

Devils Strategy to Deceive

Ephesians 6:11

Recap: In chapters 1-3 Paul has explained who we are & what we have in Christ Jesus. Predestined, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, Gods grace lavished upon us, sealed by HS, seated in heavenly places, saints & citizens of heaven, given spiritual gifts, joint-heirs w/Christ, every spiritual blessing in heavenly places given to us.

So now because of who we are & what we have---Paul says *walk in a manner worthy of your calling* Chs 4-6. He lists the ways we are to walk (*in the spirit*)- practical Christianity--walk in love, unity, purity & now in victory.

As Paul ends his letter, he says *finally* 6:10 putting an emphasis on what he's about to say-- *critical juncture*, *important transition*, *vital information* set apart from the other valuable lessons already given—But this is vital & of *special concern*.

Paul understands although we may have the best instruction & right intentions--we can start out strong in our Christian walk, *running the race w/ endurance*, only to be lured away & fall away because of our **adversary the devil** & weakness of our flesh. Jesus said to His disciples *the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak*--to Peter *'the devil has asked permission to sift you as wheat'*. **Try-tempt-take you down**

So Paul points out a great danger in the Christians life--it's **not** a cakewalk or bed of roses, **not** a **playground** but a **battleground**. We have an enemy that seeks to turn us away--bring us down--trip us up. So we need **strength** that is not our own but a supernatural **power** to endure temptation & defeat the devil. **So we are told to.....**

Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm

Devils Strategy to Deceive

Ephesians 6:11

against the schemes of the devil.

His schemes Grk *methodeia* method, technique in handling a thing, systematic pursuit. So we are to be aware of Satan's strategy--his schemes-devils wiles.

Our failure in spiritual warfare is often a failure to identify the enemy.

We need to know who our enemy is otherwise we'll be spinning our wheels or as Paul puts *it* 'running w/o aim & beating the air

Also we often **miscalculate** Satan's strength

Martin Lloyd Jones: 'I am certain that one of the main causes of the ill state of the church today is the fact that the devil is being forgotten. All is attributed to us; we have become so psychological in our attitude and thinking. We are ignorant of this great objective fact: *the being, the existence of the devil, the adversary, the accuser and his fiery darts*. And of course because we are not aware of this we attribute all temptation to ourselves. So the devil in his craftiness will have succeeded admirably.

We are told in **2 Cor 2:11.... that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes**. We know Satan is a ravenous wolf & at the same time comes disguised as an angle of light **2 Cor 11:14**

Sometimes he roars like a **lion**-other times he silently slithers as a **serpent**. He can **appear** in all his **evil & ugliness** or in **sheep's clothing**. We can be **battling** him on one hand & setting up house w/ him on the other because of out **ignorance** to his methods.

We should not be unaware of his schemes because he uses the same methods over & over, he repeats himself. His techniques are predictable from time of Adam & Eve until today. We can know how he operates in order to avoid his snares & not fall prey to his deceptions. His first and fundamental strategy is **lying**. Jesus said '*for there is no truth in him, for his is a liar and the father of lies* **Jn 8:44**

We are told in **Rev 12:9 'The serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.**

Devils Strategy to Deceive

Ephesians 6:11

We see this **illus** in **Gen 3:1-5** where the serpent questions God's word to Eve. He didn't deny that God spoke--he questioned if God really said what Eve thought He said. At the same time he questioned Gods love. *'If God really loves you He'd not keep something that is good from you'*

This is the same strategy he used on Jesus in the wilderness after 40 days fasting at Jesus weakest point. *'If you are Gods son and he truly love you...why are you starving'* Turn stones to bread

Poet Lord Tennyson 'A lie that is all of a lie can be met w/ and fought outright. But a lie that is partly the truth is a harder matter to fight'

3:4 'You shall not die' – Devil then denies God's word. There is only a small step between questioning God word & denying it. Never dialogue w/ the devil.

If Eve had not listened to Satan questioning Gods word she'd never have fallen into the trap of listening to him denying God's word & drawing her into sin. Reject factious man after first or second warning Titus 3:10 **Urantia book**

3:5 You will be like God. Satan then substitutes his own lie for Gods truth. It was the very sin that caused his own downfall. *'I will ascend above the heavens, I will be like Most High God. Is 14:14* Tempting her to do what God said don't do. At this point she & we have a decision to make--believer world-flesh-devil or truth is the word of God. *People perish for lack of knowledge*

Devil's most effective form of deception is to counterfeit truth. Counterfeit gospel. **Gal 1:8** *Even though we, or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

News media from AP Michael Feinsilber & UPI Wm Mead – article on 'Who believe & who doesn't' **Congregational** church 79% don't believe in virgin birth; 87% don't believe in 2nd coming; **94%** don't believe in the **devil** & only 41% believe in God. **Methodist** church 40% don't believe in God; 66% don't believe in the virgin birth; 79% don't believe in 2nd coming; **87%** don't believe in the **devil**. **Episcopal** church 37% don't believe in God; 76% don't believe in 2nd coming; **83%** don't believe in the **devil**. So-called mainline denominations reject the bible replace it w/ lies of the enemy.

Devil also has his counterfeit ministers in church **2Cor 11:14** *For even Satan*

Devils Strategy to Deceive

Ephesians 6:11

disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

Article in Redbook magazine--sent a pollster to major Protestant seminaries in US to survey those preparing for Christian ministry. 56% in training rejected Jesus virgin birth. 71% did not believe in life after death. 54% rejected the bodily resurrection of Christ. 98% did not believe there will be a personal return of Jesus Christ to earth.

Is it any wonder in the last generation people in the US who don't attend church has double. And those who do attend only half believe in the *inerrancy* of the bible-w/o error in its original writings. It's why 88 % of kids in Evangelical churches bale on Lord after high school. *And why only 4% of churches plant sister congregations.*

Accuser of the brethren **Rev 12:10** is another tactic Satan uses to deceive. He accuses us to God, to others & to ourselves. ***Rev12:10...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.***

When Satan talks to you about God he lies but when he talks to God about you he tells the truth—*always about your failings.* “*God see what Abraham did, he lied about his wife being his sister & stumbled a pagan king..twice...what are you going to do about it?*” *David ‘a man after your own heart just committed adultery & had her husband killed...is that the kind of man you approve of...causing your enemies to blaspheme you...what are you going to do about it. And Peter cursed & swore 3x’s he never knew you...he deserves your judgment.* Bill the pastor what a joke do you know his past...

We need to recognize how clever & unrelenting our enemy is. The bible says ***we are all tempted in many ways...*** temptation is not sin but the devil uses it...whispers in your ear *‘you can get away w/ a little sin, go for it, nobody is going to know’.*

But if you give in, afterwards, he shouts to God, yourself & others *‘you’ll never*

Devils Strategy to Deceive

Ephesians 6:11

get away w/ this, everyone is going to find out, you ought to run away and hide...Adam did & God called 'Adam where are you'.

Important to recognize Gods conviction & Satan's condemnation. When HS spirit convicts He does so in love encouraging to repent & come back into fellowship. When Satan accuses he uses it to condemn make you feel hopeless & helpless-- feel like giving up on God & church-*You can never come back or be forgiven. Satan lies*

Judas listened to the devil & hanged himself while Peter wept bitterly-- returned to Lord & church--called reconciliation. *Col 1:20...through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him...*

Satan stands at our right hand accusing *Zech 3:1 Then the angel showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, with Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.*

Jesus stand God's right hand interceding for us *Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

Too late for me I've fallen into bad sin & no hope for me.....

1Jn 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Corrie Ten Boom 'There is not pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still'