

Pastor John Miller, 09-06-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: Unmasked, pt-2

Purpose: Expose 3 tactics satan uses to influence people: (1) Satan disrupts our plans to advance the gospel. (2) Satan puts people in position to prevent others from following Jesus. (3) Satan seeks to pull believers away from God and back into the world.

Truth for Today: Christians are in a spiritual war with the devil, but we can recognize and resist him until God crushes him under our feet.

Topic: Satan, Devil, Demons, Great Commission, Backslidden, Supernatural

Text: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Series title: Unmasked

Series purp.: Expose the schemes, tactics, and strategies of the devil and demons and provoke people to recognize and resist them.

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I. Introduction

- A. **Mask** Text: [1 Peter 5:8–9 (NLT)] **Stay alert!** (*be constantly ready*²) **Watch out** for your **great enemy, the devil**. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to **devour** (*destroy*²). (NCV) ⁹ **Refuse to give in** to him, **by standing strong in your faith.**] Christians are in a spiritual battle against an enemy we can't see. Last week: (1) Is the devil real? (2) Where did the devil and demons come from. (3) His tactics: (1) Satan wants to stop God's Word from taking root in our life, parable of the sower. (2) Satan influences people to do evil, e.g. Judas betrayal. Today we'll continue addressing tactics satan uses. #3, #4, #5

B. Series, Title: Unmasked pt-2.

II. The strategies and tactics the devil and demons use against people.

- A. #3 Satan disrupts our plans to advance the gospel. What is the #1 task Jesus gave us as Christians? [Mt. 28:19 (NLT)] ...**go and make disciples of all the nations...**] It's called the Great commission. We are helping as many people as we can go to heaven and satan wants to stop us as individuals and as a church from doing it. All of us, e.g.
1. Thessalonica was a major seaport for trade and had 2 large Roman roads. It was strategic to spread the gospel. [1 Thes. 2:18 (ESV)] we wanted to come to you-I, Paul, **again and again-but Satan hindered us.**] How? Satan could have disrupted his travel through weather, (Job's windstorm), threats from people, or inner fear that made him afraid of persecution, lack of money, disagreements among his partners. If satan could do it then he can do it today. **App.** Today, (1) Maybe satan was behind a storm that stopped a local outreach or (2) stirred up family problems, so a ministry leader quits, (3) drop in finances that effects mission \$
 2. Action step: (1) Raise a prayer covering over ourselves and our church ministries. [Col. 4:3 (NCV)] **pray for us that God will give us an opportunity to tell people his message...**This is why I am in **prison.**) (2) Keep telling people about Jesus and investing in missions in spite of opposition and setbacks, eg. laugh prayer food
- B. Satan strategically puts people in positions to prevent people from following Jesus. [Acts 13:6–12 (NLT)]...they reached Paphos (*a Roman capital city on Cyprus*), where

they met a **Jewish sorcerer, a false prophet** named Bar-Jesus. ⁹ *(The word sorcerer (Gk magos) could describe a counselor, honorable gentleman or fraudulent wizard with magical powers³)* ⁷ **He had attached himself to the governor**, Sergius Paulus... **The governor ...wanted to hear the word of God.** ⁸ **But...the sorcerer interfered and urged the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He was trying to keep the governor from believing.**] This sorcerer and false prophet probably looked like a normal person and dressed like everyone else.

1. People doing satan's work blend in. They may not even be aware they are being used as a puppet of satan. [2 Cor. 11:13–15 (NLT)] These people are **false apostles** They are **deceitful workers** who **disguise themselves** as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ ... Even **Satan disguises himself** as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no wonder that **his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.**] People in the church, gov., business, sports, or Hollywood masquerade to deceive and control.⁴
2. Who is influencing world leaders and politicians today to support a 1 world government? Who is influencing school campuses to limit or prohibit Christian clubs on campus? Who is taking a bribe to let drugs in a city? Who is looking the other way when sex trafficking is happening?
3. Action step: Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment and do what He says. [Acts 13:9 (NLT)]...Paul, was **filled with the Holy Spirit**...¹⁰ Then he said, “You **son of the devil...and enemy of all that is good!**...¹¹ ...Instantly...darkness (*blindness*) came over the man's eyes...¹² When the governor **saw** what had happened, **he became a believer**...] Involvement in politics is important but the HS can do more
- C. Satan seeks to pull believers away from God and back into the world. [1 Thess. 3:5 (NCV)], I sent Timothy to you so I could learn about your faith. **I was afraid the devil had tempted you, and perhaps our hard work would have been wasted.**] i.e. satan can tempt or pressure people to turn away from Christ and go back to the world.
 1. Satan was using trials and persecution to turn the Thessalonians away from Christ and go back to paganism. Satan was trying to steal the seed of God's Word before it put down roots. [Mt. 13:20–21 (NLT)] The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ²¹ But since they don't have **deep roots**, they don't last long. **They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.**]
 2. Satan also uses difficulties, sin, offense, hurt, lust, greed, disappointment to turn people away from God. What is he using on us to pull us away from Christ?
 3. Action step: (1) Personal: recognize what's happening and turn away from the world and back to Christ. Endure hard times, get away bad friends, forgive, repent greed, lust and all sin. (2) Others: Help Christians who have backslidden, [Gal. 6:1 (NLT)]...if **another believer is overcome by some sin**, you who are godly should gently and humbly **help that person back onto the right path.** **E.g.** text

III. Conclusion/ Summary: 3 tactics satan uses:

- A. (1) Satan disrupts our plans to advance the gospel. **A:** Try again; don't stop. (2) Satan puts people in position to prevent people from following Jesus. **A:** Ask the HS for discernment and show us what to do. (3) Satan seeks to pull believers away from God

and back into the world. A: Resist him and repent ourselves and reach out to others who are turning away from God.

- B. Context unforgiveness, [2 Cor. 2:11 (NLT)] so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

IV. Response

- A. Souls: Why is it so important to follow Jesus and not let Satan keep us from following Him as Savior and Lord? Problem-Solution-Decision

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Constable, T. L. (1985). [1 Thessalonians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 698). Victor Books.
2. Raymer, R. M. (1985). [1 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 856). Victor Books.
3. Toussaint, S. D. (1985). [Acts](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 388). Victor Books.
4. Robertson, A. T. (1933). [Word Pictures in the New Testament](#) (2 Co 11:14). Broadman Press.

VI. Supplemental material

- A. Ephesians 6:19 (NLT) pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.
- B. Acts 1:8 (NLT) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be **my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**”]
- C. Don't be afraid to confront or vote out of office those standing in the way of the Biblical truth, e.g. parent speaking out against schools using DEI curriculum and pushing transgenderism on kids. E.g. Peter Jewish leaders[Acts 4:1–12 (NLT) While Peter and John were speaking to the people...³ They arrested them...⁵ The next day the council of all the rulers and elders...met in Jerusalem...⁷ They brought in the two disciples and demanded, “By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...⁹ are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? ¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that **he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified** but whom God raised from the dead...¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”