

Lesson # 6 -- Deliverance from Satan.

Introduction

- A. The Christian has three "enemies": the fleshly nature (Romans 7:14-25); the sinful world system (I John 2:15-17); and the Devil (I Peter 5:8,9).
- B. In all of these areas Jesus Christ has obtained deliverance for us. However, for this deliverance to be a practical reality in our daily life we must know and practice the truth in honesty.
- C. In the Crucifixion Jesus Christ provided a cleansing from our fleshly nature (Romans 6:6). In the Resurrection we have the enablement to live virtuously through the new nature (Romans 6:4). This spiritual provision must be claimed and practiced by faith, love and hope (Romans 6:11-13, 16-18) as we face the world and the Devil. Any failure here will seriously limit our victory over Satan as well as our success as a Christian.
- D. The theme of this lesson is found in Hebrews 2:14,15.

Forasmuch then as the children (race) are partakers of flesh and blood, He (the Lord Jesus) also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

I. The Reasons for Our Vulnerability to Satan.

- A. The Biblical description of the Fall of Satan, Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19.

It would seem that Satan originally belonged to the highest order of angelic beings and was a leader among them. In a probationary period similar to that given to mankind, this greatest of all angels, chose to initiate an activity that would place him above God. Isaiah 14:13-15 describes this horrendous act of pride and rebellion by stating, "I will ascend . . . I will exalt my throne . . . I will sit also upon the mount . . . I will ascend above the heights of the clouds . . . I will be like the Most High."

In his judgment Satan was banished from heaven, became depraved in character, and now uses all his powers of evil to strike out against God through the Christian and non-Christian. The many angels who fell with him all unite in this attempt to discredit God and hinder His work.

- B. The Biblical description of the Fall of Man under Satanic temptation, Genesis 3:1-6.

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the

serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die, for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

Observations:

1. Satan led Adam and Eve to doubt the Word and the goodness of God and to initiate an action that was similar to his own proud rebellion.
2. At the foundation of this temptation and fall we have the question of authority. Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan, instead of God, and to act on his word.
3. This sinful deed brought Adam and Eve into subjection to Satan. He now has a "right" to speak to the human race. As sinners all of us have accepted, to some degree, his authority.
4. It is crucial to see that Satan operates on the basis of error, selfishness and sensuality. These are the opposite to the three moral attributes of God (truth, love and holiness) which alone form the basis of the Christian life. In the understanding of this observation we have the key to our deliverance as we practice the Christian life.

II. The Biblical Explanation of this Vulnerability.

A. The Names of Satan.

1. Abaddon and Apollyon - destroyer, Revelation 9:11.
2. Accuser of our brethren, Revelation 12:10.
3. The adversary, I Peter 5:8.
4. The deceiver of the whole world, Revelation 12:9.
5. Enemy, Matthew 13:28,39.
6. The evil one, Matthew 13:19,38.
7. The father of lies, John 8:44.
8. The god of this world, II Corinthians 4:4.
9. The prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2.
10. A liar, John 8:44.
11. The ruler of this world, John 12:31.
12. The tempter, Matthew 4:3.

B. The work of Satan (this is related to believers only).

1. Satan can obtain a "place" (foothold) in the life of the believer, Ephesians 4:27.
2. Satan can fill the heart of the believer, Acts 5:3.
3. Satan can physically, materially and spiritually attack a believer, Job 1,2; II Corinthians 12:7.
4. Satan can hinder a believer, I Thessalonians 2:18.
5. Satan can deceive a believer, Revelation 12:9,10; II Cor. 11:3.
6. Satan can tempt a believer, I Corinthians 7:5; I Thess. 3:5.
7. Satan can "ensnare" a believer, II Timothy 2:25,26.
8. Satan can "devour" a believer, I Peter 5:8,9.
9. Satan can "sift" a believer "as wheat", Luke 22:31.
10. Satan can make a believer proud, I Timothy 3:6.
11. Satan can bring a believer into condemnation, I Timothy 3:6.
12. Satan can bring a believer under reproach, I Timothy 3:7.
13. Satan can corrupt a believer's mind, II Corinthians 11:3.
14. Satan can accuse a believer, Revelation 12:10.
15. Satan can push a believer into hypocrisy, Acts 5:1-11.
16. Satan can push a believer into fanaticism, II Corinthians 2:1-11.
17. Satan can cast "fiery darts" into the believer, Ephesians 6:16.

Summary: The endeavor of Satan is to keep the believer from spiritual progress, from maturity in Christ and from the daily experience of the Fruit of the Spirit. The evidence of his success is all about us and also within the daily life of every believer. All Christians are under the attack of the enemy in some manner. The testimony of godly people to difficulty in prayer, in Bible study, in witnessing, in overcoming sins of omission and commission, in maintaining fellowship with God, etc., is a reminder of the subtle and powerful effect of Satanic influence.

III. Biblical Warnings Regarding this Vulnerability.

A. Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-5,9.

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostle's feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it

not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. . . .

Observations:

1. Satan filled the heart of these two so they would do his will.
2. This is not "possession", since they were believers, but it does indicate a serious "place" (foothold - Eph. 4:27) of Satanic control in their lives.
3. Peter's questions indicate that they had chosen to cooperate with Satan. He asked "why" in V3 and "was it not thine own . . . in thine own power . . . ?" in V4. Probably these two were only thinking of the approval they would get -- but, in reality Satan was behind it all!

B. Peter, Matthew 16:16,22,23.

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God . . . Then Peter took Him and began to rebuke Him, saying, Be it far from Thee, Lord, this shall not be unto Thee. But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind Me, Satan, thou art an offence unto Me, for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Observations:

1. Although Peter had just confessed the deity of the Savior he was used by Satan to tempt the Lord Jesus to avoid the Cross.
2. Satan used the half-truth that Peter had been taught about the Messiah (he saw only that He would come to reign) to initiate this attack.

C. The believers at Ephesus, II Timothy 2:25,26.

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Observation:

1. These Christians had adopted a way of life which made it possible for Satan to trap them.
2. The only way out was by repentance and the acceptance of the truth.

IV. The Biblical Provision Regarding this Vulnerability.

A. In the Crucifixion and Resurrection Jesus Christ defeated Satan for us.

And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15

Forasmuch then as the children (race) are partakers of flesh and blood, He (the Lord Jesus) also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebrews 2:14,15

. . . For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil. I John 3:8

Observation: Satan has been defeated. We must accept this truth and practice it in daily life.

B. In our salvation we were taken out of the kingdom of Satan and placed in the kingdom of God.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Colossians 1:13

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. I John 4:4

Observation: We no longer belong to Satan (John 8:44). It is now impossible for him to enslave us and get us into Hell. However, if we do not know the truth and how to practice this in daily life - he can ruin our life (Acts 5:1-11).

C. In our salvation we were "seated in the heavenlies" in triumph over Satan.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come, and hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all . . . But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved), and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:4-6

Observation: This passage reminds us that we share the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over Satan. He is under our feet. We do not have to accept his lies, accusations, threats or temptations.

D. We have been given an armor for protection and weapons to use against Satan.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Ephesians 6:11-18

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name. Luke 10:17

Observation: We must put on the armor each day by a decision of faith and then choose to live out in our attitudes and actions each facet of this protection. We must learn to use the Word of God as a weapon to correct the lies of Satan and to repel his temptations, etc. We must learn the power of the name of Jesus Christ and in times of crisis to "reprove" the enemy (Ephesians 5:11).

V. The Biblical Instruction Regarding this Vulnerability.

A. We are to resist the Devil, I Peter 5:8,9.

1. We must steadfastly reject, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the insinuations, accusations and temptations of Satan, Matthew 4:7.
2. We must affirm the truthfulness of the Word of God, Matthew 4:4.
3. We must live in obedience and fellowship with God, Psalm 91:4; I Jn. 2:14.
4. We must confess and repent of all past and present sins, I John 1:9.
5. We must put on the armor God has provided for us, Ephesians 6:11-18.
6. We must use the Word of God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in an aggressive manner against Satan, Ephesians 5:11; 6:16,17.

B. The Biblical summary: Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Conclusion: When the Devil attacks you - don't give up - resist him!