

OVERCOME THE WEBS OF THE ENEMY

An Effective Bible Teaching on Discernment, Self-Control, and Freedom

Surefooted Ministries | Teaching and Prayer Focus

Teaching Purpose

To help believers recognize patterns that can lead to spiritual and personal entanglement—especially careless use of electronic devices—and respond with alertness, repentance, practical boundaries, wise speech, and confidence in God’s ability to deliver.

Theme and Foundational Scriptures

Theme: Overcome the webs of the enemy!

Luke 6:39 (AMP) — “Can a blind [man] guide and direct a blind [man]? Will they not both stumble into a ditch or a hole in the ground?”

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV) — “lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

Proverbs 28:13 — The one who confesses and forsakes sin obtains mercy.

Jeremiah 32:27 — “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”

Central truth: We are better prepared to help others escape harmful patterns when we are willing to examine our own lives, recognize danger early, and take practical steps toward freedom.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the spider-web picture as an illustration of gradual entanglement.
- Recognize a possible progression from tiredness or carelessness to temptation and deeper involvement.
- Apply Scripture through confession, repentance, accountability, and practical boundaries.
- Practice guarding speech and responding to frustration without feeding quarrels or harmful thought patterns.
- Pray for others with compassion, hope, and a commitment to personal integrity.

1. Begin with Our Own Walk

Read Luke 6:39–42. Jesus warns about attempting to guide another person while failing to recognize what needs attention in our own lives. The first step is not accusation; it is honest self-examination.

Teaching point: If we are not overcoming, we cannot effectively help others overcome. This does not mean a believer must be perfect before helping someone. It means we should remain teachable, truthful, and willing to address our own struggles.

Ask the group: What is the difference between helping someone with humility and judging someone while ignoring our own blind spots?

2. Understand the Web: Entanglement Can Develop Gradually

The source material uses a spider's web as a picture of a trap. A person may not intend to become entangled; the danger can grow through small choices that seem harmless at first.

The research notes describe stages in web construction: guying lines, a framework, spokes, a temporary spiral, and a sticky spiral. Use these stages as an illustration—not as a direct biblical formula—of how repeated small steps can create a pattern that is difficult to leave.

1. An opening: tiredness, discouragement, boredom, or lowered alertness.
2. A first step: casually scrolling without a clear purpose or boundary.
3. An attraction: pausing over content that appeals to an old habit or unhealthy desire.
4. Repetition: continuing to view, click, or return to the same kind of content.
5. Entanglement: the pattern begins to affect choices, thoughts, time, relationships, or spiritual focus.

1 Peter 1:14 — “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance...”

James 1:13–16 (TEV) — Temptation draws a person away through desire; desire gives birth to sin, and sin, when full-grown, gives birth to death.

Explain carefully: temptation is not the same as surrendering to temptation. The purpose of recognizing the progression is to stop early, not to shame someone for being tempted.

3. Electronic Devices Require Wise Boundaries

Computers, phones, tablets, and other devices can be useful tools. The concern in this teaching is careless use that exposes a person to content or habits they are trying to leave behind.

Practical warning signs may include browsing without a goal, returning to harmful content, hiding activity, ignoring responsibilities, or noticing old patterns becoming active again.

Practical steps to interrupt the pattern

6. Choose a clear, worthwhile purpose before opening a device.
7. If you are tired, discouraged, or emotionally overwhelmed, consider turning the device off and resting.
8. Keep devices out of the bedroom or away from the bed when nighttime use increases temptation.
9. Delete or block apps, accounts, or sites that repeatedly lead you toward harmful content.
10. Notice warning signs early and change your activity immediately.
11. Ask a trusted, mature person to provide accountability and support.
12. Rely on the Holy Spirit and actively renew your mind with God's Word.

Discussion: Which boundary would be most useful for someone who repeatedly gets drawn into unhelpful online activity? What makes that boundary realistic?

4. There Is Hope, Mercy, and a Way Back

Jeremiah 32:27 — “Is there anything too hard for Me?”

Proverbs 28:13 — “He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sins will obtain mercy.”

Do not present entanglement as hopeless. The biblical response is to acknowledge what is happening, confess honestly, forsake the harmful practice, and seek God’s help. In many situations, practical support and accountability are also important.

A simple response plan:

13. Stop the activity or leave the situation.
14. Tell the truth about what is happening; do not hide or excuse it.
15. Confess and turn away from the behavior.
16. Remove access or triggers where possible.
17. Contact a trusted accountability partner.
18. Replace the old pattern with a constructive action rooted in Scripture.

5. Guard Your Speech and Responses

The second part of the source material asks believers to consider how speech and outward reactions can reveal what is troubling them. Examples include repeated negative statements, angry outbursts, slamming doors, or walking away in anger.

The sound biblical application is to guard our words, avoid feeding quarrels, and respond thoughtfully. The notes also express the author’s belief that the enemy may use information about our concerns. Present that as the source author’s perspective, rather than as a claim directly established by the cited verses. Scripture clearly supports wise speech and discretion; it does not require believers to become fearful that every ordinary statement will be used against them.

Proverbs 26:20 (RSV) — “For lack of wood the fire goes out; and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.”

Psalms 19:14 (NKJV) — “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Psalms 39:1 (RSV) — “I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will bridle my mouth...”

Proverbs 21:23 (AMP) — “He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from troubles.”

Teach the difference between discretion and fear: We do not need to announce every private plan or express every frustration aloud. At the same time, we should speak honestly with trusted people when we need help, counsel, protection, or prayer. Silence should never be used to conceal abuse or prevent someone from seeking appropriate support.

Replace reactive speech with purposeful speech

- Instead of “That worries me,” name the concern and identify a constructive next step.
- Instead of “I have no patience with that person,” pause and ask God for wisdom before responding.
- Instead of repeatedly saying “I am useless,” speak truthfully about the difficulty while remembering your worth and responsibilities before God.
- When angry, delay the conversation until you can speak with self-control.
- Keep sensitive plans private when discretion is wise, but share them with the people who need the information.

6. Do Not Be Ignorant of the Enemy’s Devices

2 Corinthians 2:10–11 (NKJV) — Paul connects the warning about Satan taking advantage with forgiveness and the life of the church. The passage encourages believers not to be unaware of destructive schemes.

Context matters: 2 Corinthians 2:10–11 is specifically connected to forgiveness and the danger of Satan gaining an advantage in the church community. Apply the wider principle with care: division, unforgiveness, temptation, and unwise choices can damage believers and relationships. The response is spiritual discernment, obedience, forgiveness, and wise action—not fear or speculation.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) — “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Key emphasis: Christ’s freedom calls for a deliberate response. Do not return casually to patterns from which God has helped you escape.

7. Prayer Focus: Helping Others Escape

Use this section when praying for believers who may be struggling with harmful online patterns, recurring temptations, negative speech, or other forms of entanglement.

- Pray for alertness to recognize the pattern early.
- Pray for courage to confess, repent, and forsake what is harmful.
- Pray for renewed thinking and strength to establish practical boundaries.
- Pray for wise, trustworthy accountability and supportive Christian relationships.
- Pray for freedom from shame and for confidence in God’s mercy and power to help.
- Pray for humility in those who counsel others, remembering Luke 6:39–42.

Sample prayer:

Father, give us wisdom and alertness to recognize harmful patterns before they grow stronger. Help us to be honest, to confess and forsake what is wrong, and to receive Your mercy. Renew our minds through Your Word and the work of the Holy Spirit. Manifest in us self-control in our use of technology and in our speech. Lead us to trustworthy people who can help us walk in freedom. Make us humble and compassionate as we help others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Review Questions

19. Why does Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:39–42 call us to examine ourselves before guiding others?
20. How does the spider-web illustration help explain gradual entanglement?
21. Name two early warning signs that someone's device use is becoming harmful.
22. What practical steps can interrupt the progression toward entanglement?
23. According to Proverbs 28:13, what two responses are connected with receiving mercy?
24. How do Proverbs 26:20 and Proverbs 21:23 guide our speech?
25. What is the difference between wise discretion and fearful secrecy?
26. How can we help someone who is struggling without shaming or condemning them?

Personal Application

Complete these sentences privately or discuss them with a trusted accountability partner:

- One pattern I need to watch for is...
- One boundary I can put in place this week is...
- When I notice an early warning sign, I will...
- One person I can ask for wise accountability is...
- One Scripture I will remember when tempted or discouraged is...

Closing Summary

The enemy's webs are a picture of traps and patterns that can draw a person into bondage. Entanglement may grow through repeated choices, but it can be interrupted. Be alert, guard your mind and speech, set wise boundaries, confess and forsake sin, seek accountability, and rely on God's help. The aim is not fear; it is freedom, maturity, and the ability to help others walk wisely.

Source Notes

Prepared from the supplied documents "Overcome the webs of the enemy prayer focus" and "Overcome the webs of the enemy Scriptures and research." The spider-web information cites Wisdom Booklet 10:382 (3), noted in the supplied material as used with permission. Scripture wording and translations follow the supplied notes where quoted; consult the named Bible translation for full context.

[Click here.](#) **Overcome the webs of the enemy prayer focus**

[Click here.](#) **Lasting Results Session 2 Part 6 How the Enemy Operates!**

[Click here.](#) **How can we keep our way pure?**

