

FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS



How To Resist The Devil And Temptation Lesson 3

HOW TO RESIST THE DEVIL AND TEMPTATION

INTRODUCTION

Now that you are a Christian, you must realize that you are in warfare (*Ephesians 6:12*). The Devil has schemes devised to try to defeat you. But a Christian can be more than an overcomer through Christ! However, we must be *alert* to the tactics of our foe - the Devil. In this lesson we will study four basic themes concerning the Devil, which will acquaint us with him and his warp, thus helping us to be ready to resist the Devil and temptation.

1. The Description of the Devil
2. The Devices of the Devil
3. The Defeat of the Devil
4. The Doom of the Devil

I. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVIL

In order to get a better perspective of the nature of our enemy, we will look at how the Bible describes him. He is described by the following:

A. The Accuser - *Revelation 12:10*

The Devil never tells us the good we do or our proper attitudes. He is only good at kicking us while we are down.

In the garden he accuses God of being unfair. - *Genesis 3:4-5*

The conflict seen in Job, he accuses Job before God saying, "Job will surely curse you to your face" (*Job 1:11*).

He is continually trying to give us a false sense of guilt by his accusations, but God is even greater than our hearts and knows our hearts - even when we do not! - *1 John 3:18-20*

B. Adversary - Roaring Lion - *1 Peter 5:8*

The Devil's purpose is to destroy us and damn us! *John 10:10* speaks of him as a thief; "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." *Luke 22:31* reveals that Satan has desired us that he might sift us as wheat.

1 Peter 5:8 says the Devil wants to devour us like a lion does its prey. He shows no mercy! His real nature is lion-like and serpent-like.

C. The Ruler of This World - *John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11*

The word "Ruler" emphasizes Satan's control over the political systems of this earth (see *Daniel 10:13* which describes an unseen warfare).

Along this same theme, the Devil is called the prince of the power of the air, motivating the way disobedient people act. - *Ephesians 2:1-2*

D. The God of This World - *II Corinthians 4:4*

As "god of this world," Satan is blinding the eyes of those who do not wish to know the truth of the Gospel.

However, he cannot blind us if we sincerely want to see. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (*Jeremiah 29:13*).

E. Murderer and Liar - *John 8:44*

Satan murders us physically, mentally, and spiritually. His greatest delight is to see a child, born into God's family, die. To kill us, he must lie. He lied to Eve in the garden, saying, "You will not surely die" (*Genesis 3:4*), and has been lying since then.

F. An Angel of Light – II Corinthians 11:14

Satan is horribly beautiful. One of his favorite tricks is to get people to believe in a mythical character with a long tail, two horns, and a pitchfork. He is too smart to come to us in such a way. Instead, he makes sin attractive. He baits the hook until we cannot see the end result of what we think is beautiful and safe. In fact, the Devil's most clever tool is to make people believe that he does not exist; and we must realize that he is busy constantly. *Job 2:2* shows a picture of the Devil roaming about on earth, and walking around on it.

G. The Tempter – 1 Thessalonians 3:5

The Devil tempts us. He entices us. He baits us to do evil in order to destroy us.

H. Other Names

1. The Wicked One, The Evil One - *Matthew 13:19, 38; 1 John 5:18*
2. Beelzebub - *Matthew 12:24*
3. Prince of the Power of the Air - *Ephesians 2:2*
4. Angel of the Bottomless Pit - *Revelation 9:11*
5. Dragon - *Revelation 12:7*
6. Deceiver - *Revelation 12:9*
7. The Beast - *Revelation 19:19*

II. THE DEVICES OF-THE DEVIL

A. There are various methods which Satan uses to fulfill his purposes. The Bible mentions the following methods:

1. Hindering - *Zechariah 3:1; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:18*
2. Tempting - *Matthew 4:1*
3. Robbing - *Matthew 13:19*
4. Lying - *John 8:44; II Corinthians 11:3*
5. Killing and Devouring - *John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8*
6. Smiting (with Disease) - *Luke 13:16 (cf* I Corinthians 5:5)*
7. Sifting - *Luke 22:31*
8. Possessing - *John 13:27*
9. Imitating - *Matthew 13:25; II Corinthians 11:14*
10. Harassing - *II Corinthians 12:7; Job 1 and 2*
11. Accusing - *Revelation 12:9-10*

B. Other devices the Devil employs on people include:

1. DOUBT

- a. In *Matthew 4:3*, the word "if" is used. The Devil tries to get us to doubt our relationship with God. His favorite tool is to get us to put an overemphasis on *feeling* to the neglect of faith.
- b. In *Genesis 3:1* the Devil got Eve to doubt God's loving character, "...Do God really said . . . ?"

2. DIVISION

See *Acts 20:30; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 3:3; 11:18*

One of Satan's most effective weapons is the "wedge." If he can get a great church to be divided on petty issues, he has succeeded.

The Corinthians divided over their preachers (Paul, Apollos, Peter). How happy Satan must have been. This is one of his favorite tools.

3. DISCOURAGEMENT

The Devil has discouraged some of God's key servants. If the Devil can get us discouraged, God will never get us to work. For a study of discouragement see:

- a. Joshua – *Joshua 7:7*
- b. David – *I Samuel 30:1-6*
- c. Elijah – *I Kings 19:10*
- d. Jonah – *Jonah 4:3*
- e. Peter – *Matthew 26:75; Luke 22:62*
- f. John the Baptist – *Luke 7:19-20*

The key to these great men of God is not that they were never discouraged, but they did not allow discouragement to be the "last word."

4. DIVERSION

A favorite scheme of the Devil is to get our minds diverted to the following:

- a. Position - *Matthew 20:21*
- b. Pleasure - *Luke 8:14*
- c. Possessions - *Luke 12:15, 21*
- d. Popularity - *John 12:43*
- e. People - *Hebrews 12:1-3*

5. DECEPTION

" . . . Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (*II Corinthians 11:14*).

The old saying, "Everything that glitters is not gold," is still true. Dr. William Arnett names four methods of the Devil's deception:

- a. The Unconverted
 1. Rely on your sincerity. "I'm sincere in what I believe." cf* *Proverbs 14:12*
 2. Rely on your own righteousness. "I'm as good as anyone in the church." cf* *Matthew 5:20*
 3. Rely on your good works. "I give to the church, etc." cf* *Ephesians .2:8-9*
- b. The Religious "Professor"
 1. Rely on Church Membership
 2. Rely on Good Works - cf* *Galatians 2:16*
 3. Rely on Baptism - *Acts 2:38* (repentance comes first); cf* *Galatians 6:15*
- c. The Believer
 1. Over-emphasis on feelings – " . . . Preached unto him Jesus (FACT) . . . I believe (FAITH) . . . he went on his way rejoicing (FEELING)" (*Acts 8:35, 37, 39*). cf* *Romans 1: 17*
 2. Over-emphasis on Non-essentials (Phariseeism)
 3. To Do the Right Thing in an Ugly Spirit
- d. The Cults
 1. Jehovah's Witnesses
 2. Christian Science, etc.

6. DELAY

- a. To the Unsaved - *Proverbs 27:1; Isaiah 55:6*
- b. To the Saved - I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. - *Psalms 119:59-60*. The Devil will tell us to delay working and witnessing, but see *II Corinthians 6:2*.

7. DEAD ISSUES

The Devil is a gravedigger. Another of his favorite tools is to bring up the forgiven sins of the past. But God forgets our past.

- a. "...As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." - (*Psalm 103:12*).
- b. "... White as snow. . ." (*Isaiah 1:18*).
- c. "... You have put all my sins behind your back." (*Isaiah 38:17*).
- d. An Abundant Pardon - *Isaiah 55:7*
- e. "...You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." (*Micah 7:19*)
- f. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (*Hebrews 8:12*).

8. DRIVING

The Good Shepherd leads. The Devil drives. If he cannot get us to live in sin, he will try to swing the pendulum to the opposite extreme-fanaticism. He will drive us to do fanatical things - but to be a Christian is to be *normal* in Him.

9. DENIAL

The Devil's most clever "wile" (trick) is to deny that he exists - but the Devil is an evil personality. Satan is not simply the personification of evil influences in the heart, for he tempted Christ in whose heart no evil thought could ever have arisen.

10. DISQUALIFICATION - see *Matthew 4:1-11*

If all of the first 9 methods do not work, then the Devil will try to disqualify us from a life of service. (*1 Cor. 9:27*)

He tried to disqualify Jesus by tempting him to:

- 1. Put the physical before the spiritual.
- 2. Take a short cut to get the crowds (to by-pass the cross).
- 3. To compromise by kneeling to worship the Devil.

The Devil is a terrible foe, but there is a way to defeat him.

III. THE DEFEAT OF THE DEVIL

We can defeat the Devil by:

- a. Using the Word of God - *Matthew 4:4, 7, 10*
- b. Putting on the Whole Armour of God - *Ephesians 6:11-18*
- c. Resisting Him - *James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8,*
- d. Testifying and Relying on the Power in Christ's Death - *Revelation 12:11*

IV. THE DOOM OF THE DEVIL

- a.. *Matthew 25:41*
- b. *Hebrews 2:14*
- c. *Revelation 20:10*