

Exposing Satan's Claws at Christmas

As the Christmas season approaches and Jack Frost nips at our noses, we find ourselves surrounded by twinkling lights, festive decorations, and the promise of celebration. This should be "the most wonderful time of the year"—but is it really? For many, Christmas brings an unexpected burden: loneliness, discouragement, family conflict, and financial stress. How did a season meant to celebrate the birth of our Savior become such a battlefield?

The answer lies in understanding that we have an enemy who never takes a holiday. Satan works overtime during Christmas, not because he hates presents and decorations, but because he despises what this season truly represents: God drawing near to humanity through Jesus Christ. The enemy's strategy is simple yet effective—he wants to claw Christ right out of Christmas, leaving us with an empty "X-mas" instead.

The Ten Claws of the Enemy

1. Holiday Without Holiness

The first distraction is replacing "holy, holy, holy" with "ho, ho, ho." We've traded the sacred for the secular, the spiritual for the superficial. Hebrews 12:14 reminds us that "without holiness, no one will see the Lord." This isn't just about heaven—it's about seeing God's manifestation in our daily lives right now. When we lose sight of holiness during this season, we miss the very presence of God that should fill our hearts with inexplicable joy and peace. A holiday without holiness becomes a distraction instead of a devotion. Gifts without repentance fall short of God's purpose. We need more than festive songs—we need surrender. We need traditions that bring transformation, not just temporary happiness.

2. Festivities Without Faith

Second Timothy 3:5 warns about people "having a form of godliness but denying its power." It's possible to go through all the Christmas motions—the services, the songs, the celebrations—without actually engaging with the reality of Christ's birth. We can know the truths, quote the scriptures, sing the carols, yet never truly walk in the revelation they contain.

When we sing "when I open my mouth, miracles break out," do we actually believe it? Are we living it? Or have we settled into religious routines that lack spiritual power? God wants us to experience the reality of His presence, not just perform religious traditions.

3. Discouragement

Ironically, suicide rates peak during Christmas. The season that should bring the greatest joy often delivers the deepest despair. The enemy whispers, "Look at everything you don't have. Look at what you've lost. Another year has passed, and you're still in the same place."

But Psalm 42:5 asks the critical question: "Why are you cast down, O my soul?" We must catch ourselves when discouragement creeps in. Jesus is far greater than our problems are deep. He can give more joy, more light, more hope than all the darkness in the world combined. Second Corinthians 9:15 declares: "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" There is always something to be thankful for when we have Jesus.

4. Loneliness

Matthew 1:23 tells us that Jesus shall be called "Emmanuel—God with us." Yet somehow, during a season celebrating God's nearness, people feel more alone than ever. Even crowded rooms can't fill empty hearts.

The truth is, no person can complete us—only Christ can. We are complete in Him. When we try to make another person fill the God-shaped void in our hearts, we end up completely miserable. Marriage, friendship, and family relationships should overflow from our completeness in Christ, not serve as desperate attempts to find wholeness.

5. Dwelling on the Past

While Christ's birth gives us a future and a hope, Satan wants us looking backward. He uses Christmas memories to reopen old wounds. But Philippians 3:13 instructs us to forget "those things which are behind" and reach "forward to those things which are ahead."

Think of your life as a book with different chapters. Some relationships belong in previous chapters but not in the next one. Don't let your whole book be about one chapter. Your best days aren't behind you—they're ahead of you. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Old things have passed away; all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

6. Offense

Family gatherings often resurrect old hurts. We get offended at relatives, angry at friends, bitter about past wrongs. But here's a powerful truth: what you honor cannot offend you. When you esteem someone and hold them in high regard, they cannot hurt you.

The Bible tells us to honor all people. When we're offended, we've stopped honoring and started despising. But Christ died for the most obnoxious sinners—people like us. How can

anyone hurt us when Christ has healed us? Hebrews 12:15 warns us to look carefully, "lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble." Bitterness is poison we drink while thinking we're hurting someone else.

7. Overspending and Pride

Satan uses pride to pressure people into spending beyond their means to impress others. Gift-giving becomes about performance and self-importance rather than genuine love. Proverbs 22:7 warns that "the borrower is servant to the lender." First Timothy 6:6 reminds us that "godliness with contentment is great gain."

The enemy doesn't mind generosity when it leads to bondage. Give from a gracious, grateful heart—not from pressure or pride.

8. Greed and Over-Expectation

Stores display Christmas decorations before Halloween ends. The marketing bombardment begins: "Spend! This is what you need!" But Luke 12:15 says, "Take heed and beware of covetousness."

Christ came to save our souls first while meeting our wants. True prosperity flows from the inside out. Don't get the outside ahead of the inside. Everything we acquire should come through faith, not fleshly greed or covetousness.

9. Distraction

Christmas becomes the busiest time of year—parties, shopping, schedules, noise. Ironically, people become too busy for Jesus during the season celebrating His birth. Psalm 46:10 instructs: "Be still and know that I am God."

Remember Martha, busy with much serving while Jesus visited? Don't be so busy serving that you miss sitting at His feet. Always pause, be still, spend time with Him, and remind yourself of the reason for the season.

10. Neglecting Worship

The devil doesn't mind decorations—he fears adoration. When the wise men found Jesus, they fell down and worshiped Him. The wise worship.

Christmas should draw us into deeper worship, greater devotion, and more intimate communion with God. Let this season bring you into a place of greater worship with your Creator.

The Victory Is Ours

The good news? We don't have to fall victim to these schemes. When we keep our eyes on Jesus—the reason for the season—these claws lose their power. We can have the most wonderful time of the year by focusing on He who is called Wonderful.

This Christmas, refuse to let the enemy distract you from the greatest gift ever given. Worship the newborn King. Celebrate Emmanuel—God with us. Let holiness, faith, joy, and peace fill your heart.

And remember: the greatest Christmas gift you can give someone is Jesus Himself. Share Him with others. Invite people to encounter the One who came to save, heal, and deliver. This is Christmas—not just a holiday, but a holy day. Not just festivities, but faith in action. Not just traditions, but transformation. The claws have been removed. Victory is ours. Joy to the world—the Lord has come!

Scriptures:

1. **Isaiah 6** - Holy, holy, holy before the throne of God
2. **Hebrews 12:14** - Without holiness, no one will see the Lord
3. **2 Timothy 3:5** - Having a form of godliness but denying the power
4. **John 3:7** - Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God
5. **Psalms 42:5** - Why are you cast down, O my soul?
6. **2 Corinthians 9:15** - Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift
7. **Psalms 30:5** - Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning
8. **Matthew 1:23** - Emmanuel, God with us
9. **Colossians 3:13** - Bearing with one another and forgiving one another
10. **Hebrews 12:15** - Looking carefully, lest anyone fall short of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble
11. **Proverbs 22:7** - The borrower is servant to the lender
12. **1 Timothy 6:6** - Godliness with contentment is great gain
13. **Luke 12:15** - Take heed and beware of covetousness
14. **Hebrews 13:5** - Let your conduct be without covetousness
15. **Psalms 46:10** - Be still and know that I am God
16. **Psalms 95:6** - O come, let us worship and bow down

17. **Philippians 3:13** - Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things
18. **2 Corinthians 5:17** - If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away

Alluded to or Paraphrased:

19. **John 8:36** - "He whom the Son sets free is free indeed"
20. **Proverbs 4:23** - Guard your heart with all diligence (referenced as "guard your heart")
21. **Ephesians 4:26** - "Be angry, don't sin"
22. **Deuteronomy 32:30** - One puts a thousand to flight, two put ten thousand to flight
23. **Colossians 2:10** - We are complete in Him
24. **Hebrews 13:5** - "I'll never leave you or forsake you"
25. **Luke 10:38-42** - Martha and Mary story (Martha busy with much serving)
26. **Matthew 2:11** - Wise men fell down and worshipped Him

Suggested Verses for Main Themes:

- **Christmas/Birth of Christ:** Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25
- **Joy of the Lord:** Nehemiah 8:10
- **Peace on Earth:** Luke 2:14
- **Christ as Mediator:** 1 Timothy 2:5
- **Satan's Schemes:** Ephesians 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8
- **Renewal and New Beginnings:** Isaiah 43:19; Lamentations 3:22-23
- **Vision and Purpose:** Proverbs 29:18; Habakkuk 2:2-3
- **Sowing and Reaping:** Galatians 6:7-9

Quotes

1. *Santa Clause is one of Satan's Claws to replace the purpose for Christmas.*
2. *One of Satan's biggest strategies is distraction.*
3. *Satan uses Santa Claus to shift our attention from Jesus Christ.*
4. *The world replaces "holy, holy, holy" with "ho, ho, ho."*
5. *A holiday without holiness becomes a distraction rather than a devotion.*

6. *What you truly honor cannot offend you. When someone is esteemed and held in a place of honor, their presence no longer has the power to wound.*
7. *Marriage is meant to overflow from your relationship with God, not replace it.*
8. *We are already complete in Christ—another person does not complete us.*
9. *Satan uses Christmas memories to reopen old wounds, trying to keep you looking backward. But Christ came to move you forward.*
10. *Your best days are not behind you—they are ahead.*
11. *Being offended is like drinking poison and expecting the person who hurt you to die. The offended person is the one drinking the poison.*
12. *Bitterness corrodes the soul, distorts reasoning, and clouds judgment.*
13. *Satan doesn't fear decorations—he fears adoration.*
14. *The wise men fell down and worshiped Him. The wise still worship.*
15. *Bad things happen on their own, but good things require intention. You must plan for them by seeking God's vision through prayer and time in His Word.*

Summary

This powerful message confronts a reality many of us face but rarely acknowledge: the enemy's intentional attack on our joy during what is meant to be the most wonderful time of the year. Through the striking contrast of **"Satan's Claws" versus "Santa Claus,"** we're shown how the devil strategically works to claw Christ out of Christmas.

From replacing *"holy, holy, holy"* with *"ho, ho, ho,"* to stirring family conflict, financial pressure, loneliness, and discouragement, these tactics dig deep into our souls, pulling our focus away from the true reason for the season. Drawing from **Hebrews 12:14**, the message reminds us that without holiness, we cannot see the Lord—not only in eternity, but in the everyday experience of His presence.

We are challenged to move beyond religious routine into genuine spiritual power, to stop settling for tradition without transformation, and to guard against celebration without faith. The message makes one thing clear: Christmas will reflect either the work of Christ or the schemes of Satan in our lives—and we get to choose which takes center stage.

This isn't just about surviving the holidays; it's about thriving in the reality of **Emmanuel—God with us**—and refusing to let distractions rob us of the divine encounter God desires for this season.