



# How to Recognize and Resist the Enemy's DARTS

## **DARTS** are:

**Destructive:** sent to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). They push us away from God's perfect will and cause us to question our God-given desires or reservations. *You'll offend your neighbor if you invite her to Bible study.*

**Accusing:** condemning. These thoughts may begin with "if," as when Satan tempted Jesus. "If you are the Son of God . . ." Satan misused Scripture with Jesus, and he twists verses with us (Matt. 4:1-11). When Scripture oppresses you or causes you to doubt your standing with God, recognize your enemy. *If you were a good Christian . . .*

**Rule-oriented:** relying on standards of righteousness instead of on Christ's righteousness. Must obey to prove your faith or identity. If we don't obey these human rules, our thoughts punish us. *Good Christians are self-sacrificing. How can I say no to this need?*

**Tempting:** offering ways to meet our needs apart from God. To be self-sufficient. *People will respect you if . . . Hurry or you'll miss out.*

**Slanderous:** maligning the character of God, other people, or yourself. *God doesn't care about you. Or, Your friend is so selfish.*

## **JESUS** is our:

**Deliverer:** Jesus's words bring life and peace (Jn. 14:6; 16:33).

**Advocate:** While the Holy Spirit corrects, He never guilt, shames, or condemns us (1 Jn. 2:1; Matt. 11:29; Rom. 8:1, 31; 2 Cor. 7:10). Specific, not vague.

**Righteousness:** Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, not in our performance (Gal. 3; Phil. 3:9; Col. 2:20-23).

**Tower of strength:** Jesus infuses us with courage to stand alone, to be still and know, to please Him even if it means disappointing people (Pro. 18:10).

**Shield:** Jesus reminds us He is with us and for us (Heb. 13:5; Rom. 8:31-34). His Spirit empowers us with love and patience (Gal. 5:22-23).

