

SATAN'S STRATEGY AND OUR DEFENSE - *THE DECEIVER*

Example: EVE Scripture: Genesis 3:1-13

1. SATAN'S TARGET - *THE MIND*

(2 Cor. 11:3) Genesis 3:13 “deceived me” - Satan attacked Eve’s understanding of God’s word & will. *How important is your mind to God?* (Rom. 12:2; Isa. 26:3; Rom. 8:6)

2. SATAN'S WEAPON - *LIES*

(John 8:44) From Gen. 3:1-5, there are 3 things Satan did, and 3 that Eve did with God’s word:

Satan:

- 1) **Questioned** God’s Word ‘has God indeed said’
- 2) **Denied** God’s Word — “you will not surely die”
- 3) **Substituted** his own lie - “you will be like God”

Eve:

- 1) **Took away** from God's word - “freely” left out (3:2 and 2:15)
- 2) **Added to** God’s Word - “or touch it”
- 3) **Changed** God's Word - "lest you die"

>> What do you see from this how Satan’s lies are used to affect your understanding of God’s Word?

3. SATAN'S PURPOSE - *IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WILL*

(Acts 22:14) Satan attacks our understanding of God’s Word because it reveals God’s will.

- 1) **God wants us to know His will** — Acts 22:14
- 2) **God wants us to understand His will** — Eph. 5:17 (don’t be unwise, but understand)
- 3) **God wants this understanding to Fill and control us** — Col. 1:9
- 4) **RESULT: “doing the will of God from the heart”** - Eph. 66

>> *What can you do* to avoid ignorance of God’s will?

4. OUR DEFENSE — THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD [Jesus’ Example: Matthew 4:1-11]

- 1) **We need to Know God’s Word**— John 16:13 (NKJV) “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it] to you.”
- 2) **We need to Memorize God’s Word**— Psalm 119:11 (NKJV) “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!”
- 3) **We need to Meditate on God’s Word** - Josh 1:8 (NKJV) “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”
- 4) **We need to Use God’s Word**— 2Tim 2:15 (NKJV) “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Questions to ponder:

1. Do I spend time daily reading God's Word and meditating on it?
2. Do I systematically seek to memorize Scripture?
3. Do I find myself automatically "thinking Bible" when I am tempted or when I face decisions, or must I telephone my Christian friends to get spiritual guidance?
4. Do I find myself better able to detect Satan's lies?
5. Are there any lies in my mind right now that I believe?
6. Do I know God's will for my life? Do I really *want* to know?
7. Am I delighting in God's will and doing it from my heart?
8. Am I guilty of telling lies? Why do I do it?
9. Am I willing to take as true everything God's Word says about everything in my life? Or do I occasionally ask, "Has God *really* said that?" Do I argue with God's Word?
10. Is the Word of God becoming more wonderful to me? Do I enjoy it more than the natural pleasures of life, including eating and sleeping?

1. SATAN'S TARGET - THE MIND

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity^[a] that is in Christ.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Isa 26:3 You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.

Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

2. SATAN'S WEAPON - LIES

Joh 8:44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

3. SATAN'S PURPOSE - IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WILL

Act 22:14 Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.'

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Eph 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

4. OUR DEFENSE — THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD [Jesus' Example: Matthew 4:1-11]

Mat 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Mat 4:2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

Mat 4:3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written, *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’*”^[a]

Mat 4:5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

Mat 4:6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and,
*‘In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’*”^[b]

Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, *‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’*”^[c]

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Mat 4:9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

Mat 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you,^[d] Satan! For it is written, *‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*”^[e]

Mat 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Mat 4:12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.