

DON'T BE IGNORANT OF SATAN'S METHODS

2 Corinthians 2:11

Introduction: There is not a person who has ever lived who has not had encounters with Satan. Sadly, many preachers and teachers speak to others as if they, themselves, are immune from Satan and everybody else needs to be told what to do and how to act.

Paul was not such a man. He readily and quickly writes of his encounters with Satan, his temptations and his struggles, winning some and losing some. In this passage Paul is identifying himself as one who is constantly wrestling with Satan and the temptations Satan brings into his life and encourages everyone to not give up and to keep on being on their guard as he was.

Paul warns us to not be ignorant of Satan's devices.

I. SATAN LABELS EVIL THINGS WITH PLEASANT NAMES

1. Our society has changed the name of things that are bad, evil, sad, cruel, etc, to words that don't sound so bad and vile.
 - Death, immorality, murder, lust, hate are just a few. Think of the nicer words we use instead of the former, actual "biblical" words.

II. SATAN MAKES HIS APPEARANCE ON OUR STRONGEST SIDE, NOT OUR WEAKEST

1. We all have a weak side as well as a strong side.
2. Moses was a shy, meek person who had to be almost "forced" to deliver God's people, yet when God gave the commandments, Moses flung them to the ground in anger and broke them.
 - Abraham was called "faithful" for his loyalty and obedience to God, yet in fear of his life he told the leader of a country that his wife Sarah, was his sister.
 - Job is said to be an example of patience, yet he blamed God for all his troubles and became impatient.
 - Peter was the bravest of the disciples until in the garden where he was warming himself by a fire while Jesus was on trial, he denied ever knowing Jesus and even cursed.
3. Where we are the strongest, what we like the most, WATCH OUT, for Satan will work on us in those areas. Think for a moment. Where have your sins been the most? Where have your failures been the most? In areas you don't think about, areas that you are weak in, or areas that you like, areas where you are most interested?

III. SATAN USES OTHERS INSTEAD OF HIMSELF

1. Satan is wise and will use others instead of coming to you directly, himself.
 - Think for a moment. WHO has been involved in your strongest temptations and sins?
2. Satan knows which door, which "button" to push to get others to open for him.

- 3, Satan went to Jesus the first time in person and when he failed, he then began to use others, for instance Peter.
4. Satan will NOT use those who do not like us or those we do not care about, but he will use those we trust, those whom we love and who love us back, our friends and family because we don't question them and we respect and trust them, never thinking that they could ever be the cause for us to sin against God.

IV. SATAN OFTEN FAKES DEFEAT

1. Faking defeat is a well used tactic in warfare. An army faking defeat and running off the battlefield causing their enemy to come out into the open and follow the retreating army only to be led into an ambush and destruction.
2. In dealing with us, Satan will often fake defeat when we successfully fight off some temptation and we have "won" we think for we didn't yield, so we ease up, let our guard down and feel relief that we didn't yield to that one.
 - Little do we know that Satan was faking his retreat and when our guard is down, he will come back even stronger.
 - Temptation will "sleep" but it will never die nor permanently go away.
 - Therefore, we must be on our guard at all times.

CONCLUSION:

1. All of us have put things off and some things, perhaps, can wait till tomorrow, however Satan will do everything he can to get us to put off doing the things of God till "tomorrow."
2. Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow, whispers Satan, always tomorrow, nothing is wrong with waiting till tomorrow.
3. God tells us that it is TODAY, NOW, let us do what God wants us to do TODAY.
4. Face it! Satan is after us/YOU and will do anything, use any tactic to keep you from being what God wants you to be and do.
5. We are not strong nor wise enough to defeat Satan, therefore we need God's Word, God's Holy Spirit and one another.