

Satan and His Kingdom

Introduction

- A. For most believers the truths regarding Satan are nothing more than hazy and impractical theories. The Lord Jesus spoke of Satan as having a Kingdom (Luke 11:18) and Paul said it was a *“Dominion of Darkness”* (Col 1:13) and *“The Kingdom of the Air”* (Eph 2:2).
 - B. Satan seeks to hinder the Christian because he hates the Lord Jesus. Since he cannot attack the Savior directly, he does so indirectly, by keeping the believer from spiritual maturity and fruitfulness. Our failures discourage us and cause many to question Christianity.
- I. The Believer's Need for Deliverance and Freedom

A. The Basis of Satan's Work – The Fall of Man Gen 3:1-19

In the Fall we accepted the lies of Satan and put them into practice. By choosing to disobey God the relationship with Him (freedom) was broken; and by obeying Satan, a relationship with him (slavery) was established (John 8:44). Satan now can control us through error and sin. We're told *“the whole world is under the control of the evil one”* (1 John 5:19).

B. The Description of Satanic Control. (never possession, because of salvation)

The titles given to Satan indicate his activity. He is called Tempter (Matt 4:3), Deceiver (Rev 12:9), Accuser Rev 12:10), Adversary (1 Peter 5:8), Murderer (John 8:44), the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4), and the Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph 2:2).

The Bible indicates that the Christian can give a "place" (foothold) to the Devil (Eph 4:27). Satan can fill the heart of the believer (Acts 5:3), he can be physically, spiritually, and materially attacked by Satan (Job 1,2; II Cor 12:7), he can be hindered (1 Thess 2:18), deceived (Rev 12:9,10; 2 Cor 11:3), tempted (1 Cor 7:5; I Th 3:5), ensnared (2 Tim 2:25,26), devoured (1 Peter 5:8,9), "sifted as wheat" (Luke 22:31), made proud (1 Tim 3:6), brought into condemnation (1 Tim 3:6) and under reproach (1 Tim 3:7), corrupted in mind (2 Cor 11:3), accused (Rev 12:10), made hypocritical (Acts 5:1-11), led into religious fanaticism (2 Cor 2:5-11), and be made the object of fiery darts (Eph 6:16).

The endeavor of Satan is to keep the Christian from growing, from developing the Fruit of the Spirit. All Christians are under the attack of Satan and wicked spirits in some manner. The clear evidence is not only the verses of the Bible but even more so, our lethargy and weakness in spiritual matters. Satan has worked subtly, and indirectly on each of us, not only to keep us from spiritual growth, but to weaken us in the areas of our strength so that joyful and powerful participation in prayer, worship, obedience, and witnessing is nearly impossible.

II. The Divine Provision for Deliverance and Freedom

A. In the Crucifixion and Resurrection Jesus Christ Defeated Satan.

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15 (See 1 John 3:8)

B. In the Ascension the Lord Jesus was Seated in Triumph over Satan.

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us 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 principalities and power and might.... Ephesians 1:19-21

This victory over Satan and wicked spirits has been given to every believer. We, too, are seated with the Lord Jesus (Eph 2:5,6), we have been given the use of His powerful name (Luke 10:17-20), given an armor (Eph 6:11-18), and a weapon of great power in the Word of God (Eph 6:17). We must learn to use our authority and God's provision.

III. The Biblical Instruction for Deliverance and Freedom

A. We Must Honestly Confess and Repudiate our Past and Present sins. Eph 4:27

Neither give place to the Devil.

B. We Must Honestly Practice Truth in Faith and Love. Eph 6:13-18

Stand firm then ... with truth ... righteousness... ... gospel of peace ... salvation ...the shield of faith ... the Word of God... and prayer.

C. We Must Honestly and Aggressively Resist the Work of Satan. 1 Peter 5:8,9

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

D. We Must Honestly Wear the Armor and Live Accordingly. Eph 6:11

Put on the whole of God

How do we know we are under attack? Start with the truth that Christianity works and then make a practical application. If one is honest, knows how to live for God and seeks to do so in daily obedience, has taken care of past hurts and emotional relationships, is physically up to par, and is still unable to live the way the Bible teaches – then look around for the enemy!

Resist him in the area of his attack. Be aggressive. Use the power of Christ's victory. Rebuke the source of what the enemy is doing.

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