

Satan – And The Successful Christian Life

Introduction

- A. The Christian has three "enemies": the sinful nature (Eph. 4:22); the sinful world system (I John 2:15,16); and the Devil (I Peter 5:8,9).
- B. In all of these areas Jesus Christ has obtained deliverance and freedom for His people. However, for this deliverance and freedom to be a practical reality of daily power, we must know and practice the truth in honesty.

I. The Need of Deliverance and Freedom.

- A. The Basis of Satanic Influence) The Fall of Man (Gen. 3:1-19).

In the Fall there was a passive response to the temptation of the Devil, the acceptance of doubt concerning the Word of God, the acceptance of insinuations concerning the goodness of God and the wisdom of God, and a deliberate choice to follow the suggestions of Satan and disobey the True and Living God.

The seriousness of this act cannot be overemphasized. This introduced the dimensions of sin, lust, depravity, slavery, ignorance, death and every form of evil into the human race. In summary, it is correct to say that the race became alienated from God and enslaved to the Devil. The final effects of this sinful enslavement will not be broken until the final judgment. The Fall of man and the hold of the enemy is so profound that it took the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and His Resurrection to break that hold and to make it possible for man to be redeemed.

- B. The Description of Satanic Influence.

1. The descriptive titles given to Satan indicate his activity. He is called Tempter (Matt. 4:3), Deceiver (Rev. 12:9), Accuser (Rev. 12:10), Adversary (I Peter 5:8), Murderer (John 8:44), Liar (John 8:44), the God of This World (II Cor. 4:4), and the Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph. 2:2).
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 so that he will lie (Acts 5:3), he can be physically, spiritually and materially attacked by Satan (Job 1,2; II Cor. 12:7), he can be hindered (I Thess. 2:18), deceived (Rev. 12:9,10, II Cor. 11:3), tempted (I Cor. 7:5; I Thess. 3:5), ensnared (II Tim. 2:25,26), devoured (I Peter 5:8,9), "sifted as wheat" (Luke 22:31), made proud (I Tim. 3:6) brought into condemnation (I Timothy 3:6) and under reproach (I Timothy 3:7), corrupted in mind (II Cor. 11:3), accused (Rev. 12:10), pushed into hypocrisy (Acts 5:1-11) and religious fanaticism (II Cor. 2:1-11), and be made the object of "fiery darts" (Eph. 6:16).

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.

II. The Divine Provision of Deliverance and Freedom.

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

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

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He 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. Heb. 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

B. In the Ascension Jesus Christ was seated in triumph over Satan.

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 Eph. 1:19-21

Observation: This victory and triumph over Satan and wicked spirits has been given to every believer. We too are seated in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:5,6), have been given the use of the Name of Jesus Christ (Luke 10:17-20), given an armor (Eph. 6:11-16), and a weapon of great power in the Word of God (Eph. 6:17).

III. The Biblical Instruction for Deliverance and Freedom.

A. There must be a complete and honest confession, repentance and renunciation of past and present sins.

Neither give place to the Devil. Eph. 4:27 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

B. There must be a complete and honest practice of the truth in the obedience of faith and love.

Stand therefore . . . with truth . . . righteousness . . . peace . . . faith . . . salvation . . . the Word of God . . . and prayer. Eph. 6:10-18

C. There must be a complete and honest, aggressive resistance of the work of Satan.

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist stedfast in the faith I Peter 5:8,9

Observation: When you are made to feel guilty but don't know what you have done – then reject it. When you are accused ("If you were a Christian you wouldn't be thinking a thought like that") refuse it. When your thoughts, emotions and bodily desires try to get out of hand – then take charge of them and bring them into subjection to Jesus Christ (II Cor. 10:4,5). You have the authority in the Name and Word of Jesus Christ – use your weapons as weapons!

D. There must be a complete and honest acceptance of the armor of the Christian. Pray it on yourself every day.

Put on the whole armor of God Eph. 6:31

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