



## Overcoming the Accuser

**Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)** For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- Satan is the ACCUSER who attacks your HEART with accusations.

### The Accuser...

**Revelation 12:10 (NIV)** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."

- **Before you sin:** It's no big deal. No one will find out. Everyone does it. You deserve it. It's only once. I won't get caught.
- **After you sin:** You are nothing. How could God love you? You are ruined. You are pathetic.

**Zechariah 3:1-3 (NLT)** 1 Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, "I, the Lord, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire." 3 Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel.

- Filthy clothes represented sin and guilt.

### The Advocate...

Reminder who Jesus is..

- The Devil is the accuser.
- Jesus is your ADVOCATE.

**1 John 2:1 (NLT)** My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

**Zechariah 3:4 (NLT)** So the angel said to the others standing there, "Take off his filthy clothes." And turning to Jeshua he said, "See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes."

- Not because you are GOOD. This is how GOOD God is.

**Zechariah 3:5-7 (NLT)** 5 Then I said, "They should also place a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean priestly turban on his head and dressed him in new clothes while the angel of the Lord stood by. 6 Then the angel of the Lord spoke very solemnly to Jeshua and said, 7 "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: If you follow my ways and carefully serve me, then you will be given authority over my Temple and its courtyards. I will let you walk among these others standing here."

**It's important to learn how to distinguish between Satan's accusations and the Spirit's conviction.**

ACCUSATIONS drive us away from God and they use guilt, shame, regret and remorse.

CONVICTIONS lead us to God, to repentance and hope. We sense His presence and experience grace.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)** 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

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## scriptures that relate

Monday: Zechariah 1-2	Wednesday: Zechariah 5-6	Friday: Zechariah 9-10
Tuesday: Zechariah 3-4	Thursday: Zechariah 7-8	Saturday: Zechariah 11-12

## small groups—talk it over

1. What are some examples of accusations you hear in your mind? Give an example of how it affects you.
2. Talk about the difference you've experienced between Satan's accusations and the Holy Spirit's conviction.
3. What biblical truth do you need to memorize to destroy the regular accusations you hear?
4. Share a story about sensing Jesus as your advocate.

## pastor jamie's prayer requests

**Monday:** Pray that we can all resemble Christ more today than we did yesterday.

**Tuesday:** Pray for the physical health of our students, parents and our church congregation.

**Wednesday:** Pray for our Wednesday night activities, CKS, Youth and Crossing University.

**Thursday:** Please pray for our schools. Pray for the teachers, administration and leadership.

**Friday:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the decisions our students make on a daily basis.

**Saturday:** Pray the students make a decision of faith and share it with a friend(s).

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