

Satan Didn't Make You Do It

by David Sproule Palm Beach lakes church of Christ Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Shifting blame is as old as mankind. When God questioned Adam for his disobedience, the man blamed the woman (**Gen. 3:11-12**). When the Lord questioned Eve, the woman blamed the devil—"The serpent deceived me, and I ate" (3:13). In other words, "The devil made me do it."

Except, the devil didn't make Eve do anything that she didn't want to do. She "saw" the tree, she thought it was "good for food," she found it "pleasant to the eyes," and it was "desirable" to her. Thus, "she took of its fruit and ate" (**Gen. 3:6**). Certainly, the devil "deceived Eve by his craftiness" (**2 Cor. 11:3**), but the choice was 100% Eve's! She could not legitimately shift blame to anyone else for what she had done!

Some 4,000 years later, the devil was busy again. Ananias and Sapphira had "sold a possession...kept back part of the proceeds," and then "brought a certain part" of the proceeds to the apostles but conveyed it as the entire amount (**Acts 5:1-4**). Greed, pride, love of money and conceit are dangerous foes to a child of God. The apostle Peter said to Ananias, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" *There it is! It wasn't Ananias' fault! It was the devil's fault! The devil made Ananias do it!* Wait a minute—keep reading. Just two sentences later, Peter said, "Why have you conceived this thing in your heart?" Whose idea was this? Whose desire was this? While Satan had deceived this couple into justifying their action, the choice to lie to God was 100% on them! They could not legitimately shift blame to anyone else for what they had "agreed together" to do (5:9)!

This is exactly what the Bible teaches regarding the onset of sin in someone's life. Look carefully at the progression outlined in **James 1:14-15**. "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." The temptation comes from the devil, no doubt, but the temptation is only "tempting" because of one's "own desires." When one is "enticed" by the temptation and yields to "his own desires," the Bible teaches that "it gives birth to sin." Ultimately, when "sin" is left to grow and contaminate one's heart, it "brings forth death" (i.e., separation from God).

Satan cannot "make you do anything" that you do not want to do yourself! So, the Bible teaches us to "resist the devil" (**Jas. 4:7**). The best way to resist him is to change our "desires" to be "conformed" to the will of God (**Rom. 12:2**). When I want what God wants, sin will be less appealing and the devil will have less influence over me. But I must take full responsibility for my desires and for my actions.



Smile and pay someone a compliment today.



NEWSLETTER

Mar. 08, 2020

Mark Dailey, evangelist
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Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Study	9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
No Sunday PM Service	
Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study	10:00 AM
Wednesday PM Bible Study	7:00 PM

La Salle
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1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
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We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are not expected to give money but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during Bible study and worship.



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries
2350 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270 843-3038
potterministries.org

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course



Speaker: Phil Sanders www.searchtv.org
Spectrum Cable Dish Network Direct TV
Check local listing.



Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

Ron Cameron had two cancerous growths removed from his side recently.

Louella Hopkins saw the doctor recently. Her wrist is in the right position but not healing like it should. They removed the cast and she is now in a removable brace. She developed an ulcer on her hand from where the cast was rubbing. She sees the doctor again in approx. 3 weeks.

Yolanda Davis is recuperating from gall bladder surgery she had Feb. 27.

Jack Curnew had hernia surgery this past Tuesday at Mercy Hospital.

Robert Smith, a friend since childhood of Maria Swindlehurst's daughter Danielle, has been involved with drugs and has completed rehab and is in need of prayers to help him continue on the path away from drugs.

Kristen, Maria Swindlehurst's niece, is dealing with emotional struggles.

Mark Killian, Louella Hopkins daughter's father in law, age 68, found out he has stage 3 lung cancer. They are going to do an MRI soon to see if it's gone to the brain and then will see if they can do chemo.

Terry, Louella Hopkin's daughter in law Michelle's stepfather, has been in I.C.U. for two weeks because of an infection in his intestine that is causing bleeding.

Annie Mueller, Bruce Brink's 2 yr. old cousin, has been admitted to Children's Hospital in PA with pneumonia. As of this past Wednesday her oxygen levels were very low and she hasn't eaten since Saturday (Feb. 29).

Let's pray for those involved in the recent tornado that hit Nashville TN and surrounding areas.

Let's pray as we continue our preacher search process.

Let's pray for the congregation in Fenwick, ONT as they do the same.

Also

- Let's pray for our members that have ongoing health and other issues.
- Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other issues.
- Let's pray not only for those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.
- Let's pray for our shut-ins and to call and send cards.
- Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.
- Let's pray for those dealing with weather related disasters.
- Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.
- Let's pray for those that are traveling. May they have a safe journey.
- Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.
- Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.
- Let's pray for those taking Bible correspondence courses at the present time.
- Let's pray for children, families, and the staff at **Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries.**
- Let's pray for the work being done at Great Lakes Christian High School in Beamsville, ONT.
- Let's pray for our neighbors receiving *House to House / Heart to Heart* that they have receptive hearts.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Mar. 13-14 "Inspire New England" Manchester church of Christ
Manchester, CT Please see posting

Mar. 15 Men's Business Meeting

Mar. 21 Ladies' Day Horseheads, NY Please see posting.

Mar. 29 Areawide 5th Sunday Singing hosted by
Linwood church of Christ

Weekly Budget \$1,843

Contribution Last Sunday \$2,530

Attendance Last Sunday 55

Classes and Sermon

Sun. AM Adult Bible Class Matthew

Sermon Topic Today: The Teaching Ministry
Of The Church (part 2)

Scripture Reading: Titus 2:1-10

No Sun. PM Service

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Class 10 AM

Wed. PM Bible Class 2nd Kings



Serving Today

Announcements Wayne Carter

Song Leader Rodney Jones

Direct Communion Ray McArthur

Serve Wayne Careter

Serve Richard Wheeler

Serve Doug Flanagan

Clean Trays Linda Stine



If you want to know God better – know His Word better!

The farther we get from His Word, the farther we get from His Will.

God will tell us all about Himself, read His book. Get in the Word!

We are studying Matthew on Sundays at 9:45am and will soon begin

Revelation on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

Be A Light

by Bart Warren South Green St. church of Christ Glasgow, KY

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

How can we "shine" in such a way that the Lord is given glory? How can we be the light that Jesus expects to be?

For one thing, Jesus tells us, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44)

That is to say, we should continue to show kindness to those who have been unkind to us—to be kind even when others would not be—and to earnestly pray for their righteous welfare!

We must show mercy to those who need it—those who need forgiveness, friendship, or even food (cf. Luke 6:36; Matthew 18:33-35).

Additionally, suffering with faith brings glory to God. When others see a loving and trusting faith that continues to praise God even in the midst of a trial, a righteous light shines for the Lord (1 Peter 3:15).

In all of this, we must make it all about Jesus. If we connect our faith to our actions and tell others who Jesus is... what He has done... what He is doing... what He expects... we will be the light the Lord loves!