

KNOWING OUR ENEMY

Understanding His Strategies – Resisting His Attacks

Part 3: Dealing with the Devil



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Introduction:

I Peter 5:9; James 4:7

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*
Richard Gilpin, *A Treatise on Satan's Temptations*
William Spurstowe, *The Wiles of Satan*
John Downname, *The Christian Warfare* (2 vols)
William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armour*
Thomas Goodwin, *A Child of Light Walking in Darkness*

I. SATAN, THE DECEIVER (I Timothy 4:1-2, 6-8)

Exposition:

- “later times”
- “fall away”
- “paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons” (Revelation 2:24)
- “the hypocrisy of liars” (II Timothy 3:5)
- “seared in their own conscience”
- “constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following”
- “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”

Observations:

1) *Satan Entices Us to Sin*

Device: Satan offers the bait of pleasure that hides the hook of sin.

Remedy:

- 1) Remember the consequences of yielding to temptation.
- 2) Don't play with fire.
- 3) Stay actively involved in growth and ministry.
- 4) Share sustained temptations with a close Christian friend who will keep confidences.
- 5) Remember that you cannot remain neutral to any temptation.

2) *Satan Hinders Spiritual Disciplines*

Device: Satan makes us focus on how difficult it is to practice spiritual disciplines.

Remedy:

- 1) Counteract this satanic and self-defeating reasoning by focusing on God's command to use the spiritual disciplines.
- 2) Read the Scriptures daily, diligently, systematically, and prayerfully.
- 3) Remember the benefits of spiritual disciplines.
- 4) Look more to the crown than to the cross, more to future glory than to present suffering.

3) *Satan Misrepresents God and His Truth*

Device: Satan presents God as a harsh taskmaster.

Remedy:

“When a man in distress cries for pity, what more suitable plea as this: for He is moved to mercy toward us by nothing in us but the miserableness of our ease. He doth not pity sinners because they are worthy, but because they need His pity.” (Jonathan Edwards)
“Satan paints God with his own colors.” (Stephen Charnock)

4) *Satan Opposes Sanctification*

Device: Satan entices us to be worldly by attacking us at our weakest points.

Remedy:

- 1) Worldliness develops slowly so we must set hedges against it in our lives.
- 2) Do not flirt with sin.
- 3) Keep short accounts. Confess your sin as soon as you are conscious of it.

II. SATAN, THE ACCUSER (Job 1:6-12)

Exposition:

- “a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, Satan also came among them”
- “From where do you come?” “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”
- “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him...”

- “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side?”
- “But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.”
- “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.”
- “So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.”

Observations: from Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices*

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| 1) Walk by the rule of Scripture. | 6) Remain humble. |
| 2) Don’t vex or grieve the Holy Spirit. | 7) Maintain a strong and constant watch. |
| 3) Pursue heavenly wisdom. | 8) Maintain communion with God. |
| 4) Resist Satan’s first overtures immediately. | 9) Fight Satan in Christ’s strength, not your own. |
| 5) Strive to be filled with the Spirit. | 10) Pray much. |

III. SATAN, THE HUNGRY LION (I Peter 5:5b-11)

Exposition:

- “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.”
- “Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- “But resist him, firm in your faith”
- “knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

Observations: from Joel Beeke, *Fighting Satan: Knowing His Weaknesses, Strategies, and Defeat*

- 1) Resolve to evangelize by spreading the truth wherever possible.
- 2) Resolve to extend Christ’s love to the poor and needy.
- 3) Resolve to speak out on scriptural and moral issues.
 - a. Study Scripture for guidance.
 - b. Pray daily for civil authorities.
 - c. Learn how your government operates.
 - d. Get involved.
- 4) Live for Christ.

Conclusion:

- 1) Do not overestimate or underestimate Satan. He is a powerful being but he is not God.
- 2) If you are a true believer, the devil hates you because you bear the image of Christ and you were snatched from Satan’s power. He wants you back!
- 3) Like it or not, you are involved in spiritual warfare - in a holy war. Will you be a faithful soldier of Christ?

Food for Thought:

- 1) Name some of the ways in which Satan is good at deceiving unbelievers. What about believers?
- 2) Knowing that Satan is constantly trying to accuse us, what should be our own tactic?
- 3) What is the role of godliness in our fight against Satan?
- 4) In what ways have you been successful in resisting the devil?