

Your Adversary

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Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour 1 Peter 5:8

Our adversary seeks to overwhelm us and cause us to surrender our salvation. “We are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11), and the Scriptures tell us of his means of action. Therefore we can prepare ourselves in this battle. If we “resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). We need to prepare ourselves by knowing where he will attack.

Our Weak Moments: Satan has demonstrated that he desires to attack us in our weak moments. In Mark 4:16-17 and the parable of the soils, we see that when we are new in Christ, we are at our weakest, and in that newness Satan attacks. When Jesus was in the wilderness in Matthew 4:2-3 He was physically weak (hungry) and Satan used that time to attack. Finally, when Paul had seen a great vision in 2 Corinthians 12:7 and was in danger of being proud, Satan attacked. We need to know that there are times, such as when we are new to Christ, when we are hurting (emotionally or physically), or when we are in danger of sin that Satan will attack.

Our Moments of Doubt: Satan knows the power of doubts, and uses them to attack. Consider the same time when two of Jesus’ apostles stumbled: when Peter denied Christ and when Judas betrayed Christ. In both instances we are told that Satan worked upon them (Luke 22:31, John 13:2). Was it doubt in the veracity of Jesus and His victory that caused Peter to deny Him? Was it doubt that he could be forgiven by Jesus that caused Judas to kill himself? While it is speculative to say for certain, we can be sure that doubts arise (Jude 22) and Satan uses it as an opportunity to attack.

Filling Our Time: Satan knows that if he can convince us we don’t have time, we will surrender much of our service to God. So Satan gives us things we think we “have to” do, as he did with Martha in Luke 14:18-20. Or perhaps he fills our time with too many recreations and pleasant diversions (consider the rich man of Luke 16:19). The point is, the world is full of distractions (Luke 10:40) that Satan will use to cause us to fail to meet the divine obligations.

The Big Lies: Perhaps the best known (and original – Genesis 3:1-4) of Satan’s schemes is the lie. There are many lies that he uses to divest us of our salvation. For example, he disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) and presents a form of godliness that denies the power of salvation. Many have succumbed to this lie, believing they are right with God when they have merely given themselves to doctrines of demons. There is also the lie of being “good enough”. Many think that they will have a reward with God merely by keeping some of God’s commandments (James 2:11-12). Another big lie is that there is going to be “time enough later” to do what is right; God clearly warns us repeatedly about this lie (Luke 12:16-19).

The Scriptures enable us to know our enemy and his many schemes, of which the above are only a few. We can be prepared to resist him if we learn his tactics. Therefore redeem the time you have in order to make certain your inheritance.