

## **This Means War – Part 2**

### **Satan's Methods**

**(Eph 6:11 KJV) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

**One of the ways a Christian can have success in their Christian walk is to understand the methods of Satan, our adversary.**

To know your enemy is wise, to under-emphasize him, like the liberal, unbelieving churches do is to pave the way for him to enter in, but to understand him, his reasons for doing what he does, and his methods will give the Christian a great advantage over him, especially when temptation comes into our lives.

There are some people who completely deny his existence and have the unbiblical temerity of determining that Satan is our flesh. Let me destroy that nonsense immediately.

### **1 John 3:8 (NIV)**

**8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.**

**Satan is a real foe but remember that he is also a defeated foe. His defeat came at the cross.** This message is not designed to adulate Satan but to help the believer identify some of his methods which is biblical as we see in the following verse.

### **Proverbs 22:3(NIV)**

**The prudent see danger and take refuge,  
but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.**

A Christian who does not sharpen his or her spiritual understanding will not foresee the evil and is sure to get snared by Satan. This verse also tells us that those who are simple or biblically ignorant of Satan's devices will fall prey to them.

**(Eph 6:16 KJV) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**

The word "**darts**" comes from a word which means "**something that is thrown.**" In ancient times, one of the most capable weapons was the javelin which was thrown. The fiery darts come from both the wicked people and the wicked one (which is how the word is best interpreted).

**Even though we are saved, Satan will attempt to marshal his forces against the people of God.** He is such a great deceiver, that even though he knows he is a defeated foe, he believes somehow he will be the victor. His greatest victim of his deceit is himself.

### **Satan's reasons for doing what he does**

- To discredit God
- To deceive Christians
- To blind as many as he possibly can to truth
- To cast aspersions on the word of God
- To adulterate God's salvation plan by making the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ a part of salvation instead of all of it

### **Satan's Methods**

#### **Ephesians 6:11(NIV)**

**11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.**

This is why it is so important that we recognize early enough in our Christian walk some of the methods Satan uses to attack us in our Christian life.

**Satan can never have us nor can he indwell us but he sure can cause havoc in a believer's life,** however, nothing can happen to any child of God unless God approves it first and then whatever is approved, will work out for our benefit and spiritual growth. Let us now attend to some of the methods Satan uses.

## 1) He contradicts God's Word

### Genesis 3:4 (NIV)

**4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.**

God told Adam and Eve that if they eat from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, they would surely die. Here Satan offers Eve a total contradiction of God's word.

**Notice Satan can only offer an idea as he does not have the power to force anyone to accept his lies.** When we come in contact with modern theories and philosophies which contravene God's word, then if we are biblically literate, we will immediately recognize a satanic attack.

### Joshua 1:7-8 (NIV)

**7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**

These words are not just idle words in that **“turn not from it to the right hand or to the left”** carries with it the meaning of **“not turning aside the Word.”**

When any Christian infuses any type of outside theories into their life, they are literally setting aside the word of God in favor of those other teachings. Then we wonder why we get into spiritual trouble and have no power to resist the theories of the world.

## 2) He counterfeits God's word

### Genesis 3:5(NIV)

**“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

In this verse we see Satan putting words into God's mouth, "**For God knows**". How can this evil being know exactly what is in the mind of God? Satan is laying the groundwork for false teaching. Have you ever heard anyone say "God told me?"

The false teachers use this term on a consistent basis so their hearers are convinced that they have some kind of direct connection to God. God points out this problem he had in Jeremiah's time:

**Jeremiah 14:14-15 (NIV)**

**14 Then the Lord said to me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries[a] and the delusions of their own minds. 15 Therefore this is what the Lord says about the prophets who are prophesying in my name: I did not send them, yet they are saying, 'No sword or famine will touch this land.' Those same prophets will perish by sword and famine.**

**Jeremiah 29:8-9 (NIV)**

**8 Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the Lord.**

There are many ways by which God's word is counterfeited.

Some other so called divine writings which counterfeit God's word are the Pseudepigrapha and the Kabala. More modern counterfeits are The Book of Mormon, writings of Ellen White the founder of the 7th Day Adventists, The Koran.

### 3) He persuades or entices

**(1 Chr 21:1 KJV) And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.**

If there is one thing Satan is good at, it is enticing or tempting God's people. We may look at this verse and think that the event which is mentioned is trivial but when we look a little deeper at the significance of this verse we will see the reason why God smote Israel for this act of David.

When we look at the temptations which come into a believer's life and when we succumb to these temptations, they may seem trite in nature, but we do not realize that any such compromise with sin has dire consequences.

David's census caused the death of 70,000 people. (1 Chr 21:14 KJV) So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.

It is a grave mistake to believe that our sins do not affect others around us. Satan tries to get us to believe that our sin is private and only affects us, when the Bible states the contrary.

When Jonah was fleeing from God's presence, didn't his disobedience affect the mariners? Did the ripple effect stop at the boat? The answer is no! Did you ever consider the cargo which was shipped by this boat and was lost overboard? There were people who lost money in both shipping cargo and there were those who lost by not receiving the cargo? The ripple effect of sin can be endless and is tragic.

### 4) Satan diverts our objectives

**Matthew 16:22-24 (NIV)**

**22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"**

**23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."**

**24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.**

The Lord Jesus Christ had to go to the cross to pay for the sins of His people but here Peter in his non-understanding of God's salvation plan desired that the crucifixion of Christ not take place.

**Satan can get us to look at the immediate but not the big picture, which is a great tool of discouragement used many times on believers.**

The Lord Jesus knew the motives of Peter and His love for Him but yet saw that what Peter was saying was of Satan. If Christ did not go to the cross, then Satan's power would not have been broken and his doom would not have been made sure. Satan was defeated at the cross.

**Satan loves to divert us from God's perspective back to a limited human perspective on any situation. Verse 24** speaks of denial of ourselves which is a precept totally foreign to human perspective. (Luke 9:53 KJV) And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

The Lord Jesus came down to earth for a specific purpose and He was not going to allow any diversion from that mission. Let us evaluate our own lives. How have we been diverted from the mission of sending forth the gospel to the world?

What excuses do we use for not getting involved in some manner? Too much TV? Too much Sports? Too much Job? Too many secular family responsibilities? Simple Laziness? Letting someone else do it? Each Christian can do something because each one has at least one spiritual gift.

The sending forth of the gospel is every true Christian's responsibility. If you are not involved in any phase of evangelism, then please e-mail me and tell me what your reason of existence is.

## 5) Changes times and gives extended time period fallacy

**Daniel 7:25 (NIV)**

**25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.**

Let's bring this evil method into a personal arena. How many times have you said when asked to do something "I'll do it later" or "I'll get to it next week" when it is something which should be handled sooner. How do you know you will be able to do it next week? Many people die from curable diseases simply because they keep putting off going to a doctor or nutritionist. **At what point is the dividing line between cure and incurable?**

## 6) Satan mollifies the true gospel

**1 Thessalonians 2:5 (NIV)**

**5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness.**

If there is one thing which Satan has successfully done over the course of many years it is the mollifying or softening the intensity of the true gospel. The term "**Thus saith the Lord**" appears in the Old Testament 415 times.

The gospel which is preached today has become so innocuous that unbelievers can actually look forward to going to church since they will hear nothing that will cause them any reason to believe they are unsaved.

The word "**flattery**" in the above verse carries with it the meaning of "**insincere speech with intent of manipulation.**" This is the only place in the New Testament the underlying Greek word is used.

Those who believe that God has softened his stance on sin should read passages like:

## **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 N (NIV)**

**6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.**

**Play Altar Music Here**

### **Summary**

Satan has many methods to deceive anyone and everyone. He is a defeated foe and is not to be feared.

Movies like The Exorcist portray Satan in an erroneous way. He is coming with deceptions and works through his people to attempt to accomplish his plans.

His methods are cunning and many times mazelike so a person who is unsaved or a saved person who is biblically illiterate will fall for his schemes.

**When a situation arises which seems suspect, ask the question, is this of God or Satan?**

God uses situations to **build** His children, Satan uses evil to **destroy** his children.

**The best advice I can offer is to continue to be biblically astute and prayerful, then you will be able to identify the schemes of Satan.**