

“Battling Satan’s Devices”

1 John 5:19

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

John was writing to reinforce the readers’ consciousness that they are distinctly different from the satanically controlled world system and basically free from its power.

Christians need not listen to the worldly ideas or influences advanced by the Satan (3:7-8).

Christians need not fall victim to worldly desires (cf. 2:15-17).

- Characteristics of Satan

1. Created by God, and not equal to God. (Prov 16:4)
2. Defies God and despises truth. (John 8:44)
3. Was given limited power. (Job 1:8-12)
4. Commands a hierarchy of demons. (Eph. 6:10-12)
5. Masquerades as "an angel of light." (2 Cor. 11:14-15)
6. Came to steal, kill and destroy. (John 10:10)
7. If you’re saved he has lost access to your soul but not lost his influence. (John 10:2-15, Gal. 2:20, 1 John 4:4)
8. Rules the masses *outside* God’s protection. (Eph. 2:1-3)
9. Tries to hide the actual truth about our God. (2 Cor. 4:3-4)
10. Twists Scriptures to fit his purposes. (Gen. 3:1-5)
11. Offers counterfeit promises he can't fulfill. (Gen. 3:4-5)
12. Always seeks an "opportune time" to tempt us. (Luke 4:13)

- I. When Satan attacks a church He attacks the individual families that are in the church
 - *He can’t possess true Christ followers, but he wants to manipulate us and hinder our work for God and the growth of our faith.
 - *To distract, divide, discourage and overwhelm
 - *Remember what Jesus said to Simon Peter? "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat." (Luke 22:31)

A. DISTRACTION: NOTICE HOW PAUL ADDRESSES SATAN’S ATTACK AT CORINTH

1 Cor 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

1 Cor 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

***When Satan attacks he distracts.**

***In the book of Corinthians. The people got wrapped up in who they were to follow,**

***Both I and II Corinthians deals with one distraction after another, whether it was tongues, or the**

***seats at church, or the Lord’s Supper which all seemly distracted the church of Jesus Christ.**

B. DISTORTION:

He twisted and distorted the truth to tempt Eve.

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

***Eve is slightly confused and doubtful and changes God's command slightly. Questions God. (How many of us will question God when we go through difficulty?)**

***Satan presents a counterfeit promise -- a half-truth that sounds believable -- to Eve if only she would rebel against God and eat the forbidden fruit.**

***The reward is to see both good and evil from Satan's twisted perspective rather than from God's holy perspective.**

***Adam feels shame, but not genuine guilt. He cannot see sin from God's perspective.**

No longer able to see good and evil from God's perspective they rationalize their sin and blame others.

C. DIVISION

Mat 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Mat 12:26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

* Satan goes to church and uses religion to turn people away from God, to distort their understanding of His Word, to draw them toward a "new" way of thinking, and to open their eyes to feel-good thrills of false religion.

**When Satan goes to church he works to promote programs that seem uplifting while masking the true spiritual problems and sin in people's lives.

*We live in an age where he has deceived the masses -- those who flow with the social changes and deem everything as acceptable as long as you ask forgiveness yet deny the realities of God's justice.

**So-called Christians without a personal relationship with Christ -- those who bear Christ's name but distort His truths and follow contrary ways to God

OPEN OUR EYES TO THE AGE OF DECEPTION IN WHICH WE LIVE!!!

IF WE REMAIN DIVIDED WE WILL FALL

- **SPIRITUALITY IS BECOME IRRELEVANT IN AMERICA -**

*Satan's tactic is to divide. Everyone knows that a strong army must unite. As we saw illustrated in the Corinthian church, the divisions were rampant.

*The church today is distracted by numbers in pews, rather than lives for Christ, Minute doctrinal politics, worship wars, generational differences, and scores of other things.

Satan has no new tricks; he deceives, distracts, and divides God's people. We need to be aware and see these tactics from Satan are in our churches

We need to get in the real battle, to win souls and glorifying the great Saviour, Jesus Christ.

II. WHAT ABOUT SATAN'S METHODS OF ATTACK ON YOU?

Whenever a Christian enters a period of adversity and trials, Satan will be right there to try and devastate that believer.

(2 Cor 2:11) *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*

1. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

(Gen 3:5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

*One of the first areas Satan will attack will be your relationship with God. He will try to get you to believe that God has forsaken you are being punished for your sin.

*He will attempt to get to question God

*Satan attempted to make Eve believe that God was withholding something from her and Adam.

*Anytime a thought enters your mind doubting God's motive, know where it originated. It is Satan wanting you to question the love and faithfulness of God.

2. ATTEMPTS TO MAKE YOU BLAME OTHERS FOR YOUR SITUATION

Satan wants you to blame anyone you can to build friction and cause your relationship with God to suffer and mask the truth

3. WILL GET YOU TO BELIEVE YOUR SITUATION IS BIGGER THAN GOD

Your situation is designed by God and is not an abstract happening. Sometimes we must make difficult choices and we do suffer for ungodly choices. Either way God is working for your good Never let Satan allow you to think that God is somehow incapable or neglecting your situation.

4. JEALOUSY –

SOMEONE MAY CALL YOU AND TELL YOU WHAT A BIG PROMOTION OR BETTER PAYING JOB THEY RECEIVED

LOOK AND SEE OTHERS SEEM TO BE ABLE TO PAY BILLS OR HAVE THIS OR THAT WHY CAN'T I?

5. HE WILL TRY TO GET YOU TO FOCUS ON THE SITUATION RATHER THAN THE SOLUTION

We start worrying about everything. If we were unbelievers then we could have something to worry about but we are Christians and we take confidence in knowing that Christ sustains us in any situation.

6. HE WILL SEND CONFUSION INTO YOUR LIFE

(1 Cor 14:33) For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

7. HE WILL DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS, HUSBANDS, WIVES, FRIENDS AND CHURCH

When bad feelings begin to rise between friends or family, immediately sit down and go into prayer and then analyze the situation to see how much is your fault. Many times bad circumstances occur innocently without any wrong intentions to trigger them. Keep your spiritual eyes open for Satan's wedge.

8. HE WILL GET YOU DO DWELL ON MONEY

(1 John 5:21) Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

There are two types of people that dwell on money, those who have it and those who don't. Satan will do his best to set money up in your life as an idol.

- **Stewards: All belongs to God, He allows us it**

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

God will make a way and deliver us from the clutches of Satan!!

IF I WERE THE DEVIL (PAUL HARVEY)

- **I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world;**
- **I would delude their minds into thinking that they had come from man's effort, instead of God's blessings;**
- **I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around;**
- **I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue;**
- **I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership;**
- **I would make it legal to take the life of unborn babies;**
- **I would make it socially acceptable to take one's own life, and invent machines to make it convenient;**
- **I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that life of animals are valued more than human beings;**
- **I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a lawsuit;**
- **I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to advertise them;**
- **I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the minds of every family member for my agenda;**
- **I would attack then family, the backbone of any nation. I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation;**

- I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movies screens, and I would call it art;
- I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals, and that their lifestyles should be accepted and marveled;
- I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agendas as politically correct;
- I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, the Bible is for the naive;
- I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional;

I will add that he actively works to keep us busy in the nonessentials of life and invents innumerable schemes to occupy our minds.

- Tempts to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow.
- Work ourselves to death so we can afford our empty lifestyles.
- Keep us from spending time with our children.
- When families fragment we wonder what went wrong, what happened
- He wants our homes no longer to be a refuge but another source of stress
- Over occupy our lives so we cannot hear that still, small voice of God.

YOU ARE NOT DEFEATED – SATAN IS!!!!