



# The Enemy

## Part 1: The Schemes of the Devil

### Day 22 The Enemy Part 1: The Schemes of the Devil

*11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*2 Corinthians 2*

*10 But one whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did so for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

2 Corinthians reminds us that we are not ignorant of Satan's schemes. Putting on the armor of God is what enables us to withstand the assault from the enemy. But what are these wiles and schemes, that we are not supposed to be ignorant of? This first example from 2 Corinthians suggests that unforgiveness is an opening for Satan to take advantage of us. This is borne out by Jesus' teaching recorded in the book of Matthew:

*Matthew 6:14-15*

*For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*

More of Satan's character is revealed in the book of John:

*John 8:44*

*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.*

So Satan is above all a liar. How do we protect ourselves from the multitude of lies from the enemy? Put on the armor is one way. Pray for discernment. Another protection is to know God's word so well that it is obvious when something is contrary to the word. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you in knowing the truth.

Satan attempted to twist the truth when he tempted Jesus in the desert.

*3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'"*

*5 Then the devil \*took Him along into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and he \*said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written:*

*'He will give His angels orders concerning You';*

*and*

*'On their hands they will lift You up, So that You do not strike Your foot against a stone.'"*

*7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written: 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

*8 Again, the devil \*took Him along to a very high mountain and \*showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus \*said to him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" -- Matthew 4*

In each case, Jesus countered the twisting of the truth by speaking the word of God.

Another avenue that Satan uses is to plant his people among the people of God.

*36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, 38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the weeds are the sons of the evil one; 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. 40 So just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they*

*will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear. --Matthew 13*

We are not instructed to prevent this from occurring. But if you need to know who is who, we are told you can discern them by their fruit. Are they leading people closer to God or further away?

*1 John 3:10*

*By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother and sister.*

*26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. --Ephesians 4*

So another area where Satan can attack us is through anger. It comes back to the idea of forgive or if you will not, you won't be forgiven either. Remember how much God has forgiven you!

Satan is also known as the accuser of the brethren:

*4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into condemnation incurred by the devil. --1 Timothy 3*

Satan's downfall was pride, and he tempts us with the same.

*24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, skillful in teaching, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. --2 Timothy 2*

Satan holds sinners captive. I know that when I was still unredeemed, I could not stop my sin, even when it was destroying my life and the lives of others. It took God granting repentance to be free.

*Hebrews 2:14*

*Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil*

Satan has the power of death, but Hallelujah, Christ have overcome death.

*14 As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.*

*16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

*James 4:7*

*Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

*8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 5*

Satan may kill and devour, but we are instructed to resist him. No power of hell can overcome. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

*7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one who has been born of God practices sin, because His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin continually, because he has been born of God. --1 John 3*

## **Day 22 Prayer**

Father, please help me to gird up my loins with the truth. Lead me in all truth, so that I discern the lies of the devil. Help me to not lie when cornered, but to always speak truth, as Jesus is the truth.

Lord, help me to put on the breastplate of righteousness. Help me be righteous as Jesus is righteous. Help me to not practice sin. Father, if I have sinned, please forgive that sin and help me avoid such in the future.

Father, please help me to get my feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Help me to spread the good news that Jesus has overcome the devil and sin and death, and that through His precious blood, we can finally be free.

Help me take up the shield of faith. Lord it is when we trust in you that the devil is put down. You overcome Satan. Help me to always trust you to see me through all the wiles of the devil.

Father, help me to put on the helmet of salvation. Your salvation, paid for by Jesus on the cross, is what removes me from the grip of Satan. Thank you for your salvation, Lord. Thank you for freeing me from the darkness.

Lord, please help me take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Father, I need you word and your Spirit to stand against the Devil's schemes. Help me to know you and your word so well that the devil cannot deceive me.