

The Christian and His Enemy

Introduction

- A. In the Crucifixion Jesus Christ provided a cleansing from our old nature (Rom. 6:6). In His Resurrection He provided an enablement to live virtuously through the new nature (Rom. 6:4). This spiritual equipment is to be appropriated by the obedience of faith and love (Rom. 6:11,12,16-18). It is very important that the believer understand and practice these truths. Any failure in this area will seriously limit the believer's victory over Satan.
- B. Through His Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus Christ has brought to His people deliverance from Satan, our enemy. (Col. 2:15; Eph. 1:18-21; Hebrews 2:14,15; I John 3:8) This deliverance must be accepted by faith.
- C. Through the work of the Holy Spirit the believer has an armor for protection and weapons for attack. (Luke 10:17-20; Eph. 6:10-18) This armor and these weapons must be appropriated and used in daily life.

I. Satan and the Need of Deliverance.

- A. Important passages: Gen. 3:1-5; Is. 14:12-24; Ezek. 28:12-19; Zech. 3:1-5; Matt. 4:1-11; 25:31; Eph. 1:15 - 2:6; II Cor. 11:3,13-15; Eph. 6:10-18; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14,15; I Peter 5:8,9; II Peter 2:4; I John 3:8; Jude 6. Rev. 12:9-11.

B. Descriptive titles of the enemy.

1. Adversary - I Peter 5:8; Zech. 3:1.

His endeavor is to keep the believer from spiritual progress and maturity through physical sins (Luke 4:33); an over-emphasis on religious practice (Acts 5:1-11; II Cor. 2:10,11; 11:13-15; I Timothy 3:6,7); by temptation (I Thess. 3:5); hindrances, (I Thess. 2:18); or deception (Rev., 12:9,10; Gal. 6:3; I Tim. 24; James 1:22,26; II Peter 2:13). Note the Biblical description of this activity (II Timothy 2:25,26).

2. Accuser - Revelation 12:10.

His endeavor here is to bring the believer under self-condemnation. As an "angel of light" he counterfeits the work of the Holy Spirit. The evidence of such subterfuge is the lack of clarity in what the believer has done and what he is to do about his "sin." False conviction, produced in the life of the Christian to hinder and confuse him, always lacks this twofold clarity. Therefore, when you feel guilty and do not know what you have done or what you are to do about it - reject it. "In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I refuse to accept that guilt and reject it. I cover my mind with the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Murderer and Liar - John 8:44.

His endeavor is to take life and pervert the truth. This began in the Garden of Eden (I Timothy 2:14; I John 3:12) and will continue until the final judgment (I Timothy 4:1). Persistent thought related to death and desire for death should be attributed to the enemy and refused.

C. Observation.

The attack of the enemy often follows the pattern found in Genesis 3:1-5. He questions (1) whether God has spoken, (2) the goodness of God, (3) the truthfulness of God's Word, (4) the motive of God, (5) the wisdom in trusting God. Compare this attack with I John 2:15-17.

II. Satan and the Pro-vision of Deliverance.

- A. As the Last Adam, Jesus Christ triumphed in His Temptation - the very area - where the first Adam failed. (Matt. 4:1-11; Rom. 5:12-19)

B. As our Representative, Jesus Christ defeated our enemy in His Crucifixion. (Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14,15; I John 3:8) In His Exaltation our Savior was seated at the light hand of God in victory over Satan. (Eph. 1:19-23; 2:5,6; Heb. 1:13; I Peter 3:22) This triumph has been imputed, i.e., given as delegated authority, to the believer. (Luke 10:17-20) In Jesus Christ the believer is seated in the heavenlies with all wicked spirits under his feet. All principalities and powers have been made subject to him by Jesus Christ.

III. Satan and the Conditions of Deliverance.

A. In salvation the believer has been legally set free from Satan. (Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13; Eph. 2:1-3; II Cor. 4:4).

B. In sanctification this freedom must be maintained. The believer is exhorted to yield himself to God, resist the Devil (James 4:7; I Peter 5:8), not to give a "place" or "foothold" to the enemy (Eph. 4:27), and to put on the whole armor of God. (Eph. 6:10-18) In particular we are warned about:

1. The threat of hypocrisy, Acts 5:1-11.

2. The threat of judgmental suspicion, II Cor. 2:1-11.

3. The threat of disobedience to the known will of God, Eph. 4:17-32.

4. The threat of inconsistency, I Timothy 3:7.

5. The threat of pride, I Timothy 3:6.

C. To resist the Devil the believer must steadfastly reject, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ the insinuations, accusations, and temptations of Satan, affirm the truthfulness of the Word of God, live in obedience and fellowship with God, maintain the armor provided by God against Satan, and in particular utilize the Shield of Faith and the Sword of the Spirit whereby the representative work of Jesus Christ is brought into the believer's life and made his own. (I Peter 5:8,9; Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 6:10-18) It is of the utmost importance that the believer reject, affirm, live, etc., in an aggressive manner. To be passive toward the enemy is not only an act of disobedience before God, it is almost an invitation to the Devil!

D. In times of trial it is helpful for the Christian to put the principle of James 4:7 into aggressive prayer.

"Heavenly Father, I accept into my life everything that comes from You in this (symptom), everything that is in harmony with the Cross, and everything that comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I reject, however, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, everything that does not come from You, in this (symptom), everything that does not come to me in harmony with the Cross, and everything that is not the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I take the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

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