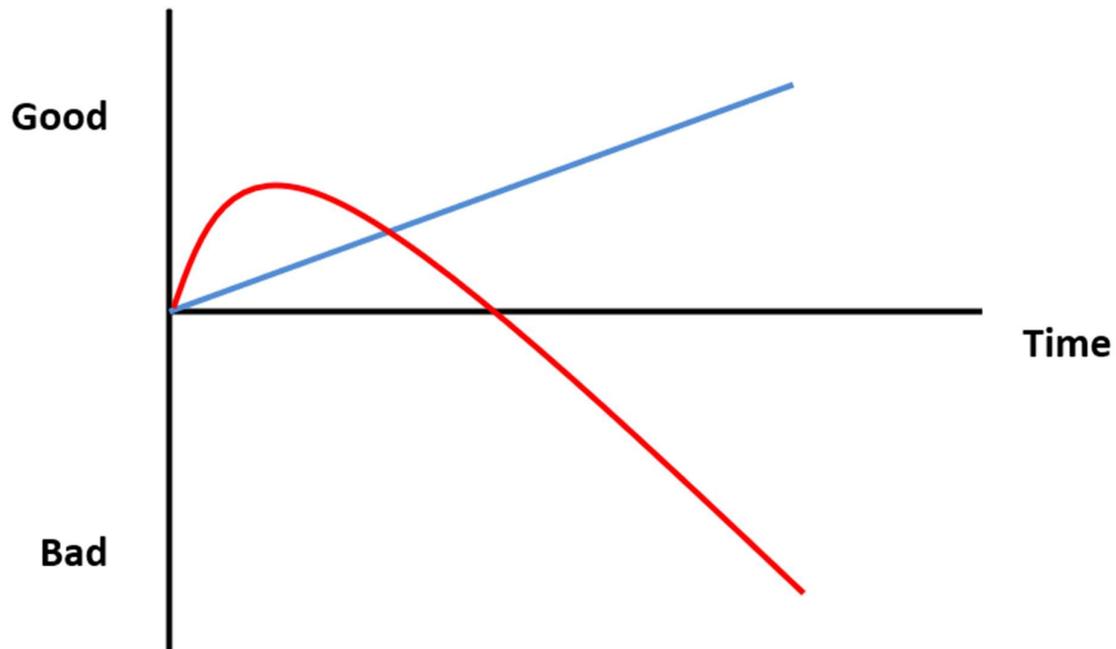


Useful picture to understand the spiritual warfare and how to resist the attack.



Jesus said in **John 8**: *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. is also called a liar and deceiver.*

Examples where the Satan's lies (sin) initially looks like better option:

- Eve,
- Jesus
- Every time we choose to do the opposite of God's instruction, it initially looks like a good plan. The short term benefit is good. Think of it.
 - o Alcohol
 - o An affair
 - o To steal
 - o Tell a lie to get out of trouble

Our life is made up of many decisions. All the time. Some people life end up in mess, result of a serious of wrong decisions. Other people – good life.

There is a spiritual force, who wants to draw us down, and we need to take authority. There is a battle and we need to win.

Eph6:2 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

We can see Satan's strategy in **Genesis 3:1-6**. First he said: "Did God really say", and then he opposes the Word of God with "certainly not...." Then he gives the ultimate temptation: "you will be like God...."

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

The encounter with Adam and Eve, was an important victory, because sin came into the world. It became part of humans. The bible talks about our sinful nature. Satan did not retire after that day:

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

He certainly not retired, and his agenda remains to devour you.

5 Things you can do to resist the attack:

1. Know the Bible (Word of God)

Temptation of Jesus in **Luke 4** we see how Jesus used scripture reference to answer Satan.

Question to you:

- Do you know the bible well enough to enter into a debate with Satan, as Jesus did?
- How often do you quote scripture when you must make a decision?

Let's use business, money and possessions as an example. Do you know that there are 2350 verses in the bible dealing with the topic of money, possessions and business? Randy Alcorn counted them. In his book Money, Possessions and Eternity he quotes more than 1000 verses. When you spend your money, do you look at media and advertisements, or do you think of all the scriptures about being content, caring for the poor, invest in heavenly causes, not coveting our neighbours house, or car, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

You must study all topics – family, children, relationships etc.

We must all have the attitude as described in **Deut6:6-9** *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Read the Bible and study it intentionally. Best advice is to use different colours to mark certain topics. I use:

- Green – all instructions and commands. Things that we must do.
- Red (pink) – all reference to sin, things we must not do.
- Orange – all promises
- Blue – all about God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Worship.

2. Rely on Holy Spirit

One of the gifts of HS in 1 Cor 12 is **distinguishing between spirits**

We read that Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was able to overcome the temptation of the Satan.

The problem is that Satan camouflage himself well. Sometimes the temptation come from a source you least expect it. Couple of examples from Bible:

- **Matt16:21-23** From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" 23Jesus turned and said to Peter, "*Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.*"

- **Acts 16:16-18**

*16Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "**These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.**" 18She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.*

19When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.

- **2 Cor 11:3 & 13-15** Angels of light, false prophets

3But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.talks about false apostles

*13For such people are **false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.** 14And no wonder, for **Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.** 15It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

Our real danger is not the bad guys, but the seemingly good person, those who preach in churches, write books, but are false prophets.

Be very careful to who you listen to, and what you read. Rely on the Holy Spirit to warn you if there is a deceitful spirit. Talk to your leaders, get advice.

3. Think. Ask yourself where this will end.

Remember that sin starts good, but end bad. So ask yourself where this will end in a couple of years or in eternity.

4. Grey area – pray

Many things are not so straight forward. It is not clear what the right answer is, for example:

- how much time should I spend at the office vs at home or church (think of parable of the Sower).
- How should I spend my money
- How hard should we encourage our children to perform
- How much alcohol can I consume.

These topics must be laid down before God in prayer.

5. Have faith

Faith is to believe what we cannot see. Sometimes we cannot see the benefit, but we have to do it in faith. Examples:

- Tithing
- Forgiving someone
- Being baptised.

In closing:

1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, **firm in your faith**, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.