

# Trials of the Christian Life

## *The Struggle is Real*

### The Prince of Persecution – part 2: His Methods

#### PROACTIVE

- A. Satan, his devices, and his evil world system proactively work to discourage us, weaken us and ultimately to make us ineffective servants. – 1 Peter 5:8-9; Matt. 13:39; John 8:44.
  - i. A lion represents strength (Judges 14:18), \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam. 17:10), ferocity (Ps. 7:2), and stealth (Ps. 10:9).
  - ii. Our response: **RESIST** - Eph. 4:27; James 4:7!
- B. He is quick to \_\_\_\_\_ and contradict the word of God. He deceived Eve shortly after God had given them just one commandment to obey – Gen. 3:1-6.
  - i. He immediately appeals to the flesh, eyes, and pride of mankind – Gen. 3:6; 1 John 2:16.
- C. He tempts Jesus just before the start of His earthly ministry – Matt. 4:1-10.
  - i. It begins at His \_\_\_\_\_ moment – v 2.
  - ii. He tempts Him to satisfy the flesh – v 3-4.
  - iii. He tempts Him to test God's protection (NOTE: he quotes scripture!) – v 5-7.
  - iv. He tempts Him with worldly treasure and power – v 8-10.
  - v. Each time Jesus responds with scripture! – Ps. 149:6.
- D. He is a masterful deceiver – 2 Tim. 3:13; 2 Cor. 4:4.

NOTE: Jesus proactively prayed for our protection – John 17:15.

#### PROVOKER

- A. *Provoke* - To move; to incite; to stir up. To make angry; to offend.
- B. Satan provokes us to do things we know are wrong – 1 Chron. 21:1-2 (NOTE: 2 Sam. 24:1).
- C. He is skilled at using \_\_\_\_\_ to do his dirty work – 1 Sam. 1:2-7; Matt. 16:21-23; Job 2:9; Job 4-37

#### PRIDE

- A. *Pride*: Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others. Rude treatment of others. **Exaltation. Elevation.** Pro. 29:23; Job 40:12.
- B. Pride is of the wicked – Ps. 10:4.
- C. Pride affects your speech – Ps. 12:3; Isaiah 14:13-14.
- D. Pride will put you in bondage – Ps. 73:3-6; 12; 17-19.
- E. Pride will drive a wedge between you and God – Ps. 138:6.
- F. God \_\_\_\_\_ pride – Pro. 6:16-17, 8:13, 16:5.

- G. Pride will cause us to do things we regret – Pro. 11:2.
- H. Pride causes contention and conflict – Pro. 13:10, 28:25.
- I. Pride can be our undoing – Pro. 16:18, 29:23.
- J. Pride eats away at you like a \_\_\_\_\_ – Mark 7:21-23.
- K. Pride is prevalent in this age – Rom. 1:28-30; 2 Tim. 3:1-2.

## **THE FIGHT**

Ephesians 6:12 –

- A. *Flesh and blood* – the real fight is unseen; spiritual; internal – Matt. 16:17; 1 Cor. 15:50.
- B. *Principalities* - a prince; one invested with sovereignty. The territory of a prince; or the country which gives title to a prince – Daniel 10:13, 20; Matt. 12:24; John 14:30; Eph. 2:2.
- C. *Powers, rulers, spiritual wickedness* – authority derived from the principalities – Rom. 8:38-39; Col. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:1-7.

This entire \_\_\_\_\_ is what is working against us every day! But remember, Satan ultimately cares nothing about us. ALL he wants is God's throne...and he will do ANYTHING to get it!