

## SATAN

- I. Satan's goal is to usurp God's plan and purposes
  - A. Satan's motives are seen in his own sin to be like God. Is. 14:12-16, Ezek. 28:13-15
  - B. Satan wants to duplicate God's program. Matt. 13:24-26, Ezek 28:13-15
  - C. Satan's peddling of his message is seen in his temptation of Eve.
    1. Satan deceived Eve by twisting what God had said. Gen. 3:3-4, 2:17
    2. Eve was thoroughly deceived because of her discontentment with what God had promised. 1 Tim. 2:14, 2 Cor. 11:3
  - D. Satan gains dominion over the earth through Adam's fall.
    1. Adam was given dominion, superior authority, rule over the earth by God. Gen.1:26
    2. Adam lost dominion to Satan when he sinned. Luke 4:5-7, Rev. 13:2-4, 11:15
  - E. Man gained a sin nature that Satan cannot control. Gen 4:13 ( the word punishment is the Hebrew word "awen" which should be translated ***perversity, bent of nature***)
- II. Satan has a strategy against believers today
  - A. He attacks from the outside. 1 Peter 5:7-8
  - B. He devised the World System. Gen 4:16-22, 1 John 2:16
    1. Satan used Cain, who was one of his (1 John 3:12) and his descendants to originate the World System. Gen. 4:16-22
    2. Satan uses the World System to blind unbelievers to the reality of God's quality of life.
  - C. Satan uses various methods to attack believers
    1. He accuses and slanders believers. Rev. 12:10
    2. He hinders the work of believers. 1 Thess. 2:17-18
    3. He sows tares among believers. Acts 13:6-12
    4. Satan causes the believer to be persecuted. Rev. 2:10, 2 Tim. 3:12-13
    5. Satan used demons to defeat believers Eph. 6:11-12
- III. Satan's primary attack is by placing lusts in the mind of the believer from the outside.
  - A. Selfish Lusts
    1. Independence from God. Gen 3:5
    2. Pride. 1 Tim 3:6, Is. 14:13
    3. Lying. John 8:44, Acts 5:3
    4. Stealing. Eph. 4:27-28
  - B. Anxiety Lusts
    1. Disappointment. Job 23:1-5
    2. Discouragement. Job 7:1-6, Col. 3:21, 2 Cor. 1:8-10
    3. Worry and Self Pity. 1 Peter 5:7-9, Phil. 4:1-7
  - C. Lusts against Saints
    1. Tattlers or Tale Bearers and Gossips or Busy Bodies. 1 Tim 5:13
    2. An Unforgiving Spirit. 2 Cor. 2:9-11

3. Corrupt Communication. Eph. 4:29

D. Anti-Growth Lusts

1. Laziness (idleness) in spiritual things. 1 Tim. 5:13-15
2. Cowardice in spiritual things. Lk. 22:31-32
3. Doubt concerning spiritual things. Matt. 21:21, Rom 4:20

IV. Scripture outlines how the believer can be victorious over Satan.

A. The believer overcomes Satan by using spiritual weapons when he attacks.

1. Be sober minded: calm and collected in one's human spirit. 1 Pet. 5:8, 1 Thess. 5:6-8, 2 Tim. 4:5
2. Be vigilant: watchful, giving strict attention to a thing, to be awake. 1 Pet. 5:8, Matt. 26:38, 40, 41
3. Being humble: persons of trivial power or significance, lowly, poor, undistinguished, not prideful. James 4:6-10, Phil. 2:8
4. Being empowered by the believer's position in Christ. Eph. 6:10, 2 Tim. 2:1
5. Putting on the armor. Eph. 6:11-13

B. Believers need the armor to counter Satanic attacks.

1. The whole armor is to be put on each time Satan attacks. Eph. 6:13
2. The armor has sufficient parts to dislodge thoughts from Satan.

C. There are six parts of the armor.

1. Loins girt about with truth: (**counters the lust of lying or tattling**) Evaluating the temptation for what it is instead of giving in to the temptation. Eph. 6:14
2. Breastplate of Righteousness: (**counters pride and independence**) Dependence on God's righteousness instead of establishing one's own. Eph. 6:14
3. Gospel of peace: (**counters idleness, stealing, bitterness**) Having the mindset to give the gospel in the midst of temptation, and live power of the gospel in present tense salvation. Eph. 6:15
4. Shield of faith: (**counters doubt**) taking God at His word. Eph. 6:16
5. Helmet of salvation; (**counters discouragement, disappointment, cowardice, unforgiving spirit**) Remembering what God gave the believer in salvation (benefits package). Eph. 6:17
6. Sword of the Spirit: (counters filthy talk, busybodies, etc) The Rema of God, the sword of the Spirit, the individual utterances of Scripture that fit the attack. Eph 6:17

D. The believer needs to know how and when to use the armor.

1. When attacked by Satan and demons. Eph. 6:13
2. The believer is not fighting constantly, but is to rest in Christ. Heb. 4:10
3. When fighting Satan, he will flee from the believer, when the believer resists him with the armor. The believer will not be a soldier again until Satan or demons attack again. James 4:7

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# The Armor of God

## The Believer's Protection against Spiritual Attack

Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that we are not battling against things we can see, flesh and blood, but with spiritual powers of darkness. I believe that today, most believers do not know how to battle spiritually, that they have become accustomed to battling and striving by sight, not by faith.

Christ, before he was to go to the cross, took some important time with his disciples in the upper room. He washed their feet, giving them the new commandment (John 13:33-35). He then walked them through a process that would relieve their fear and anxiety.

*Let not your heart be troubled... believe*

There are two options here, be troubled and anxious, or place trust in God. This has connections to several pieces of the armor. Jesus states in 14:6 that he is the way, the truth, and the life. The first piece of armor is the belt of truth. If we see things the way they really are, again looking to the Words of Christ our fear will dissipate. Christ went away, but he is preparing a place for us and he is coming again. The helmet of salvation guards the believer. The helmet of salvation is the benefits package (containing future tense salvation - the benefits yet to come in our glorification when Christ returns). 1 Thess 5:8-11 walks us through this thought process, even referring to a piece of the armor. John 14 and Phil 4 have a strong connection. Consider the following verses:

*14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

*14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

*14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

*14:14 If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.*

*14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

*Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

*Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Paul refers the believer to worship, supplicate, and make request. Christ tells the disciple to believe the words he has said about himself (the definition of worship) and to make a request that will be answered. Then they both promise peace that will guard the heart and mind. This is the way to use the armor of God.

Let us consider how Satan attacks the believer.

Pride 1 Tim 3:6.

Lying John 8:44

Pride and Anxiety 1 Peter 5:5-7

An Unforgiving Spirit 2 Cor 2:9-11

Spiritual Cowardice Luke 22:31-32

What should the believer's thought process be to counter these attacks?

**Pride** - the breastplate of Righteousness Rom 10:3, Phil 3:9 Our protection from this lust comes from an understanding that we can never come close to the work that Christ has already done. Anything we try to place alongside will pale in comparison to the finished and complete righteousness of Christ. We are not to place anything alongside, but to simply put on Christ. Gal 3:27.

**Lying** - Belt of Truth. Eph 4:25-27 The truth is the counter to the lie and a protection from the Father of Lies.

**Anxiety** - Gospel of Peace (feet Shielded) we spent time with this in John 14 and Phil 4. Worship, be thankful, make request, and God's peace will guard our hearts and minds in our position in Christ. Eph 6:18

**An Unforgiving Spirit** - Helmet of Salvation Bitterness poisons the vessel that it is in, not who it is intended for or directed at. I have seen numerous individuals that will not forgive some unrighteous act or slight, and then they are tormented with doubt, discouragement, and ultimately depression. We are to forgive others on the basis of how we were forgiven - completely and not on the basis of our merit, but on the merit of Christ Eph 4:32

**Spiritual Cowardice** - Shield of Faith 2 Thess 1. The passage here gives a contrast to how Peter faced adversity when he denied Christ. The Thessalonians directed the Shield of faith. I believe we also see the helmet of salvation and sword of the Spirit in this passage. Their thoughts were forward directed placing faith in the words of God and it gave them power to live in the current life.

Keeping these examples in mind, we also have other imperatives that will aid in battling the spiritual warfare:

- Be sober minded: calm and collected in one's human spirit. 1 Pet. 5:8, 1 Thess. 5:6-8, 2 Tim. 4:5
- Be vigilant: watchful, giving strict attention to a thing, to be awake. 1 Pet. 5:8, Matt. 26:38, 40, 41
- Being humble: persons of trivial power or significance, lowly, poor, undistinguished, not prideful. James 4:6-10, Phil. 2:8
- Being empowered by the believer's position in Christ. Eph. 6:10, 2 Tim. 2:1

The armor of God is made up of mental constructs based on the mind of God. Being spiritual will allow us to discern the mind of God to ward off attacks of the Evil One. We do not have to live in fear or bondage. Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4

# The World System

## *Co-opted, Designed, and Sustained by Satan*

- I. The World System can be a dangerous enemy.
  - A. The world system was defined well by Scofield. The world system is ... the order or arrangement under which Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon his cosmic principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and pleasure. This world system is imposing and powerful with military might; *it is often outwardly religious, scientific, cultured, and elegant*: ... and it is dominated by Satanic principles.
  - B. The world system manifests itself in many ways.
    1. Religion
      - a. Eastern Mysticism (Hindu, Shinto, New Age philosophy)
      - b. Roman Catholicism (Lutheran, Anglican, Episcopal)
      - c. Protestant (Seeker churches, mega-churches)
      - d. Cults (Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, National/ World Council)
    2. Science
      - a. University Academia
      - b. Psychology and Psychiatry
      - c. Pharmacological solutions
    3. Culture
      - a. NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, MLS, NCAA sports
      - b. Movie, television, internet entertainment
      - c. Art (performance and fine)
      - d. Amusement parks
      - e. Video games
      - f. Music personalities (idols)
    4. Human government
      - a. Political activism
      - b. Cause inspired activities
    5. Consumerism
      - a. Name brands in clothing
      - b. Electronics
      - c. Restaurants
- II. The World system uses the flesh to distract us from the center of God's Desirous Will
  - A. The World System originated with Cain. Gen. 4:16-24
  - B. While everything in the world system is evil, there are levels of evil.
    1. kakos evil - worthless or injurious
    2. poneros evil - calamitous or vicious, malicious.
    3. sapos - worthless or corrupt
  - C. The flesh and Satan will use the world system to distract us. 1 John 2:16-17
- III. The World System is an enemy which can be defeated.
  - A. We are told to use the world system, not to abuse it (use it up) 1 Cor. 7:31
  - B. Idolatry is a work of the flesh. 1 John 5:21, Gal. 5:20
    1. Covetous of material goods. 1 Tim. 6:10
    2. We are not to direct Agape love towards the World. 1 John 2:15-17

3. We are not to align with the World System against God. James 4:4
- C. We are not to keep company (mix up together with -sun preposition) with fornications. 1 Cor. 5:9-10. But we cannot avoid all association.
- D. We are to frame our minds on heavenly things (position and possessions). Col. 3:1-3
  1. The word seek in verse 1 is zeteo - seek (OT worship), enquire
  2. The word for set your affection in verse 2 is franeo - exercise our mind, frame the thinking.
- E. A mistranslation in Romans 12:2 causes confusion in some churches. The translation should be "Age" not "world", this leads to Age conformity, a form of Satanic Legalism.



## Distinctive Marks of the Maturing Believer

- I. The goal of every believer should be to mature or grow. Colossians 1:28
  - A. The mature believer has moved from oida (facts) knowledge to ginowsko (experiential) knowledge. Philipians 3:8-10
  - B. There are differing levels of maturity. Philipians 3:11-15.
  - C. The maturing believer bears fruit. John 15
  - D. The maturing believer has a strong basis in the Doctrine.
    1. Romans 6:17.
    2. John 8:32
  - E. The mature believer is achieving victory over the sin nature on a consistent basis. Romans 6, 7
  - F. The mature believer discerns spiritual things. 1 Corinthians 2:11-12
  - G. The mature believer is able to direct some fruit from the Spirit. The term add means "to bring in on your part" first aorist active participle
    1. Faith – the basis or root of the Christian life (Jas 1:30; **1Th 1:3**; **2Th 1:3**; **Ga 5:22**; **Ro 5:3**; **8:29**)
    2. Virtue - (*aretên*). Moral power
    3. Knowledge (gnosin) insight, understanding (experiential) John 15:15
    4. Temperance (*tên egkrateian*). Self-control. Old word (from *egkratês, en* and *kratos*, one holding himself in as in **Tit 1:8**)
    5. Patience (*tên hupomonên*). **Jas 1:3**.
    6. Godliness (*tên eusebeian*). **2Pe 1:3**
- II. The believer's goal will not be fully realized here on earth. Philipians 3:12-15
  - A. The believer will gain more knowledge (experiential) of the Son. 2 Peter 3:18, Phil 3:10
  - B. The believer will abound in love and fruit. Phil 1:9, John 15:8
  - C. The believer will habitually exercise his senses Heb 5:1