

The Work of Satan I Pet. 5:8-9

Thesis: To help us better understand the work and destruction of Satan.

Introduction:

- A. Just as Satan worked in the days of the Old Testament, he is still working today.
- B. The best way to be able to overcome Satan is to better understand the manner in which he works.
- C. **I Pet. 5:8-9** - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. {9} Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

I. Satan works by deceiving us through his lies.

- A. Satan deceived Eve by telling her that the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was safe to eat (**Gen. 3:1-6**).
 - 1. Notice a recap of the story.
 - a. **Gen. 2:15-17** (After the creation of man, God gave Adam certain instructions concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) - Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. {16} And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; {17} but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
 - b. **Gen. 3:1-6** (Satan tells a lie to Eve in order to get her to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree) - Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" {2} And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; {3} but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" {4} Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.** {5} For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." {6} So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

- c. Because Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree, they were cast out of the garden.
2. Notice some specifics that are important to the working of Satan.
 - a. Satan was not an intimidating being – Eve was holding a conversation with him.
 - b. Satan only made a minor adjustment to the command of God – he added one word (“not”) to the command of God.
 - c. Satan was not interested in telling Eve something that was not believable.

B. Today, Satan still deceives us by telling us his lies.

1. Satan wants us to follow after that which is false.
2. **Jn. 8:44** - You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
3. **I Tim. 4:1-3** - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, {2} speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, {3} forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
 - a. Example of homosexual marriages
 - b. Example of the sinner’s prayer

C. The way to determine the truth is to turn to the word of God.

1. God has given us His word so that we can know what the truth is.
2. **I Jn. 4:1** - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
3. It is our duty to make sure that the things that we believe are from God.
4. Just as Satan deceived Eve by telling her a lie, he will try to deceive us by telling us a lie.

II. Satan works by allowing us to think that it is God who is against us.

A. Satan deceived Job by allowing him to think that the things done to him were done by God.

1. Notice what happens to Job.
 - a. **Job 1:6-12** (Satan’s first encounter with God concerning Job) - Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. {7} And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” {8} Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright

man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" {9} So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? {10} Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. {11} But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" {12} So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

- b. **Job 1:13-19** (Job receives the news of his loss of everything) - Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; {14} and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, {15} when the Sabeans raided them and took them away-- indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" {16} While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" {17} While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" {18} While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, {19} and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"
- c. **Job 2:1-7** (Satan's second encounter with God concerning Job) - Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. {2} And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." {3} Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." {4} So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. {5} But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" {6} And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." {7} So Satan

went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

2. Notice especially the deception that was presented to Job.
 - a. In the beginning, Job and his friends believe that this is God doing this to him.
 - 1) Job's wife tells him to "curse God and die" (2:9).
 - 2) His friends, each in turn, tell him that he has committed some sin that has angered God.
 - b. In reality, it is Satan who has done these things to him.
 - c. The point is that Job was deceived by Satan.
 - d. The things that Satan did were disguised so that it appeared that God was doing these things.

B. Today, Satan deceives us by allowing us to believe that it is God who is doing bad things to us.

1. Sometimes we give God too much credit.
 - a. No matter what happens to them, some people will give the credit to God.
 - b. If their house is destroyed by a hurricane, they will say that God did not want them in that house.
 - c. If they are fired from a job, they say that God did not want them working at that place.
 - d. It never occurs to people that Satan is still working, and it may be him that is causing these bad things to happen.
2. **II Cor. 11:13-15** - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. {14} And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. {15} Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.
3. "If the 'sign' or 'wonder' did not appear to be from God, how then would it serve its satanic end?" (Stanley E. Sayers, "A Drink From The Deeper Wells" pg. 34).

C. While it may be Satan who has caused bad things to happen to us, we can still use it for the better.

1. We may never know if something is of God or of Satan, but we can remain faithful to God.
2. **Rom. 8:28** - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
3. In other words, no matter where we find ourselves in this life, we can be faithful to God.
4. In the end, our faithfulness will result in eternal life.

III. The only way to overcome Satan is through Christ.

A. Paul reminds us that the only way to overcome Satan is to “put on the whole armor of God” (Eph. 6:10-18).

1. Eph. 6:10-12 (Before Paul talks about the armor of God, he reminds us of our enemy) - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. {11} Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
2. Eph. 6:13-18 (Notice the armor that we are equipped with) - Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, {15} and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; {18} praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

B. While Satan will always be out to get us, we can always turn to the word of God.

1. God has given us His word, and He intends for us to use it.
2. II Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
3. It is only through preparing ourselves in the word of God that we can stand against the schemes of the devil.

Conclusion:

- A. Js. 4:7 - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- B. I Pet. 5:9 - Resist him, steadfast in the faith,
- C. Today, have you resisted the devil?