

January 2nd – Satan’s Oldest Tactic

“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”?’” (Gen. 3:1)

The Devil is a powerful adversary and not to be taken lightly. Peter said, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Several Old Testament (Isa. 14 & Eze. 28) and New Testament passages (Rev. 12:4) lead us to believe that Satan was a powerful servant of God in heaven (Lucifer). Jude 6 implies that Lucifer and a third of heaven’s angels were banished from heaven for rising up against the Lord.

Having been cast to the earth, the Devil knows that his time is short. Even the demons know who Jesus is (Mark 5:1-20) and they know that they are defeated at the end of time. With that being the case, the only real pleasure Satan has in his miserable existence is to try and take others to hell with him. One of his best tactics in tempting humans and leading them to hell is to get them to question the Word of God. “Has God indeed said?” Did God really say that? Did He really mean it?

Because Satan convinced Adam and Eve to doubt the Word of God, they were prompted to fall into sin. And just because Satan won the victory with our ancestors does not mean that he’s finished with us. He wants you in hell just as bad as he wanted Adam and Eve. Here’s what we must do – when the Devil comes to cast doubt on the Word, we must *know* the Word and *respond* with the Word like Jesus did (Matt. 4:1-10). Only in using the Sword of the Spirit can we overcome our enemy the Devil.