

Add To Your Faith

YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL

1 PETER 5:8; 2 CORINTHIANS 2:11, 14

Text: 1 Peter 5:8

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⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

Introduction:

Satan has three titles given in the Scriptures, setting forth his malignity against the church of God; a dragon, to note his malice; a serpent, to note his subtlety; and a lion, to note his strength.

Rarely, if ever, will Satan confront you as Satan. He will almost always approach you indirectly, disguised as someone or something who/that is more likely to win your trust.

He will come to you through something you hear or see.

If you knew it was Satan, you'd be less inclined to listen or say yes.

The greatest trick the devil ever played was convincing the world he didn't exist.

In a survey of 1500 preachers that was conducted back in the 70's, 50% of them said, they did not believe in a personal devil.

I would submit that number is no doubt larger today.

Though there are many today that disbelieve the devil's existence God warns us to beware of him.

Read 2 Corinthians 2:11, 11:14

2 Corinthians 2:11

¹¹ *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

2 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

Satan's desire is to distract, detour, discourage, deceive and devour.

Satan's devices delude and damn people to Hell.

Let's Consider:

1. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

Ezekiel 28:11-19

¹¹ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹² Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour

thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹ All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Isaiah 14:12-14

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Satan demonstrates intellectual ability, emotions, and an active will. His intelligence is reflected in his ability to memorize Scripture.

When he tempted the Lord in Matthew 4:6, he cited an obscure verse out of context.

Matthew 4:6

⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Psalm 91:11-12

¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Jesus warned Peter of the emotional side of Satan when he told him:

Luke 22:31

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

James identified fear as part of the emotional experience of all fallen angels.

James 2:19

¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Note not only the Personality of Satan but also:

2. THE PRESENCE OF SATAN

A. He tempted the Lord

Luke 4:1-13

¹ And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. ³ And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. ⁴ And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. ⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. ⁸ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ⁹ And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: ¹⁰ For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: ¹¹ And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹² And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ¹³ And when the devil

had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

B. Peter Warns of His Presence

1 Peter 5:8-9

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

C. Paul Warns of His Presence

2 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

3. THE POWER OF SATAN

A. The devil desires to control the **minds**, **morals**, **motives**, **manners**, and **materials** available to man.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Ephesians 6:12

¹² *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

John 14:30

³⁰ *Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.*

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

4. THE PROGRAM OF SATAN

A. The devil's program includes the times and the seasons.

- Satan tempted the Lord after His baptism and fasting in the wilderness.
- Satan tempted David at the time when kings went to battle

2 Samuel 11:1-3

¹ *And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent*

Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. ² And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. ³ And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

- B. The devil's program includes tactics and snares
- C. The devil attacks, allures, and accuses
- D. The devil appeals to our ambition

1 John 2:15

¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

- E. The devil appeals to our allegiance
- F. The devil misleads, misinforms, and misrepresents God's Word

Genesis 3:1-3

¹ *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of*

the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

G. The devil's program includes tragedy and successes

H. The devil's program is designed to entice, enslave, and embarrass

I. The devil blinds, binds, blames, beguiles, and belittles

Close:

I heard about a mild mannered young man who was ready for a divorce.

He complained that his bride was so bossy that she was driving him off the wall.

He wanted things to change, immediately.

The counselor told him that he needed to build his self-esteem and that would take time.

He gave him a book on assertiveness. He was so desperate to change things that he read the whole book before he got home that day.

Determined to be a victim no more, he stormed into the house and walked up to his wife. Pointing a finger in her face, he said, "From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house, and my word is law! I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and to finish the meal you will have baked for me a fabulous dessert. Then, after dinner, you're going to draw me my bath so I can relax. And when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair"

"The funeral director," said his wife. In other words she was saying there will be no changes.

The devil needs not to change a single thing that He is already doing.

What He is doing is working, and we need to be alert to his methods.

There is a lion loose today, and he trying to defeat you, to bind you, to keep you from becoming what God would have you to be. Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he

promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death.

Satan by deception sows doubt and discouragement and by design he sows dissatisfaction and division. He deliberately discredits and distorts and by delusion he causes destruction and damnation.

A biblical understanding of the person, presence, power, and program of the devil helps us to flee from his presence.