

SATAN THE DECEIVER

INTRODUCTION:

1. *John 8:44*
2. *Revelation 12:9*
3. *II Corinthians 11:3*
4. *II John 7*
5. *Genesis 3:1-7*

I. SATAN'S TARGET - YOUR MIND

- A. When Satan Wanted To Lead The First Man And Woman Into Sin, He Started By Attacking The Woman's Mind. *II Corinthians 11: 3* – *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ".*
- B. Satan Attacks The Mind Because Your Mind Is The Part Of The Image Of God Where God Communicates With You And Reveals His Will To You. Christians minimize the significance, but the Bible emphasizes its importance.
 1. *Colossians 3: 9-10* – {9} *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; {10} And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"*
 2. *Ephesians 4:17-24*
 3. *Romans 12:2* - *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*
 4. God changes our lives by renewing our minds and he renews our minds through His truth. This truth is the Word of God - *John 17:7* - *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth."*
- C. If Satan Can Get You To Believe A Lie, Then He Can Begin To Work In Your Life To Lead You Into Sin. He Attacks The Mind And We Must Protect The Mind.
 1. *Philippians 4:8* - *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*
 2. If it is not true, Paul writes we should not let it enter your mind?
 - a. Your mind stores facts, impressions, and even emotions and recalls those years later.
 - (1) Your mind can reach into the past through memory,
 - (2) Or it can reach into the future through imagination.
 - (3) Your thinking affects your feeling and your will.

- b. *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" – Proverbs 23:7.*
 - (1) Scripturally speaking a person can actually become what he thinks.
 - (2) *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" - Isaiah 26:3.*
 - (3) *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" - Romans 8:6.*

D. Your Mind Affects Your Whole Being. I Believe That Attitudes Are Important To Health, Success In Life And Proper Service To God.

II. SATAN'S WEAPON – LIES – *Genesis 3:1-7*

A. Satan Was A Serpent And A Deceiver To Eve

- 1. *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" - Revelation 12:9.*
- 2. *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." - John 8:44.*

B. Notice The Steps Satan Took In Getting Eve To Believe His Lie.

- 1. He questioned God's Word. - *"Yea, hath God said...?" – V:1*
 - a. He didn't deny God had spoken; simply questioned whether God had really said what Eve thought he had said.
 - b. "Perhaps you misunderstood what God said," is what Satan suggested.
 - c. You owe it to yourself to rethink what he has said.
- 2. He denied God's Word - *"You shall not surely die!" – V:4*
 - a. It is a short trip from questioning God's Word to denying it.
 - b. All they had to go on about death was God's Word, but this was all they needed.
 - c. If Eve had not listened to Satan questioning God's Word, she would never have fallen into his trap when he denied God's Word.
- 3. He substituted his own lie - *"ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. – V:5*
 - a. When we turn from God's Word we turn to error.
 - b. How many times have I heard - "I don't see it that way; always been taught it this way, etc."
 - c. How many truths has Satan removed from God's Word and put his own into the hearts of people.

C. How Did Eve Respond To Satan's Approach? She Responded By Making Three Mistakes That Led Her Into Sin.

1. She took away from God's Word.
 - a. *Genesis 3:2* - Eve omitted the Word, "freely" -- God said in *Genesis 2:16* - "*From any tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.*"
 - b. The idea Eve got from Satan was that God was holding out on her.
 2. She added to God's Word.
 - a. We do not find the words, "or touch it" in God's command.
 - b. The devil wants to make us think that God's words are burdensome, and he (Satan) has something else better to offer.
 3. She changed God's Word.
 - a. God did not say, "Lest ye die" – *Genesis 2:17*.
 - b. Satan makes penalty of disobedience less harsh.
- D. **Once You Have Treated God's Word This Way, You Are Wide Open For The Devil's Final Trick.** He merely permitted Eve to consider the tree apart from God's Word.
1. Get a good look at it! - "*good for food pleasant to the eyes desired to make one wise*" - *Genesis 3:6*.
 2. She had to make a choice: God's Word or Satan's word? She rejected God's Word, believed Satan, and sinned.
- E. **God Accomplishes His Will On Earth Through Truth; Satan Accomplishes His Purpose Through Lies.**
- F. **Satan Did Not Approach Eve In His True Nature; He Masqueraded By Using The Serpent.** Satan is a counterfeiter, an imitator.
1. Counterfeit Christians
 - a. *II Corinthians 11:26* - "*In journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren.*"
 - b. *Matthew 13:38* - "*The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.*"
 2. Counterfeit Gospel
 - a. *Galatians 1:8* - "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*"
 3. Counterfeit Ministers of the gospel - *II Corinthians 11:14-15*.
 4. Counterfeit Righteousness
 - a. *Romans 10:3* - "*But they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*"

5. Counterfeit Doctrine
 - a. *I Timothy 4:1 - "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."*
6. Counterfeit "Church of Satan"
 - a. *Revelation 2:9 - "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou are rich), and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."*
7. All this will end, of course, in the appearance of a Counterfeit Christ -- the Antichrist -- who will accept for Satan the worship and service of the whole world - *II Thessalonians 2:8-17*.

POINT: Satan's target is your mind, and his weapon is lies.

III. SATAN'S PURPOSE -- TO MAKE YOU IGNORANT OF GOD'S WILL

A. Satan Attacks God's Word Because God's Word Reveals God's Will.

1. *"Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path" - Psalms 119:105.*
2. *"I delight to do thy will, O my God; thy Law is within my heart" - Psalms 40:8.*

B. No Way To Understand God's Will But By His Word.

1. God wants us to know His will - *"The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will," - Acts 22:14.*
2. God wants us to understand His will - *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, (foolish) but understanding what the will of the Lord is." - Ephesians 5:17.*
3. He wants this understanding of His will to fill us and control us. *Colossians 1:9 - "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."*

C. God's Will Is Not A Duty; It Is A Delight.

D. If Satan Can Make You Ignorant Of God's Will He Will Rob You Of All The Glorious Blessings God Has Planned For You Life.

1. Bad decisions, sinful activities, and build the wrong kind of life.
2. Sad to say our actions will also influence others to go wrong.
3. Christians ignorant of God's will lose the enjoyment of God's peace and power.

IV. YOUR DEFENSE - THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

A. Only The Inspired Word Of God Can Reveal And Defeat The Devil's Lies.

1. Can't reason with Satan.
2. Man's wisdom is no match for Satan's cunning.
3. Only defense is the inspired Word of God.

B. It Was This Weapon That Jesus Used When Tempted By Satan In The Wilderness - *Matthew 4:1-11*.

1. Didn't use divine power to defeat Satan. He used same weapon you and I have available to us.
2. If you and I are going to defeat Satan's lies we must depend on the Word of God. This fact lays several responsibilities upon us.
 - a. We must know God's Word.
 - (1) No reason to be ignorant.
 - (2) We have Holy Spirit to teach us the truths of the Word - *John 16:13-15*.
 - (3) Sunday School teachers and pastors who teach and preach the Word.
 - (4) If you don't know the Bible it is your fault.
 - (5) Must make time to read and study the Bible.
 - b. We must memorize God's Word - Jesus knew the words from *Deuteronomy* to quote to Satan.
 - (1) *"Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" - Psalms 119:11.*
 - (2) *"I delight to do thy will, O my God; thy law is within my heart" - Psalms 40:8.*
 - c. We must meditate on God's Word.
 - (1) *Joshua 1:8*
 - (2) *Psalms 1:2 - "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*
 - d. We must use God's Word.
 - (1) Our mind should know the scriptures and use them in making decisions or facing temptations.
 - (2) *John 14:26 - "But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you."*

NOTE: The spirit cannot remind you of something that you have not learned. You must first let him teach you the Word.

3. If we try to evaluate things around us on the basis of our own thinking and knowledge, we will get into trouble. We must use God's Word.
 - a. A business proposition may "look right", but if not based on truth it will fail.
 - b. A marriage may seem "like the right thing" from human standpoint, but if contradicts the Word of God, it is wrong.

- c. Many people's lives fail because they believe Satan's lies instead of doing things according to the will and Word of God.

CONCLUSION:

Has Satan already deceived you and led you astray? Christian friend, why not return to the truth and confess sin and get busy serving the God of Truth.

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WEAPON - - LIES

PURPOSE - - TO MAKE YOU IGNORANT OF GOD'S WILL

YOUR DEFENSE - THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD