

The Path

Day 24: Know your Enemy 1

Christians do have an enemy. Apostle Peter described him in 1 Peter 5:8-9:

“Be sober, be vigilant: because your _____ the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith...”

According to Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary an “adversary” is: “one who contends with, opposes, or resists”: an “enemy”. He is our adversary; he is out to destroy Christians. Some believers indeed are destroyed.

Apostle Paul addressed a warning to Christians in 2 Corinthians 2:11:

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

It is important not to be ignorant of the devices of our spiritual enemy. In warfare, it is critical that you know your enemy and what they are attempting to do. Even so in Spiritual warfare.

1. **Who is Satan?** The Bible describes him as a serpent. We know that Satan came in the form of a serpent to beguile and deceive Adam and Eve in the opening book of the Bible -- by urging them to eat of the forbidden fruit. In the last book of the Bible, Revelation 12:9 we read that he is cast out of heaven:
 - a. “And the great dragon was cast out, that old _____, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

We also read of him being cast into a bottomless pit in Revelation 20:2:

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the _____, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.”

The prophet Isaiah described him as a fallen angel who is trying to destroy God, God's kingdom and people. In Isaiah 14:12-15 we read of his ambition to displace the most high God:

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne about the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, and in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds: I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

2. What does Satan do?

- a. Satan **tempts** people to sin

Satan was successful in tempting Adam and Eve to sin in eating of the fruit that God warned them not to eat. Satan was unsuccessful in his attempt to tempt Jesus to sin in Matthew 4:1-11:

"Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the _____ came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these **stones be made bread**. But he answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'" then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, **If thou be the son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee:** and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, 'It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'" Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and **sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world**, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve," Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him..."

There were many temptations that Jesus faced:

1. Making the stones bread
2. Jumping from the pinnacle, and
3. Desiring the kingdoms of the world and bowing to Satan to obtain them

These are forms of the three ways that all of mankind is tempted. John records these in 1 John 2:15-17 as:

1. The lust of the flesh (*Jesus was hungry in the flesh*)
2. The pride of life (*"If you be the son of god cast thyself down." A challenge to his pride*)
and
3. The lust of the eyes (*Look at all the kingdoms of this world that I will give to you*)

Jesus overcame each temptation with the Word of God

Pastor James explained that Satan looks for a wrong desire in us (lust) and brings a temptation our way to get us to take a wrong action (sin). James 1:14-15 reads:

"But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Notice that the temptation in itself is not sin. Jesus was tempted by the devil, however He did not sin. Everyone is tempted at some time to sin; However, not everyone follows the temptation and disobeys God's word with the wrong action (sin).

- **Satan is a thief** that comes to: **steal, kill, and destroy**. Jesus explained this in John 10:10:
 - "The _____ cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."
 - Jesus before his crucifixion explained to Peter in Luke 22:31-32:

- “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may _____ you as wheat, but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen the brethren.”

He was informing Peter that was Satan’s purpose to leave nothing to Peter, to completely destroy him. Peter would be able to overcome this challenge through faith.

- Satan is actively looking for people to destroy. The Old Testament account of Job describes this. We read of this in Job 1:6-12:
 - “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan came also among them. (Vs7) And the Lord said unto Satan, whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, ‘From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.’ (Vs8) And the Lord said unto Satan, hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? (Vs9) Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, ‘Doth Job fear God for naught?’ (Vs10) Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side: thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. (Vs11) But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. (Vs12) And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath in is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.”
- Satan can be transformed into an angel (messenger or minister) of light. In 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 Apostle Paul writes:
 - “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if _____ ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

The above are but a few things that Satan does. In our next lesson we will delineate several other of his destructive works.



Discussion:

- 1. Is temptation a sin? How are people tempted to sin?**
- 2. How and what does Satan steal from people? How can Christians protect themselves from such theft?**
- 3. Jesus prayed for Peter that his faith would fail not. How are we able to overcome the challenge of evil through faith?**
- 4. How and for what purpose is Satan transformed into an angel of light?**