

(CA2) EMAPW 5 - Pornography: Was I Under Demonic Attack? Part 1 – Who is Satan?

Theme music

FOSTER: One day Sam noticed the cover of one of his wife’s romance novel books. The woman was sexy and her eyes leapt from the cover and locked with his. He opened the book to a random page and it *just happened* to describe a sexual scene between this woman and some muscle-filled guy. Sam was hooked, and read the entire book...and every romance novel book his wife brought home after that. That was ten years ago. Sam wants to quit because, as a Christian, he knows lust is wrong. But when he sees the next book, he feels a war going on inside him between following Christ and lusting over the women in those pages. Is Sam just weak or is he in a spiritual battle?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. Sam is in a spiritual battle—a war. As a Christian, Satan doesn’t want Sam or you or I to overcome lusting or using pornography. Today, as we continue our series on men and pornography, we’re going to look at who Satan is and what part he plays in our pornography and lust. Parents, be advised that this discussion will involve sexual issues and be inappropriate for children. So please act accordingly and we’ll begin our conversation when we return to Champions Arise

Music Theme in

FOSTER: Kent, Sam’s story is interesting to me because many would not call romance novels pornography.

KENT: No they wouldn’t. And we don’t have time for that discussion here, but the more important thing is the impact the book had on Sam. For him, it stimulated lust that Christ says is equivalent to adultery in his heart.

FOSTER: I also find it beyond coincidence that when he opened the book, it just happened to open to a sensual scene.

KENT: Satan and his demons know exactly where and how to tempt us to succumb to sin. They can’t make us fall, but they can create the conditions where we choose to sin.

FOSTER: Kent, how do you respond to the listener who says, “I believe in God, but I just don’t think there is an all evil being who influences us to sin.”

KENT: I'd say for them to read their Bible. In the Old testament, Job chapter 1 verse 6 says, *"One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. 7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."*

FOSTER: Job would tell you that Satan was very real.

KENT: Yes. You get a vivid picture of the character of Satan in the first two chapters of Job. In the New Testament, Jesus speaks of Satan often.

When talking to the religious leaders Jesus said *"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. 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.."*

FOSTER: So Satan is a murderer, has no truth in him, and always lies.

KENT: And he is doomed to Hell eternally. Jesus was very clear about this. When Jesus was talking about the sheep and the goats, for those who pretend to be Christians Jesus said, "he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

FOSTER: Basically, Jesus is saying Satan and Hell are true.

KENT: That's right.

FOSTER: Ok. In a minute, I want to look at how that truth impacts men, but first I want to remind our listeners that this is Champions Arise. A program by men, for men who want to deepen their walk with Jesus Christ. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Today we're continuing our Men and Pornography series by looking at one cause of our temptations—Satan. And though our focus is Satanic influence, sexual issues still may come up so parents, please be advised. Kent, I want to clarify something before we move on. Are there different names for Satan?

KENT: Yes, I'm glad you brought that up. The Bible describes Satan in a number of ways. In the Garden of Eden Satan was the Serpent. In Job he was called Satan. Other names include Lucifer, the father of lies, the devil, the adversary—which is what Satan means, the God of this world, and others. But regardless of what name you use, he hates us.

FOSTER: Hates us.

KENT: Yes. 1 Peter 5 verse 8 says, *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

FOSTER: There’s no mercy in those words.

KENT: No. And I encourage our listeners to read Job chapters 1 and 2. You’ll see how he treated Job. And no one is exempt. Matthew chapter 4 describes how Satan even tried to tempt Jesus.

FOSTER: So if Satan tried to tempt Jesus to sin, why would we think he wouldn’t try to make us succumb to sin?

KENT: Exactly. And in the context of men and pornography this is very important to understand. Because Revelation 12:17 tells us that Satan has declared war on all those who love Jesus and want to obey his commandments.

FOSTER: Using those fiery darts Paul talked about in Ephesians 6 verse 16.

KENT: Yes. And those fiery darts are made specifically for each one of us. For Sam, who you talked about earlier, a sexy woman on a book cover was the fiery dart Satan used. He knew that specific cover and the specific page Sam opened to would be a strong temptation.

FOSTER: I guess the question we need to ask is, what is the temptation, the fiery dart, that works on us?

KENT: Yes. Is it nude women? Is it magazines, or the women on a certain TV show? Are there women (old girlfriends maybe) who you fantasize about in your mind? Do you lust over a neighbor or coworker? Maybe you’re lusting over men. Whatever it is, Satan knows it. And he is either waiting to tempt you at a time and place that you’re most likely to fail. Or he has already found the dart and uses it regularly to tempt you to sin.

FOSTER: The thing is for us not to take the bait—to fall for the temptation.

KENT: Yes

FOSTER: That sounds easy, but war never is. How are we supposed to quench those temptations?

KENT: Paul gives us the answer in Ephesians 6:10-17. I’m going to read all of these verses because they give us the tools to overcome the spiritual warfare.

FOSTER: Sounds good.

KENT: Ephesians 6:10-17. This is the heart of our battle plan to overcome the lust and pornography temptations Satan throws at us.
Starting in verse 10.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

FOSTER: We really are in a spiritual war, aren't we?

KENT: yes, Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2 verse 12, *“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.”*

That reminds me of the rest of the story about Sam. He was in that war for many years. He just couldn't stop looking at his wife's romance novels. He felt drained by the energy it took to not look, and he'd feel horrible when he'd grab the latest book and lustfully read it—sometimes in bed next to his sleeping wife. One day he couldn't take it anymore and he remembered Psalm 18:6 which says, *“In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help.”* And he cried out to God for help.

FOSTER: And what happened?

KENT: God reminded Sam of scriptures that spoke about our union with Christ and how, as a result, we have power over the evil one and his fellow demons.

FOSTER: That's very encouraging

KENT: And I hope for the man listening who is maybe discouraged, because he's tried and tried and still succumbs to the lust or pornography, that you don't give up. Remember, 1 Corinthians 10 verse 13 says,

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."

Just because you haven't taken the escape every time, doesn't mean the scripture is not true. It is. Try again and again. Cry out to God and see that He is faithful.

FOSTER: Good advice Kent. But our time is running short, could you give us a review of what we've discussed today.

KENT: Sure. Today we looked at how spiritual warfare can impact our battle with lust and pornography. First we discussed the fact that Satan is a real being, created by God, but fallen. And his goal is to keep mankind from seeking after God, and after we die, being with God in Heaven. We talked about scripture describing him as a roaring lion seeking people to destroy. We also discussed how Satan knows exactly what temptations to put in front of us. They are specifically designed to attack our areas of greatest weakness. That's the bad news.

The Good news is Ephesians 6 tells us how, by putting on the whole armor of God, we can quench or put out the fiery darts before they cause damage—basically we can avoid the temptation to sin.

And we're going to continue this conversation on spiritual warfare next time by looking at ways we make ourselves vulnerable to Satan's attacks.

FOSTER: I look forward to that discussion. My friend, we hope this conversation has been an encouragement to you. Hold fast to the Lord. He will never let you down. We'll be right back.

Program Close

FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we explored how spiritual warfare is a factor in the struggle men have with lust and pornography. You can listen to any of these programs in this series on our website championsarise.org.

I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. I hope you'll join us as we continue our discussion on men and pornography in our next program. Until then, thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

Closing ID

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