1 - **To Be Victorious… We have to know the schemes of our enemy**1 Corinthians 15:54-57

2 - **What are his schemes?**

* They are not random or haphazard.
* 2 Corinthians 2:11 refers to his “***schemes***” and Ephesians 6:11 his **methods** that he uses in “the craft of deceit”. Lit., well thought out & deceitful tactics.
* General approach: **change the way we think.** (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) How is he doing today?
* What are his tactics?

3 – **Discouragement**

* Through suffering and persecution - (1 Peter 1:6-7; 2:20; 4:16; Job 1:7-12; 2:3-10; cf., Matt. 13:20-21; Gal. 6:12)
* Attempted in Nehemiah’s days through accusations. (Nehemiah 4:5; 6:9; Ezra 4:4)
* Dealt with by Paul through brethren who needed to repent. (2 Cor. 2:7; 7:6-7)

4 – **Discouragement**

* Through the prevalence of wickedness. (2 Peter 2:7-8; Matthew 24:12)
* Through our own failings & sin. (Romans 7)

5 - **How to Overcome Discouragement**

How do we overcome?

* **Our fellowship together**. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
* **Being filled with God’s word**. (Romans 15:4; Acts 20:32)
* **Keep focused on the goal**. (1 Thessalonians 4:18-18)

6 - **Doubt**

* **What God says** (Genesis 3:1-5) and that it isn’t understandable. (Ephesians 3:3-5; 5:17)
* That God will **answer our prayers**. (James 1:5-7)
* That **we can trust God**. (2 Kings 18:17ff; cf., Hebrews 13:5-6)

7 – **Doubt**

* That **God’s wisdom is to be relied upon**. (1 Corinthians 1:18ff; Jeremiah 6:16)
* **That there will ever be any accountability** and divine **judgment**. (2 Peter 3:3-4)
* **Walk by sight and not by faith**. (Numbers 13:31; Matthew 14:31)

8 – **Doubt**

* **About God’s promises** (2 Peter 3:3-5) and the **reality of heaven**. (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).
* **About who God, the Son and the Holy Spirit are**. (Matthew 11:3; 16:13ff)

9 - **How To Overcome Doubt**

* **Build up our most holy faith**! (Jude 20; 2 Peter 3:18; Luke 17:5-10; Romans 10:17)
* **Continually look to the evidence** (1 Peter 3:15; Matthew 11:2-5) and “***continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of***” (2 Tim. 3:14-15; 1:12)

10 – **How To Overcome Doubt**

* **Keep pressing on** and forget what lies behind. (Philippians 3:12-14)
* **Pray continually, rejoice and be thankful**! (1 Peter 5:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6-7)

11 - **All of Satan’s schemes… 1 John 2:15-16**

To be victorious…

1. **Sow to the spirit and not the flesh. (Think Paul)**(Galatians 6:6-9; Titus 2:11-13)
2. **Focus on our spiritual vision. (Think Moses)**
(Ephesians 1:18-19; Hebrews 12:1-2)
3. **Follow in Jesus’ steps. (Think Nehemiah)**(John 13:5-15; Philippians 2:3-5)