Defeating the Devil

Satan's Devices

Christians, who have an unshakable faith in an unseen Christ and have a tenacious grasp on God's Word, insisting on its infallibility, often ignore one of the most cardinal doctrines of God's Word, the reality of a real devil . . . Satan!

However, the same Bible which speaks of the reality of a "personal" Savior, speaks of the reality of a "personal" devil! Yet the average Christian does not have any...or very little...knowledge of "Satan's devices." Many Christians, who may be ever so sincere in their walk with the Lord and, yet, will smile at the mention of a personal devil. One does not hear a great deal of teaching today on Satan's devices. Tell someone that Satan hindered you...(as Paul did in 1 Thessalonians 2:18...and watch their eyebrow go up! The next time you pray for an ailment and it doesn't leave, speak of it being, "a thorn in the flesh...a messenger of Satan sent to buffet you (As the Apostle Paul did in 2 Corinthians 12:7)...and just watch the looks that you get! Whenever something goes wrong, just say to someone that it was "due to a satanic attack" and just watch a pious smile appear...(and behind that smile your sanity is being questioned!)...It seems that even the Church has relaxed its teaching on this Biblical truth concerning the arch enemy of one's soul!

The name "Satan" has become nothing more than a figure of speech . . . much like the name "Santa Claus" . . . referring to some kind of force, or spirit...and not a real personality!

God's divine Word, when prophesying concerning the close of this age, tells of society throwing off every restraint...public appetite for sex, violence, new morality, alcohol, drugs, teen rebellion, and riots, it speaks of the energizing spirits behind the scene. God's Word tells us it is Satan organizing man's thought life...manipulating man's passions!

1 Timothy 4:1-2, "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron."

2 Timothy 3:1-5, "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Having nothing to do with them."

These verses draw a picture of a Satanic world-wide upheaval, calculated to burst forth in a volcano of blasphemy in the last days. They speak of "powers, signs and lying wonders," that will precede the Antichrist. Even in our day and age the influences of this Satanic force are at work. It seems that very few Christians living today are really living an overcoming life. The child of God must be alert to the truth of Satan's devices and be equipped to resist them.

We use to sing a little chorus that states, "Everybody ought to know who Jesus is!" That, of course, is true, however, in order for the Christian to live an overcoming life, it is also true that "Everybody ought to know who Satan is!" That is what this study is all about, learning what
Scripture says about the Devil and how to resist him and live an overcoming life in Christ Jesus.

There are massive forces at work today to control the minds of men. Listen to some of these statistics:

"The average five-year old spends only 25 minutes a week in close interaction with his father, according to one study. The same child spends 25 hours a week in close interaction with the TV."

Focus on the Family Bulletin, 1989

"By the time a child finishes high school, he will have spent 18,000 hours with the TV curriculum and only 12,000 with the school curriculum."

- Fundamentalist Journal, October 1984

"The NFD based its findings on its own monitoring study of 15 weeks of prime-time programming. The report found 2.81 references to sex per prime-time viewing. At that rate, over a period of one year viewers would be exposed to 9,320 scenes of suggested sexual intercourse or sexually suggestive comments."

- Liebert, Spralfkin and Davidson, "The Early Window: the Effects of Television on Children and Youth." 1979, pg.171

There is no doubt that many people today are under the hypnotic spell of media communication. - [Someone has said, "They have become victims of the idiot box."

These facts are astonishing when we stop to think that a person's brain is the most miraculous thing in the natural world! It consists of 3.3 pounds of "pinkish, grayish, jelly-like matter," and is incased in the bones of the cranium, and operates on 1/10th volt of electricity. The brain is composed of over 13 billion brain cells and has the ability to store (in a lifetime) over 15 trillion facts. The mind controls man's five senses and directs all the motor functions of the body.

Within the mind of every person there is a conscious and a subconscious area. The mind is much like a giant ice-berg, with 90 percent submerged below the surface of a person's consciousness.

One cannot plant weeds and expect to harvest worth while grain. Whatever one allows to be planted in his mind, is what will produce his character. A person's subconscious mind will accept any, and all, knowledge and can not draw a distinction between good and evil.

Five senses feed man's sub-conscious, however, God has given man a "brain" to protect his
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conscious mind. With the brain, man can accept or reject whatever he chooses too.

James 4:7 teaches, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, "Behold I stand at the door...[that is, the door of man's heart, or mind]... and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and fellowship with him and he with Me."

Man's heart is the prime target of Satan. He desires to control man's thought life. Even those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and are born-again, Satan will regulate their thoughts... (through ignorance or just selfish living)... if they do not deliberately take a stand against Satan's suggested thought pattern.

Jesus taught in Matthew 13:19, "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one...[the devil]... comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart."

2 Corinthians 4:4 teaches, "The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ."

Ephesians 4:17, "I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as sinners do, in the futility [the frivolity, or vain fancies] of their thinking."

John 13:2, speaking of Judas betraying Jesus says "...the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus."

Acts 5:3 states, "Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?"

Jesus says, in Matthew 16:23, "Satan, get thee behind Me!" The Apostle Paul states in 1 Thessalonians 2:18, "We would have come unto you... but Satan hindered us." The scene found in Job 1:6-12. describes vividly a conversation between God and Satan in the spirit world, which is most revealing, where God challenges Satan to a spiritual show-down in Job's world. In the Lord's prayer, Jesus taught us to pray, "...and deliver us from the evil one [referring to Satan]."

These Scriptures show that Satan is very much alive and will influence a person's mind... [saint or sinner]... if he is allowed to do so.

If the child of God would only realize that whatever he exposes his mind to, is the kind of life style he will produce.

Interestingly, when Ephesians 2:2 states, "...the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience," and when Philippians 2:13 states, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure, the word which is translated as "worketh" is exactly the same word, showing that Satan... by attempting to counterfeit God... desires to "work within" a person the exact same why which God works!

God has made man the guardian of his own mind. He decides which thoughts he will allow to enter and which ones he will refuse admittance. When 1 Peter 1:13 instructs us to "gird
up the loins of our mind," Peter uses an analogy of the long garments which men wore, pulling up and tucking the loose material into the belt, prepared themselves for some activity, such as a sport, or battle. Peter is saying, we must rid our minds of all excessive, bothersome, unnecessary material and "be vigilant . . . [awake and watchful] . . . be sober . . . [mentally self-controlled] . . . and fix our hope firmly in the grace that is coming to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

The eye-gate is only 1 of the 5 pipelines (senses) which feeds man's subconscious, yet it is 87 percent of the impressions which man receives.

*The following Scriptures give excellent advice:*

Ephesians 6:10-16, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."

The believer is "spiritual" to the degree in which he is involved with the things of the Holy Spirit.

Many will remember the story of Herb Filbrick in his autobiography, "I Led Three Lives." He was a private citizen in the United States, a spy for Russia and a counterspy for the FBI. The success of his mission depended upon his operation being completely unknown, and in the dark, to the Communist. In the same fashion, Satan's success depends largely upon absolute obscurity. Satan, using supernatural resources to deceive man, throws a cover of ignorance over his workings.

2 Corinthians 2:11 states, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, we are not ignorant of his devices."

When light is thrown on Satan's workings, it will only hurt his operation, like Herb Philbrick, when he had to testify in open court, could no longer work undercover for the F.B.I. The more we know about the devil, the more we will be able to realize his attempt to deceive us, and be able to resist him.

**1. SATAN IS A CREATED BEING**
In both Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, these passages looked far beyond the kings of Tyre and Babylon to describe Satan and how he came to be.

Colossians 1:16 states, "For by Him [by Jesus Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him."

Imagine all the skill and love that went into the making of Satan, an archangel in heaven, as he was created by Jesus Christ, when he was vested with every grace and anointed as the guardian of God's glory. He was created to lead in open praise and adoration of the Most High God. He was absolutely perfect in all his ways. Outside of the God-head Himself, Satan was the wisest, most beautiful and important creature in heaven.

2. SATAN'S SIN OF REBELLION

Satan was created with the ability to choose. He was completely free to exercise his will. He was a created being with the power to revolt if he so chose. He was "perfect in all his ways, until iniquity was found within him."

3. SATAN IS A FALLEN CREATURE

Satan's rebellion cost him his job, as he was banished from heaven. However, though Satan is a fallen creature, he still retains all the characteristic which God created within him and still has all the power, beauty and wisdom God originally gave to him.

Satan was not cast directly into hell because God had a use for him. God would use Satan, to develop a race of "tested" citizens for heaven. Satan's wisdom was turned to guile and deceit. He was now crafty and treacherous, who knows how to plumb the depths of wickedness.

Satan operates within the "spirit" of man and has had almost 7000 years experiences, and he can give "temporal" rewards to man.

4. SATAN IS THE "GOD OF THIS WORLD"

God gave Adam and Eve authority to "subdue and have dominion over this world" (Genesis 1:28), however, when they obeyed Satan's temptation instead of God's command, they forfeited that right and give it over to Satan's control.

God announced to Eve, when she sinned in the Garden of Eden, that "the seed of woman" . . . [Jesus Christ] . . . would be Satan's Mighty Enemy. Satan is the author of evil, and all sickness and suffering that is in the world. He is the reason for floods, tragedies, pestilences and blights which take place in the world.

5. SATAN'S GREAT BLUNDER

Satan engineered the death of Jesus Christ, thinking he would destroy Jesus, but, in doing so, he never dreamed that Christ's death would be the very entity which God would use to release mankind from Satanic control.
1 Corinthians 2:8 says, "None of the rulers of this age... [that is, demon powers]... understood it... [Christ's crucifixion]... for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

Satan did his best to rid the world of Jesus Christ, and thought Christ was dead and gone forever, however, **Christ arose from the dead!** Christ showed that life endures after physical death. 2 Timothy 1:10 teaches that Christ "brought life and immortality to light." The cross of Jesus Christ sealed Satan's fate!

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 states, "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

The Word of God was validated forever by Christ's resurrection!

6. SATAN WORKS TODAY

In the time remaining, Satan takes out his bitterness toward God on mankind. He lives to hurt mankind and Christians are his special object of hatred, his way of retaliating against Jesus Christ. His rage mounts, his fury increases, as he sees the end of time approaching.

Look at 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8, "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming."

7. SATAN'S LIMITATIONS

Satan was created with great wisdom, however, he does not have **all** knowledge. We've already mentioned that he did not know that Calvary would be his undoing (1 Corinthians 2:8) and he does **not know** the day or the hour in which the Son of Man will return to earth.

Satan makes his attack on the child of God **only** by God's permission (Job 1:6-12). He cannot takes lives unless God permits it.

Satan's contact with the believer can only be through the believer's **old Adamic nature**. He does **not** have access to the "**New nature**" which is in Christ Jesus. The Christian is always free to
choose to allow his New nature in Christ Jesus to rule his life or to allow his old, carnal nature to dictate. Satan cannot force one's WILL, and can not propel anyone against their WILL.

We are dealing with the UNSEEN SPIRIT-WORLD, which cannot be probed with science or man's natural knowledge. While we are to "avoid foolish and unlearned questions" (2 Timothy 2:23), we need not be afraid of the leading of the Holy Spirit into God's Word.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 teaches, "However, as it is written: `No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him' - but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us."

We have a warning in God's Word to "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

God's Word unveils the work of Satan and his demons. We believe in the Holy Spirit, not because of any intelligence on our part, but, rather, because of what God's Word says about Him, therefore, we must believe in Satan because of what God's Word says about him. The ministry of one is just as real as the other. Ephesians 6:16 states, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

It doesn't take a theologian to see the majestic lineup of evil spirit and hosts of unseen powers arrayed against the child of God in this day and age. Our battlefield is in the spirit world, however, even though this battle is not a physical battle, it is a very real one. And, God's Word beams much light on the activities in the spirit world, operating all around us.

A study of the Holy Spirit's workings can tell us a great deal about Satan workings, because he seeks to counterfeit the working of God. Satan uses the same techniques as the Holy Spirit, in order to deceive mankind. Both Satan and the Holy Spirit are spirit beings, both operate in the spirit-world, both deal directly with man through his spirit and both Satan and the Holy Spirit want the same thing from man - control!

It is the Holy Spirit Who brings conviction of sin, certifies the Word of God and makes Christ real to mankind. Just so, the unholy spirit personally leads man into temptation and sin.

You ask, "Do you believe in demons?" The answer is, YES! Because God's Word teaches that demons are to Satan what angels are to the Holy Spirit. Satan wants to distract from himself. If he can get the believer so occupied with "demons," that he loses sight of the devil, himself, he is thrilled. Satan uses the subject of "demons" as a smoke screen to divert attention away from himself. He enjoys the blackout, where he is not seen. The purpose of this study is to turn the spotlight of God's Word upon him. The demon kingdom is large, but there is only one devil. The devil is your enemy! If you deal with him, you will have very little trouble with his demons.
The very first battle man had with Satan was the sneaky attack in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:1 tells us about it, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Eve did not realize what was taking place. She didn't know about a "personal" devil, the gallery of evil powers that hovered around her unseen, nor did she know about the audience of spirit beings listening to what was going on. If only she had her spiritual eyes open to the fact that a great host was watching what was going on, things might have been different.

The Devil was demonstrating how easy it was to trick people. Men and demons were getting a lesson. As the spirit-world poised in breathless anticipation, it happened . . . Eve did eat! As a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience, Jesus said in 1 John 5:19, "The whole world is under the control of the evil one."

2 Corinthians 4:4 says, "The god of this age . . . [the Devil] . . . has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Eve was not aware of the evil host that was swirling about her and never even suspected the source of the suggestions which came to her mind.

Just as the child of God dealt with a personal Jesus for salvation, he must deal with the person of Satan in order to live a victorious life.

To ignore Jesus - no salvation
To ignore the Devil - no victory

Salvation requires a personal Savior! A victorious life requires a personal enemy!

All victory, of course, comes through the Lord Jesus Christ, however, victory also means a fight and requires an enemy. The child of God will never have a forward step in his walk with Christ until there is some kind of blow against Satan.

Let's turn our attention to two persons at this time in our lesson: The Holy Spirit and the Unholy Spirit . . .

1. Both are present with you
2. Both give personal attention to you
3. Both possess fantastic powers in the spirit world, and
4. Both are ready to exercise whatever dominion YOU permit!

Without realizing it, many Christians allow the Devil to influence and direct their life! The Devil is subtle, wise and ingenious - and he will manipulate the Christian's life, if he is allowed too. However, most Christians never realize what is going on as the Devil makes the ideas he deposits in the Christian's mind to appear as if these thoughts came from the Christian, himself - that they were the Christian's own contemplations.

The Devil puts thoughts into the Christian's mind, especially if the brain is idle and, without realizing it, the Christian wastes one day after another . . . forgetting about Jesus hour
after hour . . . excuses sin, thinking that it isn't so bad. **Why?** - Because the Christian, himself, is no match for the Devil!

Many a Christian can look back over the last few years, and see very little, change for Christ in his life. He is saved, but his life is ineffective. His life is pretty much the same as it was . . . he is no sweeter now, than he was then, his talents are stabilized, his pocket book is still tight and there is no increase in his surrender to God.

*These lessons will deal with how the Devil works and how he captures men!*

Ideas, not weapons, capture men. The Berlin wall only restricted travel, it did not make men Communist. If you can win a man's mind, you will have him. If you can capture his thoughts, you can control him.

2 Corinthians 10:3 says, "*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.*"

The Devil "*manipulates*" the minds of God's people, if they allow him to. Ever try to remember a Scripture and have a very difficult time doing so? Ever have an exhausting time trying to keep your mind in focus, when you are praying? The Devil is responsible. We have *under*-estimated him!

When a great, giant bridge was being built in New York City, the engineers searched for a base to rest the mighty buttresses on. But, right where the buttresses were to rest, there was an old sunken barge, full of stones, buried in the mud. The problem, "*How to raise that barge?*" The engineers finally decided to take a floating barge and, at *low tide*, secure it to the sunken barge. As the tide rose, the old barge, creaking and straining, was lifted from its vise like grip. The old rubble was raised by the "*lift of the Atlantic.*"

Our mind is much like that old barge (full of stones) - gripped by memories, so long they are hard to forget. We would give anything to be released from them. Every *human device* has failed to break their vise like grip. **What to do?**

The following Scripture will help us:

Hebrews 2:1, "*We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.*"

Acts 5:3, "*Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"*

Philippians 3:18-19, "*For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*"
2 Corinthians 4:4, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Ephesians 4:14-18, "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts."

John 13:2 "The devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus."

An undisciplined mind is open for Satanic attack. As 1 Peter 1:13 commands us, we must "gird up the loins of our mind." We must consciously control every thought going through our mind. Slackness in our mind, will make an easy target for Satan to introduce his ideas.

The problem is, that the ideas appear to be our own thoughts. If we do not control our mind, there is a "master-mind" who will. An undisciplined thought life makes one vulnerable to the Devil.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 teaches, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

If you do not believe that it is difficult to "keep your mind on Jesus Christ," just try focusing your mind on Jesus, and nothing else, for five minutes. You will find out that this "spiritual warfare" is a "war for our thought-life."

Ephesians 6:10-12 teaches, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Out thought life can become an "evil stronghold" maintained for the purpose of clouding our minds. Spiritual forces are arrayed to keep us from occupying our minds with Jesus Christ and the truths which He teaches. Satanic dignitaries make it their business to keep us from "setting our affections on things above" and are organized to make us forget Jesus Christ for most of the day.

Look at Hebrews 12:3, "Consider Him [Jesus Christ] Who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

The battlefield is our thought life!

The equipment which the Apostle cites is all "mental" preparation. It is a spiritual warfare, however, our spirit's contact with us is through our mind!
Ephesians 6:10-20, Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

Scripture teaches us to "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). The theater of operation in this spiritual warfare is our mind. To the extent which Satan can influence our thought life, is the extent to which he can control our lives!

The Apostle Paul awards Satan theological authority when he calls him, "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) . . . and political authority when he calls him; "the prince of this world" (1 Corinthians 2:6) . . . however, when Paul called Satan, "the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), he is describing Satan's spiritual dominion!

Satan has the power to work within man, if man allows him to!

Ephesians 2:1-2 state, "As for you (Christians), you were did in your transgression and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air or, the prince of the power of the air], the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." The force of this passage is the words "at work" [or, as the King James Translation states, "worketh."

[Remember that the Greek word "worketh," where the Holy Spirit "worketh" within us, found in Philippians 2:13 - and where Satan "worketh" within us, found in 1 Corinthians 12:11, are one and the same word.]

Satan attempts to "work in" people in the same way that the Holy Spirit "works in" the child of God. The "god of this world" . . . [the Devil] . . . attempts to counterfeit Almighty God in reaching and carrying out his ambition in the hearts of men! What we know about the "working" of the Holy Spirit, is an indication of how Satan aspires to imitate God's working.

_Satan attempts to counterfeit God's workings in such a way that believers will not recognize him, however, the child of God, if he is ever to live victoriously, must learn to have a respect for the Devil as a personal enemy!_

**DOES THE DEVIL KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN A PERSON'S MIND?**
Jesus said in Matthew 13:19, "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one . . . [the Devil] . . . comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart." When Jesus says, "does not understand it," He is speaking of man's heart, and mind. Jesus tells us that the "reasoning" facility of a person can be exposed to Satan. How would Satan ever be able to cause a person "not to understand the words of Christ's kingdom," unless he knows the thoughts of a person? Jesus tells us that "Satan can snatch away what was sown in a person's heart."

To be able to "snatch away the words of Christ's kingdom," Satan would have to:

1. Be present to see the inner thoughts of a person's mind
2. Know the thought-life of a person
3. Have power to "take away the words of Christ's kingdom"
4. Have the power to introduce his own ideas

In answering the question, "Can the Devil know man's thoughts," let's look at the following Scriptures:

Hebrews 2:1, "We must pay more careful attention . . . [give more earnest heed] . . . therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away . . . [slip from your memory]."

Philippians 3:18-19, "For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things."

2 Corinthians 4:4, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

John 13:2, "The devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus."

Acts 5:3, "Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?"

Ephesians 4:17-18, "So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts."

The center of this spiritual warfare is in the believer's mind. The Devil seeks to fill the believer's mind with trash, and the trivia of the day. The believer's prime weapon is the Word of God, the only "offensive" part of the armor of God listed in Ephesians 6:10:17.

The mind is the channel of which the Holy Spirit speaks to the child of God and can be blocked by foolishness, fleshly imaginations and carnal notions.

1 Peter 5:8 says, "Awake! Be on the alert because your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, eager to devour you."
• "Is my every thought what it ought to be?"
  • "Does making a living mean more to me than the Lord's work?"
  • "Are the things that I do weighed in the light of eternity?"
  • "Am I becoming more and more like Christ?"

When Jesus said, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne," He was speaking primarily to believers, not to sinners. Jesus stands at our heart's door (our mind) and seeks to enter!

"Kingdom of God," is God ruling and reigning in every area of the believer's life. Whatever area of the believer's life he is unwilling to turn over to the Lord, is where the Devil is most likely to attack. If the believer is spiritually alert, he has an immediate recourse.
1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins . . . [acknowledge, or, freely admit them,] . . . He (Jesus Christ) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins . . . [God can be trusted in His righteousness to forgive us of our sins] . . . and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness . . . [everything wrong] . . . If we say that we have not sinned . . . [if we deny that we have sinned] . . . we make Him a liar . . . [we are treating Him out to be false] . . . and His Word is not in us . . . [does not dwell in our hearts]."

If we do not "confess" our sins, Satan can control that phase of our life. Does the thought of being controlled by Satan terrify you? Where do you think that anger, pride, lying, or petty-mindedness comes from?
Ephesians 4:22-24 says, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Verse 27 goes on to warn, "and do not give the devil a foothold."

Christians have waged unsuccessful war for years against these horrible traits within their nature, and they have failed again and again. The believer is commanded to "be conformed to the image of Christ." How can this ever be accomplished? The answer is, "Let the mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5) - by exposing our mind to Christ Jesus! To live a victorious life, the believer must be Christ informed!

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 6:11-12 says, "Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires."

The Devil cannot touch the believer's will, he can, (and will), influence it, if the believer allows him to do so. The Devil approaches the believer's will through his thought life.

When we say that the Devil can influence the believer's will, we do not mean that the believer lives a life of gross sin. The believer may live a good, moral, religious life, but one that is wasted as far as the Lord's work is concerned. He is useless to the Lord's work.
There are three tenses of salvation

1. I am saved from sin
2. I am being saved from sin - sometimes
3. I am not yet saved from all sins

Let me explain. When one accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, he is saved from the guilt of sin, however, there are times when he is overcome by the power of sin, and, of course, he has not yet been saved from the presence of sin.

The past tense of sin is that we have been delivered from the "guilt" of sin!
The present tense of sin is that we are, daily, being delivered from the power of sin!
The future tense of sin is that we will be delivered from the "presence" of sin!

1. Jesus paid for the guilt of all of our sin and when we accept Him as our Savior, all the guilt of our past sin has been forgiven.

2. Our old carnal nature still has a tendency for sin. The Devil suggests that we cater to our sinful nature because we have an appetite that can be enticed. Satan would have no power whatsoever over the believer if he hated all sin. The old, carnal, sinful desires residing within the believer, makes temptation possible.

3. One of these days the believer will be delivered from the very presence of all sin.

Many Christians have given their heart to Jesus Christ, however, they have never really surrendered their minds totally to the Lord.

In Acts 7:39 Paul refers to those who, "Refused to obey God and, instead, rejected Him and in their hearts." Acts 8:21-22 says. "You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps He will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart."

When one comes to Christ, his fight with God is over, but his fight with the Devil is not over. The Devil hates to let go of anyone's heart, however, he must when Christ comes in, however, Satan will keep the mind, if he can! Look at the following Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:23, "Be made new in the attitude of your minds."

Romans 12:2, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

2 Timothy 2:26, "They will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

Have you ever watched a wind-mill as the breeze turned those massive fans? Inside the mill are huge wheels grinding away. The mill grinds whatever is supplied to it. You feed it wheat grain and it produces wheat. Our mind is like a great running mill that is always running and never stops. If we feed our mind God's Word, it will constantly change us. The more we occupy our mind with the things of God, the more Christ-like we will become. The more we occupy our
minds with the things of this world, the more worldly we will become.

If the believer does not pay close attention to what goes into his mind, the Devil will eagerly feed it. This is the very method the Devil uses to exercises his dominion over the believer.

Every day must be squeezed for what it can produce for Christ. The believer must look for ways to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. Many Christians are "good" people, however, they are not walking daily in the Spirit, nor are their lives being changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Salvation is not automatic. One must believe and accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. After one receives salvation, victory over the Devil is not automatic, either. God makes victory possible, but He does not make the believer immune to defeat.

If the believer were not vulnerable, then why does Christ teach us to "watch and pray?" In fact, God's Word guarantees the believer a fight in his Christian walk. Paul warns the believer of the "fiery darts of the wicked," in Ephesians 6:16.

1 John 5:4 states, "And this is the victory that overcomes the world...even our faith."

Paul says in Romans 7:23, "I see a law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members." The spiritual warfare which the believer is engaged in is in the mind!

"Resist the Devil and he will flee from you."

THE MECHANICS OF RESISTING THE DEVIL

You push the light switch and the electric light goes on. The electricity is there all the time, however, unless you push the button, nothing happens! Resisting the Devil is like that. The power is there all the time. The believer has the mighty power of Jesus Christ available to him. Jesus met the Devil head-on and suffered the worst the Devil could dish out. Jesus was crucified. However, Jesus defeated the Devil and the powers of hell when He rose, triumphantly, from the dead.

All this power, which Jesus won, is available to every child of God, but it is not operative until the believer resists the Devil. God has already accomplished for mankind certain things and commanded to believer to carry them out. God will not do for the believer what He has commanded him to do. In order for the believer to grow and mature, spirituality, God gives authority and then commands the believer to "resist the Devil."

Jesus said to His followers in Luke 10:19, "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

The believer is commanded to "put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand...In addition to all this,
take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

- Ephesians 6:13-16

God commands believers to, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 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." 1 Peter 5:6-9

The believer performs the act of "resistance," the power of God does the rest! Satan will not flee the believer's power, but, rather, he will exploit the believer's old nature and weaknesses. It is the power of the indwelling Christ that operates to defeat the Devil. However, if the believer does not "press the button," resisting the Devil is not automatic.

There is nothing automatic about the presence of Jesus to hinder the tempter's work. It is true that, "Greater is He . . .[Christ Jesus] . . . that is in you than he . . . [the Devil] . . . that is in the world . . . [that is, in the Satanic system]," however, that does not mean that the believer will live automatically victoriously. All 1 John 4:4 means is that the believer CAN live victoriously! What does the rest of this verse say? Who is it that "overcomes?" 1 John 4:4 says that we do! The indwelling Christ is the "means" by which we overcome the Devil, but it is the believer who must take the action.

The presence of electricity does not automatically turn the lights on. Of course, it is the "power of the electricity" that lights the lights when I press the button, but, until I press that light switch, nothing . . . absolutely nothing . . . happens.

Jesus Christ dwells within the heart of the believer. The "spiritual power" is installed at the moment of salvation. The power for spiritual action, whether it be life lived in witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ or resisting the Devil, but the power does not operate until the believer "presses the button."

What is "the button?"

The button is the spoken word. When the believer speaks to the lost soul, the button is pressed and God's power goes into action. When the believer speaks to the Devil, resisting him, the button is pressed, God's power makes Satan flee.

When the believer acts - God acts!

The believer does not have an automatic soul-winning device, he must take action - he must "speak" and, then God does the work.

Matthew 6:13 teaches us to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father in John 17:15, "My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one."
The believer's temptation is **not** cancelled by the presence of Christ in his life. but, rather, the Devil is able to manipulate the believer's thoughts . . . [and make these thoughts coincide with the believer's own thoughts, so that the believer thinks they are his own] . . . unless he learns to resist the Devil.

The Devil **cannot** impose his thinking in violation to the believer's free will! God's entire human-program is based upon man's freedom of choice. Even *faith* is the believer free human response to God's divine revelation.

*This may surprise you!*

The Devil does **not** want control of man's will, because, if Satan had control of man's will, then man would no longer be held responsible for selfish acts which he entertains. The Devil wants man to have a free will, but he wants man to act (by his own will) on Satan's suggestions. First, the Devil is man's "*tempter,*" then he becomes man's "*accuser.*"

Both God and the Devil wants the believer to have free choice. The Devil wants the believer to choose evil so that he will be judged for it, and God wants the believer to choose righteousness and so that he will be rewarded for it.

The Devil has instant, immediate access to the believer's mind, unless the believer constantly "*Casts down imaginations, and every high things that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*" (2 Corinthians 10:5). Satan also has a complete panorama of man's thoughts, imaginations, motives, intentions and secret ambitions. He is familiar with every weakness, strength, particularly in the believer's defense (or lack of) and any vulnerable areas. He will, when permitted (by carelessness or ignorance) plant, or remove, any ideas from the mind of the believer. He is well aware of the believer's weaknesses and passions

**THE DEVIL IS AN ENEMY TO BE RESPECTED!**

**How does the Devil control a believer?** - The Devil does so, simply by the power of suggestions! He is an expert in the believer's weaknesses and he is a genius in designing an approach to the believer's vulnerability.

Man is a "*suggestive being,*" who responds to suggestions. Revelation comes as suggestion!

- The believer's response to divine revelation is faith.
- The believer's response to Satanic suggestions is sin!

The Devil makes a suggestion that matches the victim's passions, appeals to his weaknesses, at an opportune moment and the believer is likely to accept it. The believer yields, not because he *has* to, but, rather because he *wants* to.

In Ephesians 6:10, which states, "*Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil.*" the Greek word which is translated "*wiles,*" is referring to Satan's sly tricks, deceitful artifices, stratagems, beguiling tricks, deceiving or luring. Satan arranges the believer's thoughts so impulsively that the believer believes the thoughts are his own.
God's suggestions have to do with future rewards, while the Devil's suggestions offer payment NOW!

Paul speaks of the time when the believer, "followed the ways of this world... [Satanic system]... and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 2:2).

God's Word tells the believer to "squash his ego, deny his passions, overrule the instincts of his fleshy nature", but the Devil's suggestions cleverly match the weak points of the believer, makes them appear as if it is the "righteous thing" to do! The believer finds his own reasons for going along with these suggestions of the Devil.

People sometimes say that they, "heard from God." Did they hear God's voice in the form of sound? No, what they mean is that their "spirit" received a strong response which they felt was God speaking to them.

The believer must be very careful when he "hears from God," because, even though the Holy Spirit does influence the believer's spirit, the UNholy spirit (the Devil) address men in the very same way! The child of God cannot see the God of heaven, but must rely upon his "spirit" to obtain communication from God. However, the believer cannot see the god of this world either, nor does he realize that Satan addresses the believer in the very same way.

The problem is that the believer seldom suspects the true source of these suggestions when they come from the Devil, even though these propositions hinder and drain the believer's capacities in living for Christ, because they seem to come from "within" himself. Since these suggestions seem to come from within his spirit, he never suspects that they come from an outside source. Because they appear to be his own ideas, he is inclined to entertain them.

However, when any idea comes to the believer, he does not have to accept it, because he is a free, moral individual who is free to accept (or reject) any suggestion that comes to him. Rejecting the Devil's ideas that pop into the mind is "discipline!"

Every man has a conscious and a subconscious mind. A person's brain is much like an iceberg, which is only 10 percent above the water, while 90 percent sprawls beneath the surface. The portion of man's brain which is above the surface is man's conscious mind, while the remainder is his subconscious mind.

Sigmund Freud, accredited for the discovery of man's subconscious, refers to it as a "foul swamp." He spent years probing and unlocking the mental secrets of man's subconscious mind and he likened man's subconscious mind to "turning over a rock and seeing vermin scurrying in all directions." Freud's writings testify to the indescribable filth and evil of man's depraved, fallen nature.

Man has self-imposed restraints upon his conscious mind, and can discipline himself to some extent in that area. Man provides a veneer to his subconscious, to appear as a social conscience, thus making it possible to get along with other people. However, below the surface, it is an entirely different story. His subconscious is often like a monster of hideous evil. The Devil has everything he needs within man's subconscious to make his suggestion seem beneficial.
to the person. Satan knows exactly what thoughts, or suggestions, to send in order to keep the believer's mind from Spiritual things. It isn't necessary for Satan to fill the believer's mind with filth to accomplish his purpose, all he needs are the "things of the flesh."

Because the ideas seem to come from within the believer, and match his own desires, they are so tempting. Is the believer inclined to resist notions that meets his secret longings? Since these Satanically-spawned ideas appeal to the believer's instincts and cater to his fallen nature, how can he resist? This does not mean that the believer is some kind of fiend. The Devil doesn't make sex fiends, human exterminators or a sadistic perverted person out of everybody because that is not always his goal. He will even use "godly ambitions" to satisfy a believer's depraved wants, if that is what it takes to destroy the believer's effectiveness.

Can a Christian be vicious?

The Devil's ideas may not appear to be vicious . . . [if they did, the believer would reject them immediately] . . . however, Satan makes "good men" blind to the evil suggestions he would bring to their mind.

For instance, it never occurs to those who would gossip, that the reason they do it is because there's an "evil need" within them which is being satisfied by this Satanic scheme. They never suspect that the words issuing from their mouth is inspired by the unholy spirit and, without realizing it, they are being used of the Devil. [The same goes for an unforgiving . . . pride . . . envy . . . greed . . . or . . . lewd . . . spirit.]

LET'S SUMMARIZE

1. If we are ever to live a victorious life we must do something about the Devil. 2 Corinthians 2:11 tells us that if we are ignorant of Satan devices, he will have an advantage over us. Living a life of victory is not something that is automatic, but, rather, we must "fight our enemy, Satan" or else Satan will control our life simply by putting "suggestions" in our mind.

While it is true that "Satan was defeated by Christ," nevertheless, we must resist the Devil in Jesus' name.

2. We must realize that many ideas which come to our mind are inspired by the Devil. The believer's mind is the Devil's chief target.

3. Both the Holy Spirit and the unholy spirit seek to influence our spirit and both send suggestions to our thought life, using material which is on deposit in our subconscious mind. Since the ideas come from within us, they seem to be our own ideas, so we must "bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Until we become serious about this command from 2 Corinthians 10:5, we will tend to be controlled by Satan's thought pattern.

4. Satan cannot violate our will, but is limited to the use of suggestions which we allow him to infiltrate into our minds. We must not underestimate the power of suggestions. It is one of the greatest forces motivating people. Satan is a master at planting suggestions in people's mind. He knows their weaknesses, he designs ideas to
correspond with their frailties and promises to satisfy their present longing, making his suggestions almost irresistible, until the source is recognized.

The purpose of these lessons is to help believers recognize the Devil's work in their life, and, then, show how we are to resist Satan. Most Christian never suspect Satan has anything to do with the things that fill their minds all day, but he does, as we will see.

**SATAN'S SUPER DISGUISE**

Can you imagine a fireman (who fights fires) who is a firebug (who starts fires)? It is very difficult to envision a fireman getting a warped sense of satisfaction from seeing the smoke and flames, as he attempts to erase the evidence that he was the one who had started the fire.

Satan must have obscurity for his work. He depends on a cloak of personal darkness. One of his greatest weapons is his ability to convince people that he does not exist, and to do his work completely unobserved by the child of God. This "cloak of darkness" is not startling when one considers that the Devil only spoke three times in all of Scripture. First, to Eve in the Garden of Eden; second, at the scene between God and himself in the book of Job; and third, at the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

The New Testament writers had no doubt of the reality of the Devil. He is called, "the god of this world" - "the prince of the power of the air" - "an angel of light" - "a roaring lion" and "the prince of this world." 1 John 5:19 states, "The world is under the influences of the Evil one," and Jesus told Peter, "Satan will sift you like wheat." However, in spite of all this, many Christians wink at the truth of a real Devil.

How many refuse to consider an Evil one who has access to them that is much akin to the method which the Holy Spirit uses? How can anyone ignore the Devil who exploits them so easily? The answer is, because he has such a perfect disguise! In fact, Satan's disguise is so effective that he can acquire almost total power of a life and, yet, his victim does not even suspect his identity. All the while the child of God would never think that such a thing could happen to a believer! However, when the child of God learns of the nature of Satan's master disguise, it will explain why his "life in Christ" isn't all that he would like for it to be.

**SATAN'S DISGUISE IS "MAN'S SELF NATURE"**

Have you ever looked beyond your own behavior pattern to realize that someone else had a hand in it beside yourself? Who could it be? Remember when Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me Satan?" (Matthew 16:23) or, when Jesus stood up in a boat and rebuked the one behind the storm? (Mark 4:39). The believer must begin to see that the one behind a great deal of his thoughts and actions is the Devil, himself, however, because he is disguised, the believer fails to suspect the Evil One's presence. It never occurs to the believer that someone else has the power to engineer the believer's behavior without once violating the believer's free will.

Let's look at Romans 7:17-23, where Paul says, "As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is
not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members."

Behind the believer's thought and actions, the Evil One seeks to influence the believer's life, however, his disguise is so hidden, yet, so competent, that the believer never once even imagines that he is being swayed by anyone, or anything else, other than himself.

**The Devil is a self-centered person!**

God tells of Satan's fall from heaven, when He said, "You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain; I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High'" (Isaiah 14:13-14). And, Ezekiel 28:2 is speaking of Satan when it states, "In the pride of your heart you say, 'I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god . . . But you are not a god."

**The spirit of `self' is the spirit of Satan!**

When Satan caused man to sin, it was the very same "self-will" that was the trap. Satan told Adam and Eve "Ye shall be as gods." Our first parents joined Satan's rebellion against God that day in the Garden of Eden. The same spirit that was found in Satan could now be seen in Adam. No longer was God the head of man because man had joined Satan's gang, and that "gang" already had a ruler. Even though God had given the world to man to rule and have dominion over, now it was no longer man's, but, because man had chosen Satan to be his overlord, Satan was now the "god of this world." The same "self spirit," that was in Satan was now within man.

Every descendent of Adam inherits that same "spirit of disobedience," as Romans 5:19 states, "Through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One Man (Jesus Christ) the many will be made righteous."

The "Law of the Harvest" is "like begets like."

It is important to always remember that, man is a creature with the freedom of choice. God has given this power to man in order to protect him.

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Freedom of choice is a wonderful gift of God, that places man above the animal kingdom. God gives man the right to choose whom he will serve. However, freedom of choice can be a terrible thing. God places Himself in man's hands. Man has the power of his own fate. God offers His love and eternal life to mankind and, then, stands as a "beggar" before the door of man's heart. Man can choose to turn to Christ or he can, as the Inn-keeper that day in Bethlehem, turn Him away. Man has the power of his own fate. His future is in his own hands.
When Adam elected to disobey God, his "spirit" became the same as Satan's spirit . . . *self-centered*. The key to Satan's disguise is just that: the spirit of Satan and the spirit of fallen man are identical. And now, Satan, having access to the fallen nature of man, is constantly making clever appeals, to the believer's passions.

All mankind has this fallen nature, which is "the spirit of disobedience" (Romans 5:19). True, the believer receives the "New Nature of Christ Jesus" when he is born-again, however, this does not mean that he is automatically rid of his old nature. He now has **two** natures, his old Adamic nature and the New Nature in Christ Jesus. It is only as he lives under the stress and struggle of these two natures that he matures and grows spiritually.

The "*spirit of man*" is **self**-assertion . . . **self**-exaltation . . . **self**-satisfaction . . . and . . . **self**-glorification, and this is also the spirit of Satan. The two are identical. A man who is influenced by the spirit of Satan does not have to be a "Satan-worshipper," but, rather, a "Self-worshipper."

**THIS IS THE BIG DISCOVERY,**
**TO DISCOVER SATAN'S DISGUISE.**
**IT IS MAN'S OWN "SELF-NATURE**

I was guest speaker one time at Glad Tidings Tabernacle in New York City. A young man who sat about three rows from the front, looked to be so intent on what was going on. He constantly looked in my direction and appeared to be hearing every word I said. However, I noticed he was wearing what I thought to be a hearing aid in his ear. After the message I commented to the pastor concerning the young man and the pastor told me, "Oh, the world-series is on and he didn't want to miss it so he brought his transistor radio and was listening to the ball game during the service." You might say that he was filled with the spirit of baseball.

A letter of a Communist individual was found that shows his commitment to the Communist cause. It stated, "I don't have time or money for movies, concerts, T-bone stakes, a decent home, or a new car. I am described as a fanatic. My life is dominated by one great overshadowing factor, the struggle for world communism. It is the cause I fight for. If my personal life seems hard, or my ego appears to suffer through subordination to the party, I am adequately compensated by the thought that in my small way I am contributing to something better for mankind. I am in dead earnest about the Communist cause. It is my life, my business, my religion, my hobby, my sweetheart, my wife, my mistress, my bread and my meat. I work at it in the day time and dream of it at night. It's hold on me grows, not lessons as time goes by. I cannot carry on a friendship, love affair, or even a conversation without relating to this force which drives and guides my life."

He was filled with the spirit of Communism.

The Apostle Paul was filled with the spirit of Christ. He said, "*For me to live is Christ.*" He had a one track mind when he stated, "*This one thing I do.*" He lived for the cause of Christ and nothing else mattered to him. He constantly talked and thought about Jesus Christ and His work. It effected his speech, his dress and his business.

Paul said, "*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him . . . Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men*" (Colossians 3:17, 23).
Paul taught that everything the believer does is to be in relation to Christ. The believer's life is to be ordered by the single passion of exalting Jesus Christ. It matter little what any one else thinks, the believer is to live solely for Christ - from the moment he opens his eyes in the morning until he closes them in sleep at night.

*Do you know anyone like that?* How glorious a believer's life would be if every longing of his heart was just to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. However, in spite of the fact that he has a "New Nature" in Christ Jesus, there is also another "spirit" competing for the believer's attention. That spirit is the "spirit of self!" More often than the believer would like to admit, he yields to the leading of the unholy spirit, Satan, himself.

Just because one has the Holy Spirit within, it does not mean that he is immune to Satan's suggestions - planting ideas in the believer's mind. Jesus, of course, lived a perfect life before His heavenly Father, however, when we look at His life, we see that even Jesus was continual . . . all through His earthly life . . . under attack by Satan. The fact is, most of the time, most believers exalts self, gratifying their own souls with the things of this world.

Ephesians 2:3 reminds the believer of the time when, "All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

Sad to say, in many a believer's life "the old sinful nature" rules, and he is living in the "lust of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh."

Remember, **nothing is ever lost to the subconscious mind.** Every ungodly thought that has ever been tolerated . . . every un-Christ-like conversation . . . all envy, lust and jealousy that has ever been entertained - is stored up in a person's subconscious mind. Every wicked thought, or incident, from the past can flash into the believer's conscious mind. Even in the most sacred moments of the believer's mind the trashiest of memories can suddenly attack his mind. Why? Because every evil thing he has ever thought, felt or been exposed to, is recorded in his subconscious mind and Satan has access to this to be used as temptation to the believer.

Jesus lived a completely pure life. He abhorred evil and refused to disobey His heavenly Father, therefore Satan had nothing to use in His subconscious mind.

That is the reason Jesus could say at the end of His earthly life, *"The prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me"* (John 14:30).

Whenever the believer exalts himself, he is influenced with the "spirit of Satan." Satan's spirit is the spirit of self! To the degree which a person's life is for self, is that degree he is influenced by the spirit of Satan and, to the degree which a person lives for . . . and concentrates on . . . Jesus Christ, to that degree he is filled with the Spirit of God! If the believer realized that he is being influenced by the spirit of Satan . . . (if he openly knew that this desire was the "spirit of Satan") . . . it would ruin everything which Satan is attempting to accomplish. Therefore, Satan is willing to forgo open, public worship. Of course, Satan is seeking worship, however, he realizes that his success in tempting the believer depends upon absolute obscurity on his part.

1 Corinthians 2:8 tells us that, *"None of the rulers of this age [Satan's kingdom]*
understood it [God's wisdom] for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." Satan discovered too late that the Cross of Jesus Christ, when he aspired to kill the promised Messiah, was the very object that destroyed his plans. Now, that all hope of striking back at the Destroyer was gone, he can only attack His followers. If Satan exposed himself as he really is, he could never accomplish his plan. Satan's desire is to keep anyone from coming to Jesus Christ. However, after one accepts Christ as his Savior, Satan will do his best to ruin the believer's effectiveness. The Devil is the believer's dedicated enemy and he is relentless in his determination to destroy the Christian's productivity.

Those who have children, know how it feels to have someone strike at their little ones. So it is with Jesus Christ, because believers are His children, they become Satan's target.

**HERE IN IS SUBTLETY**

Satan makes temptation seem to be a matter of choosing between Christ and self and all the deceptive power of Satan prompts the believer to choose self instead of Christ. Satan is certainly willing to forgo public personal worship, in order to hurt Christ, by hurting His "Body," and hindering the growth of believers.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 speaks of the coming Antichrist and says that, "He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

Satan's purpose is to be a counterfeiter of Almighty God and, to accomplish this, he works behind the "spirit of self." This makes it almost impossible to detect that it is the Devil, himself, who is the one who is behind the ingenious mask of man's "spirit of self."

**Why does God allow Satan to exist?**

God uses Satan to bring about the believer's maturity. Believers will grow spiritually, if they respond to Satan correctly. However, instead of cultivating spiritual growth, many believers are filled with the "spirit of self," the very instrument Satan uses to control the believer's life, making him ineffective.

Most cannot believe that they could ever be involved in such a thing as Satan controlling their "spirit of self." They never even suspect that such a thing could happen.

Let's think about it for a moment. A child of God wakes up in the morning and smells breakfast cooking, and his stomach clamors for something to eat. It is more tantalizing than taking time for prayer, so he heads for the breakfast table, without taking time for his daily devotions. After all, hunger is natural to man so why ignore it? He eats what he wants to and wares what he wants to. He goes off to work, with no time for prayer or communion with God. He gets into his car and goes to his job. He serves his employer and works for his family's interests. After all, he has to keep his mind on his work.

When lunch time arrives, he needs his recreation, there isn't time for devotion then either. Does he witness for Christ? Not on this job. After work, he goes home and sits in his chair, eats what
he wants to, reads what he wants to and relaxes for his comfort.

He goes to the market merely to "get things" - select food that appeals to his appetite and engage in small talk with whomever he meets, but, he never says anything about Jesus.

He goes to the barber. Does he bring up anything about Jesus? No, because Satan has been successful in blocking out any thoughts about God. He stops at another store, but the only reason is to pick up something his wife asked him to get. He is low on gas, so he stops by the gas station - but only to buy gas for his car. He goes by the Post Office, but only to mail his letters.

Later that evening, he goes out into the garage to work on his hobby and he realizes that he hasn't prayed all day - but there are so many things he has to get done, he just doesn't have time now.

When he plans his vacation, does it include what he could do for Christ? No, but, rather, it seems to be a vacation from church and the things of God.

Is this person really living for Christ? Certainly not, but, rather, he is squandering the days... weeks... months... years... a life time... away on what he wants to do!

Lets' look in on a Christian housewife:

When the children are off to school for the day, does she have time to pray? No, she has so much work to do. As she cleans the house, does she talk to Jesus? No, there is so much to think about. When she is doing dishes, is she praying or praising the Lord? The door bell rings, does she wonder whom is the Lord sending her way to witness to today? As she works in the garden, are her thoughts on Jesus? As she washes the family wash, does it remind her of Jesus cleaning her heart? The answer to these questions is, No! Her private satisfaction is more important. She eats what she wants to, goes where she wants to, does what she wants to, spends her money, uses her time, squanders her talents the way she wants to.

Believers can leave Christ out of their every day living. They can spend their time going and coming... working... fixing the house... the car... and the yard... watching T.V... reading... visiting... outings... and Christ has no place, or only what is left over after everything else has been taken care of.

Believers can be deceived into thinking that they are dedicated, when much of their life is going down the drain, as far as God's work is concerned. They have just enough "religious interludes" to make them think that all is well, and Satan is deceiving them into living for self and frustrating God's plan for their life. There is no hint that they are being influenced by Satan. It appears to them that they are just "living for self." Yet, they are kept from studying God's Word, from prayer, from faithfulness to God's house and from investing their time and money for the Lord.

Satan must jump with ecstatic joy, when he sees this taking place!

Why? Why is it so easy for Satan to accomplish this in the lives of born-again believers? It is because he works under the disguise of the believer's "self-nature." Satan plants ideas in the Christian's mind which appears to be his own, however, these thoughts come from the Adamic nature of the believer. What kind of thoughts? Thoughts such as coveting, boasting, gossiping,
judging, condemning others, lusting, or just plain wasting time. While all of this is going on in the believer's life, he feels it is just his own doing. Never once does he suspect someone else is behind the mask of "self."

Most believers wish that they were "better" Christians and admit that they fall short of God's will for their life. However, they cannot explain why it is that they cannot live wholeheartedly for Jesus as they should.

No wonder the Word of God is so full of warnings and cautions concerning the warfare of the child of God, especially involving the believer's mind. Satan could never sell the believer on out-and-out disobedience because the believer would never yield if Satan laid out his suggestions clearly before him. So what does the Devil do? He simply intensifies the believer's self desires. If Satan can get the believer to live for himself, that's all he wants. Just don't live wholeheartedly for Jesus Christ.

An idea arrives in the believer's mind. There is nothing to suggest that it is not his own. When the believer attempts to take God's Word seriously . . . to think upon it . . . to meditate on it . . . he finds that his mind just doesn't seem to focus. He finds out that something seems to have access to his mind, planting all kinds of ideas there. He can't seem to concentrate on God's Word.

When church service night rolls around, he knows he ought to go to God's House and worship, but something tells him, "You're too tired, you better stay home." It all "seems like" the believer's own judgment. How could he ever tell the "one who lives to render life useless" sent that notion to his mind?

The believer is speaking to someone, when the name of someone who has hurt him deeply comes up and old feelings of resentment rise. Who brought these feelings to his mind and what does he do about it?

What does the believer do when people vehemently disagrees with him?

The believer needs to realize that it is the Devil that is making him lazy, and dissatisfied with his house, with his car, with his job, with his wife and with his church! It is Satan who entices him to brag, boast, and belittle other people.

The believer needs only to start listening to himself to see how self-centered he really is. Satan, accomplishes all this without ever touching the believer's will. He simply plants suggestions, times the temptations to exactly the right moment, and the believer acts.

Sometimes Satan uses people and sometimes he uses circumstances to bring about his temptation. Remember when Satan used Peter to bring about a temptation to Jesus. It didn't work, but the enticement was there (Matthew 16:21-23). The believer needs to keep watch sometimes from even his closest friends for Satan's suggestions.

At the funeral of a Christian, Satan attempts to use bereavement to take advantage of the physical death of a loved one, sending a wrong picture to the world. The believer must remember that it is not the end of anything for his loved one, but, rather, it is a glorious transition for his loved one to be with Jesus.
While Satan is the author of accidents, floods, famines and disasters, God can weave these activities into His "Master Plan" for the believer and make "everything works together for good to those who love Him and are willing to fit into His plan" (Romans 8:28-29).

Every created animal has enemies! The watchword of all creatures is "war." Deers, drinking from a pool, will leave a deer as a sentry to watch for enemies. They hear a twig snap and immediately, the presence of the enemy is known and the herd moves like a shot, fleeing with the wind. One second delay could be fatal. Their lives being saved depends upon how they "watch."

Scriptures teaches that the believer must watch! Satan is quicker than a hungry lioness after a deer. He travels faster than lightening, with the speed of thought. The believer has less time than the stalked deer to escape the attack.

However, God has given every creature a means of defense. Some animals enjoy protection of coloration, some quills or horns - and the skunk has a formula of protection that causes most to leave him completely alone!

The believer is helpless in terms of natural defense in the spirit world. In fact, Satan uses the believer's "natural means" against him. He triggers the believer's own self nature and uses it against him. He appeals to the believer's own instincts and makes his Satanic ideas to appear as the believer's own thoughts! In fact, the believer can be captured and not even know it.

It's "natural" to:
- want to get ahead? • to stick up for your own rights?
- to take advantage of all opportunities? • to protect yourself first?
- to want to have a good time?

Satan uses every "natural force" to enslave the believer, who never suspects that this "ego" is his self-centered life taking over his ability to make proper judgments. Satan harnesses the "natural forces" of the believer and uses them against him to lead him into a life of carnality. Satan must be something like of a super salesman who senses that the prospect is drooling over the product he is attempting to sell him.

America has a radar detection system stretching across the Arctic, in order to observe an approaching missile. Our nation has about 10 minutes advance notice of any enemy attack, to launch an anti-missile offensive. However, no believer has 10 minutes warning prior to a Satanic attack, not even 10 seconds. When Satan plants his thoughts in the believer's mind, the believer does not even have 1/10th of a second - He has no warning at all!

The believer must:
- believe what God says about the enemy
- learn how the enemy operates
- know his own weaknesses and strengths
- have a definite plan for resisting the enemy
- know how to use his resources in Christ Jesus, and
- go into action at the first hint of suggestion

Whenever the believer "resists the Devil," there is bound to be a collision. The Word of
God is the believer's "Manual for War" and in it Jesus instructed us to, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). Notice, "watch" comes before "pray." "Watchfulness" is an important part of the believer's life.

No defense system is of any value after the believer has succumbed to a Satanic proposition. What good is a radar system after the missile has reached it's target? The believer is taught to "watch and pray." Watch what? Prayer is not enough. A "willing spirit" is not enough. Christians have failed to live an overcoming life because of (1) weakness of the flesh, and (2) ignorance of the Devil and how he operates.

"Resisting" is the believer's job! A closer walk with Jesus, will not, in itself, overcome the Devil. In fact, the closer the believer walks with the Lord, the more fierce the Devil will rage against him. Jesus' presence is not automatic armor against the Devil. The name of Jesus is our strength, however, like all God-given strengths, it is only good when it is used!

" Greater is He [Jesus Christ] that is within you than he that is in the world [The Satanic kingdom]" (1 John 4:4), so don't be afraid to stand up to the Devil. Jesus says, "I'm right here within you!" The believer must see the enemy, he must "watch and pray." 2 Corinthians 2:11 tells us that, "We are not unaware of Satan's schemes so that he can outwit us."

James 4:7 teaches us to, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James tells us that "resisting the Devil" is our job. It is something that God commands us to do. The believer must "resist the Devil."

How does the believer "resist the Devil?" "Resist" means fight! In a natural war men have machine guns, mortars, grenades, flame throwers and anything else he can to throw into the battle. A fierce fight takes courage, weapons and strength. The believer is in a warfare!

Note, that James 4:7, first says to "Submit yourself to God," then, after that, "Resist the devil." "Submit" is Godward! "Resist" is Satanward! The believer who "resists the Devil," must do so in the spirit.

"Submitting to God, is to humble one's self. One behaves differently in the presence of God. One, certainly, is never arrogant, rude, nor he would ever have a smart-aleck attitude.

The word translated as "submit" is a word that originated when a conquered king would lay face-down in the dirt, while the conquering king would place his foot on the back of his neck and decided whether to let the conquered king live or die. The act of placing oneself completely in the hands of another, letting them decided whether you live or die, was where "humbling yourself" originated.

1 Peter 5:8 tells us to "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Even Michael, the archangel, "when contending . . . [struggling] . . . with the Devil . . . would not dare bring a railing accusation [pronounce judgment in insulting words] against him" (Jude 9).

"Submitting oneself before God," is putting himself under God's control!
Many believers will "submit themselves to God," however, they fail to go further and "resist the Devil." They have little, or no, knowledge of their spiritual enemy. This ignorance is dangerous to their Christian living. Ignorance is one of Satan's chief devices and it is immensely dangerous in this hostile world.

It is important that the believer "submit himself to God," however, a victorious Christian life must also include "resisting the Devil and, then, he will flee." Most Christians will admit that there is quite a difference between what they are and what they would like to be in their Christian living.

It is imperative that the believer "practice the presence of Jesus" . . . to consider Jesus Christ in all daily matters . . . to be aware of what He thinks of the believer's words and actions. The more the believer practices the presence of Christ, the more he will be aware and on guard of his thought life. However, it is equally true that the believer must also be aware of a real Devil and "watch" for his actions.

A snake charmer, for safety and protection of himself, must always, constantly keep his eyes on the cobra. If he takes his eyes off for a moment the cobra is very likely to strike. He must focus his eyes on the snake, ready to move out of range the instant a snake decides to strike. Neither can the believer afford to take his eyes from Satan and his attacks.

The believer must feel about Satan like the deer feels concerning the lioness. The deer realizes that his enemy is deadly, vicious and quick and he must "watch" - "watch" - "watch!"

It is also urgent for the believer to be aware of his enemy, Satan, and be on the "watch." "How can you keep your mind on Jesus and Satan at the same time? You can't think of two people at the same time, can you?" Anyone who asks this question has never driven on a super four-lane highway. Driving defensively means to keep you eyes on the car in front of you, the car behind you . . . [by way of the rear-view mirror] . . . and the cars on either side of you, ready to re-act . . .(to take immediate action) . . . the moment any of them become a danger to yourself or those in the car you are driving.

When God's Word speaks of "resisting," it is not speaking of just resisting temptation, but, rather, it is speaking of "resisting the Tempter . . . the Devil, himself."

Satan is very much a real person and the believer must deal with him as a person. Jesus tells us that Satan comes "to steal, kill and to destroy" (John 10:10) and the believer must think of Satan as a prowler, skulking about seeking ways to break into his thought life.

A television program, some years back, had a "Home-Protection Expert" speaking on devices for making one's home bugler proof and he said that there are four words that you need to remember to keep you home safe. He said these words are:

**LIGHT - DETECTION - ALARM - WEAPON**

(1) **Light**

This Home-Protection Expert said that the sheriff of Los Angeles County stated, "Lighted homes enjoy greatly reduced incidences of intrusion." He went on to demonstrated various light triggering devices that whenever there was any movement
within a certain area, these devices would flood a person's yard with light automatically.

(2) Detection

He showed various detection units, such as, wired fences, or buzzers that would send a warning sound to the bedroom, or even to the Police station. He also demonstrated an apparatus that would detect if the screen was being cut in a window or door and a television camera that would monitor every corner of the yard.

(3) Alarm

He displayed various noise makers, with a button by the door that could be easily pushed whenever there was danger in answering the door.

(4) Weapon

He showed various kinds of weapons for protection: mace, pepper spray, gas guns, electric shocking devices, even a holster and gun fastened to the mattress.

*Our thought life is more precious than our homes and worthy of the best defense we can devise.*

These four words suggests a scheme for defending the believer's thought life against spiritual intruders. The Spiritual counterpart to these four words is an effective protection of the believer's mind. Believer's need a defense against *someone* who makes it his business to attack at their thought life.

**THESE FOUR WORDS GIVE US A BASIC DEFENSE PLAN**

What so many believers lack is a serious, systematic way of using the equipment God has made available. This "defense system" is not complicated, all God requires is a willingness and a determination on the part of the believer. The following is a simple way to defeat the Devil, using what God has already given to all believers to have victory over the Devil.

**LIGHT**

Darkness invites prowlers!

Police have a system of recording the operational methods of various criminals in order to maintain a vigil of lawbreakers. They refer to this as the M.O. [Modus Operandi or method of operation] of certain criminals. When a crime is committed, the criminal can often be identified by the way the crime is committed, even when there are no clues, and there wasn't any witness to the crime, simply by the M.O of the offender.

The Devil has a Method of Operation. That is exactly what we have been studying about. This is acquiring *light* on the subject of the Devil! Satan enjoys obscurity, therefore, the believer must be on the look out for him.
Satan hates the light! Studying God's Word concerning the workings of the Devil is like the sun coming up dispelling the darkness. It's like turning a rock over and seeing all those critters that like darkness scurrying for cover. As the techniques of dealing with the Devil become common knowledge to the believer, it is like coming from the darkness into the light. 2 Corinthians 2:11 tells us that if we are ignorant of Satan's devices, then he has an advantage over us. When we know "Satan's devices," how he operates, much of his effectiveness is cancelled!

Some say, "Don't talk about the Devil," however, it will do something for the believer's vigilance to realize Satan's Method of Operation. When the believer discerns that Satan will plant ideas in his mind . . . counterfeit the Holy Spirit's work . . . dominate a person by appealing to his own weakness . . . and provide ideas that appear to be the believer's own thoughts - it brings the work of the Devil into the light.

The first step in the believer's defense system has to do with shedding light on the work of the Devil, learning about him and speaking out against him. To speak against the Devil - is to speak for Jesus.

**DETECTION**

Remember, in the command which Jesus gave "to watch and pray," WATCH comes before praying. How does the believer "watch?" He doesn't peer into the air, nor look in strange, dark places. The believer cannot see the Devil in these places and he will only scare himself by trying to do so.

**Are you ready for this?**

The best place to look for the Devil is to look in the mirror, because Satan disguises himself in a person's own "Self-nature." What is man's "self" nature? Galatians 5:19-21 gives a long list of man's human weaknesses. Let's look at them:

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Let's take a closer look at some of these "weaknesses of the human nature" and see if maybe we can identify some weak area in our own life.

1. **Lust** - The mind is triggered and indulges the imagination in immorality
2. **Idolatry** - Anything that comes between one and God, or worship of God
3. **Laziness** - The Great Commission calls, but I am too tired
4. **Touchiness** - Resentment rises quickly when anyone disagrees with me. Feelings are ignited easily
5. **Judgmentalism** - Quick to judge others

6. **Factiousness** - Creating division . . . [even though you may be right]

7. **Gossip** - "I know I shouldn't say this, but . . ."

8. **Worry** - Anxious about the future, health, bills, family, Job . . . etc.
   There, of course, is a normal concern which moves one to careful planning, however, this kind of godless worrying is a mental stress which suggests that God cannot handle your problem or has overlooked something.

9. **Pessimism** - Negative feelings about life. Nothing seems to suit you

10. **Doubt** - Not depending upon God, nor His Word

11. **Selfishness** - Want the biggest piece, the closest parking space, best bargain in everything, ignoring the interest of others as you look out for yourself

12. **Distraction** - Can't focus your mind on the things of God

13. **Lying** -

14. **Dissatisfied** - Restless, wanting a change . . .

15. **Easily discouraged** - Retreat at first sign of failure

16. **Wasteful** - Forfeit hours that could be used for spiritual preparation, maybe watching T.V., puttering with hobby, etc.

17. **Abusive** - Weak temper control.
   Speak your mind regardless how it will effect others.

18. **Covetous** - Desire what others have

19. **Depression** - Despair overtakes you when you think of your problems

20. **Fears** - Being afraid for no real reason

21. **Procrastination** - Knowing you should do something and putting it off.

Does the believer ever give Satan credit for any of these things? No! Probably not! He assumes, because these thoughts come from within, he blames himself. He would be shocked at the way pressure lets up when Satan's attack is brought to light and removed.

*Resist the Devil and he will flee from you!*

**LET'S SET A TRAP FOR SATAN**
If Satan uses the believer's "self-nature" as a disguise, then we are really setting a trap for "self." The believer has to be continuously on the watch for Satan's "wiles." The believer will probably be a few seconds into the attack before he realizes what is going on. Suddenly he is awaken to what Satan is attempting to do and, the believer says, "Hay, wait just a minute, I know what you are trying to do!"

The hardest part of this four step plan to defeat the Devil is "DETECTION." Satan will do everything, and anything, to keep the believer from penetrating his disguise because he knows what believers can do in the power of Jesus' name! Satan will do anything to move the believer's mind from the target area.

Let's use in the illustration of "Setting the Trap for the Devil," the area of worrying. The believer wants victory over this area of stewing about finances.

First, he needs to get Scripture that meets his need. So, he reads Philippians 4:6-7, which says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." He sets the trap early in the morning, putting this Scripture in his mind. He begins the day by lifting his spirit to Jesus, not any special prayer at this time, but he acknowledges Christ's presence by way of conversation with Him. He knows that sometime during the day Satan will plant the thought to "worry" about finances. When he looks in the mirror to shave, or comb his hair, he says, "Satan will be after you today and will work on your weak spot, but you are going to watch your mind when Satan tries to keep your mind on money problems." He asks the Holy Spirit to nudge him whenever Satan's thoughts come to his mind. If the believer starts the day with his mind on the Lord, the Holy Spirit will help when help is needed. The believer may even have a card with the words of Philippians 4:6-7 on it which he places somewhere at work to keep him constantly reminded of God's commandment and promise.

Does this all sound a little melodramatic? Well, maybe it may sound a little "hammy," but, remember the believer is coming out of a "no Satan watching life" into one where he is setting a trap for him and that's a pretty sensational time in anyone's life. Now, being alert and "watching" for anything the Devil may attempt, will become as normal as breathing for this believer. He will be on the watch for Satan to show up with his suggestions.

Day after day this believer has been plagued with "worrying about finances," now he is going to watch out for Satan's suggestions.

An unexpected bill arrives in the afternoon mail. For an instant, the believer's mind is caught off guard, as Satan brings the suggestion: "Another bill! Man alive, I'll never pull out of this. What am I going to do?" At that moment, the Holy Spirit nudges the believer's mind, by way of his spirit, and says, "That unleashed concern over your bills, is Satan's doing!" Bang! The trap is sprung! The believer has Satan in the trap! Now he can deal with him.

We have chosen "worrying about finances" as an illustration, we might just as well have chosen the area of worrying about health, our job, or our children. The only remedy is to "resist the Devil." Whenever Satan triggers financial worry by the sight of an unexpected bill, the Holy Spirit speaks within the believer, letting him know of Satan's trick. The believer can say, "The Devil is not going to get away with it this time."
Whenever the believer finds himself involved in a weakness, and suddenly realize that it is Satan, that is **DETECTION!** Putting the weakness and Satan together is step #2 in the 4 step plan of defeating the Devil. Being conscious of Satan when the believer finds himself indulging in some weakness, is what detection is all about. From that moment on, the Holy Spirit makes the task easy! "Detecting Satan" is the hardest part of defeating the Devil.

The problem with most believers is that they are blind to their own "weaknesses."

For instance, an event takes place in a believer's life and, in an instant, the emotion of jealousy is triggered. Most of the time, he does not think of Satan as the one who is behind this passion. Because this emotion comes from within himself, he assumes it is just his own nature reacting. It requires the Holy Spirit to help him in a time like this.

Another example: a believer is carried away with something he is telling and he hears bragging, boastful, words swell up inside of him and escape his lips. He needs to realize that it is Satan suggesting to him that he exaggerates his story. At a time like that, the believer needs to depend upon the Holy Spirit to open his spiritual eyes to see what is going on.

When the Holy Spirit "nudges" the believer, letting him know Satan is striking again, he must, at that moment, *"resist the Devil, and he will flee."* The believer needs to condition himself to "hear" the voice of the Holy Spirit, like a mother instinctively listening for her baby's cry.

**STEP #3 = ALARM**

Let's suppose that you are sneaking over a back yard fence in the dark of the night. You are slowing crossing the yard, certain that no one sees you. Suddenly, someone calls out your name in a rather loud voice. You nearly jump out of your skin. You thought you were getting away with a "sneak entrance" when, all of a sudden, you are discovered.

Satan moves through the darkness, satisfied that his "self-disguise" is working as he seeks to plant in the believer's mind his own thoughts. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit sounds the alarm and the believer penetrates Satan's disguise. The believer, then, can *"resist the Devil."*

• Talking to Jesus is prayer! • Talking to the Devil is resisting!

Resisting the Devil is not a casual thing! It may seem easy to make light of the Devil when you are in a group of people, however, when you face him alone, it is a different thing.

Step #2, in this "spiritual defense" plan, is **DETECTION!** Realizing that this mental pressure is coming from the Devil. The Holy Spirit reveals the fact that Satanic forces are invading the believer's mind. Now, the alarm must be sounded by the believer.

Jesus, in His wilderness temptation, met the Devil and dealt with him. Matthew 4:10-11 states, *"Jesus said to him [the Devil] 'Away from Me, Satan!' Then the Devil left Him."* Jesus met, and defeated, the Devil, however, that does not mean that Satan is dead. The victory over Satan which is our's in Christ Jesus, does not make us immune to Satan's attack.

**The bad news is:** Satan has never yet been defeated by any man. He does not fear man,
and can do anything he wants to with man - because man does not have the strength to match Satan! However, the good news is: Satan does fear Jesus Christ! He dreads the name of "Jesus." The name of Jesus stabs Satan's memory much like a defeated boxer who hears the name of the one who took his crown from him.

The believer's authority is the name of Jesus. Colossians 3:17 states, "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. giving thanks to God the Father through Him." The name of Jesus shocks the UNholy spirit.

The name of Jesus is to the believer what the uniform is to the policeman. When the policeman wears his uniform, what he does is authorized by his department. When he says, "Open in the name of the law," it is not his authority he is speaking of, but the authority of the uniform he is wearing. When the believer resist Satan, in Jesus' name, he is in uniform. When the believer stands up to Satan, in "Jesus' name," the enemy sees J E S U S !

The believer speaks to Satan, in Jesus' name! It is through Jesus that the believer can say to Satan, "Be gone," and the Devil must "flee." That is what "submit [humble] yourself, then, to God" means, to give oneself completely over to God and rely totally upon Him.

Any attempt to "resist the Devil" out of uniform is ridiculous. Even the angels are cautious of this mighty enemy. I am not suggesting a glib approach to Satan. It is only as the believer is conscious of his own personal weakness and his utter dependence upon Jesus' name, that he would dare to execute such a charge as to "resist the Devil." It is a reverent act of faith to use this "power of attorney," given to believers by the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an act too precious to be handled in any other way than in meekness, relying on Jesus Christ.

When the act of "resisting the Devil" is carried out in Jesus' name, it reminds the believer that his own name would be ineffective. Using Jesus' name forbids any arrogant blast from the believer. Using Jesus' name in resisting the Devil is an ALARM clanging above the head of Satan. He is shattered, and startled, by the name of Jesus. Satan sees the authority (the uniform) of Jesus and it makes him cringe as he hears the name of the One who defeated him.

Defeating the Devil is no automatic victory, anymore than prayer comes automatic to the believer. This authority, given to the believer by Jesus Christ, is like powerful electricity just waiting to do its work, however, nothing happens until the believer "presses the switch."

Step # 4 = WEAPON

God's Word is "the sword of the Spirit," the only offensive part of the armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-17).

An ungodly notion arrives in the believer's mind. What it amounts to is, "Satan says," and the only counter the believer has is "God says."

Many have found comfort in the Word of God, or received instructions on how to live, but, using God's Word as a weapon? Yes! God's Word is the only weapon the believer has to effectively use against Satan. God's Word is the believer's anti-Satan weapon, therefore, he must take up the Word of God and use it to counter the Devil!
DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE SUPERNATURAL CHARACTER OF GOD'S WORD?

The Holy Spirit is well able to anoint the truth of God's Word and explode the reality of it in the heart of the believer. Satan has a deep appreciation for the Word of God. James 2:19 tells us that "the devils also believe and tremble." God's Word is the atomic arsenal for the believer!

What makes Satan fear the Bible? Does Satan fear God's Word because millions upon million have been printed? . . . or because Christians devotedly study it's pages? . . . or, maybe, because so many quote from it? No! None of these reasons cause Satan to fear God's Word. However, when it is used as a weapon against him, he quivers with paralyzing fear.

Remember, God's Word was Jesus' weapon when He met the Devil in His wilderness temptations. Jesus countered every suggestion of Satan with, "It is written . . ." (Matthew 4:4, 7 and 10). When the Word of God is spoken to Satan, the Holy Spirit moves into action. Something amazing happens! It smashes the power of the Devil and crumbles his spirit.

When service men practice with their weapons, does the enemy flee? No, of course not. The enemy never flees just because someone is examining, or even practicing, their weapon. Bible study, alone . . . [as important as that is] . . . does not make the Devil flee. Reading the Bible, Bible drills, even, memorizing the Bible, does not, in itself, cause Satan to flee. In fact, it may even cause Satan to plant the notion of being proud of these accomplishments in the heart of the believer. As long as God's Word is not directed at him, why should he be afraid?

Have you ever emerged out of a darkened room into the bright sun light? Or, have you had a bright bulb go off in your face when someone was taking your picture? It is very difficult to see after a bright light goes off in your eyes, or the sun is suddenly exposed when your eyes are accustomed to darkness. That's the way God's Word effects Satan. Scripture tells us, "The entrance of Thy Word gives light!! (Psalms 119:130) and "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalms 119:105). When God's Word is used as a weapon in the hands of the believer, it is like a flashbulb going off in Satan's eyes.

For God's Word to be an anti-Satan force, it must be spoken against the Devil in Jesus' name! The next time you begin to worry, feel depressed, or doubt, don't just quote Scripture to yourself, try turning God's Word in the direction of the Devil in name of Jesus Christ and see a miracle take place. There's a big difference in practicing with a weapon and firing it!

In frontier days, our forefathers had six guns strapped to their sides. The absence of any law made it necessary for every man to provide protection for himself and his family. The six gun was his means of defense. Many men would kill for a little amount of money. Frequently a man's life depended upon his speed to produce his weapon and fire it.

The believer's spiritual safety also is dependent on his ability to produce God's Word and fire it! His weapon is not strapped to his side, or even carried in his pocket. If that is where he kept his weapon, it would take him too long to produce and fire it. It must be on the tip of his tongue. The believer must arm himself with verses from God's Word to be used as weapons against Satan's suggestions. The very moment that these thoughts hit, he must go into action and fire God's Word.
The battle is between: "God says . . ." and "Satan says . . ."

- Satan says, "worry" . . .
- Satan says, "Gossip" . . .
- Satan says, "Covet" . . .
- Satan says, "Lust" . . . .
- Satan says, "Be dissatisfied"
- Satan says, "Fear" . . . .
- Satan says, "Defeat" . . . .
- God says, "Be not anxious for anything."
- God says, "Love one another, bear one another burdens"
- God says, "Set your affections on things above"
- God says, "Be ye holy for I am holy"
- God says, "Be content with such as ye have"
- God says, "Fear not, peace I give unto you"
- God says, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"

The Word of God is not just for memorization sake alone, but, rather, it is also to use with purpose in spiritual warfare. It is important that the believer acquire Scriptures which has to do with areas he is weak in. The Holy Spirit will bring these Scriptures to his mind (John 14:26) when Satan strikes. What a thrill it is to see Satan flee when the weapons are pulled . . . [quicker than a fastest gun draw] . . . and fired at him!

**STEP #4, "ALARM," is using God's Word against Satan**

God's Word, of course, has many other uses, however we are now speaking of using it as a weapon.

Remember the "Defeating the Devil" Plan:

1. **LIGHT**, which is *insight* concerning Satan. Finding out what Scriptures says about him, making it possible for the Holy Spirit to show us his working.

2. **DETECTION**, watching for Satan's operation in our life. Setting a trap by watching over our own weakness, the one we are apt to indulge in. We, of course must be honest with ourself and ask the Holy Spirit to "nudge" us the second we catch ourself. And when we have penetrated Satan's disguise, the trap is sprung, and we are ready to deal with him.

3. **ALAR**m Having caught Satan (self) in the act, we are ready to press the alarm. "Submitting ourself to God," conscious of our sinful state and our dependence upon God, we speak directly to Satan (as Jesus did) "Satan, begone, for it is written . . ."

4. **WEAPON** - The Word of God is our supernatural weapon. Satan dreads its power. The verses we have put into our minds are used as supernatural ammunition against the Devil, in Jesus' name. Satan, operating in the dark, suddenly is blinded by the flashes of light from God's Word.

Is a person who is living close to Christ vulnerable to the Devil? A person, who spends much time in God's Word and fully occupied serving the Lord, is he susceptible to Satan? The answer is **YES!** Do you mean that preaches and missionaries are vulnerable? **Yes!** In fact, the more serious one becomes about Christ, the more desperate Satan is to thwart their dedication. The more determined one becomes to invest his life for Jesus, the more furiously Satan tries to keep him from it. Spirituality is no guarantee that Satan will not attack. Jesus, in His earthly life,
was under continual assault from the Devil. Obedience and devotion to God does not make the believer immune to Satan's attacks.

Satan, of course, will aspire to use loftier, and more noble, proposals to the believer who is seeking to live a victorious Christian life. He does not tempt with such things as drinking, gambling, or cheap, X-rated novels, but, rather, something like, just getting too busy to read God's Word or worrying excessively over the budget. The believer who is exacting about his living for Christ will be deceived by *good* things! He needs discernment in this area.

The natural thing to do when we hear something we don't care for is to just "spit" it out as not being relevant to us. When we do that, we are like the old man from India, when he looked through a microscope and saw all those germs swimming around in the water from the Ganges River, thought the answer was to brake the microscope. People are often like that, because they don't like what they hear, will ignore, throw away, burn, or smash the instrument that revealed truth to them.

Many today feel that it is important to learn the art of self-defense. They say, "I need to learn to protect myself just incase I am ever attacked." The believer needs to learn the art of self-defense, not boxing, judo, or karate, but, rather, the "James 4:7 defense system." There are no short cuts to learning to win in this fight. It takes practice, patience and work outs.

Just hearing a message on soul-winning, will not make a believer a polished, effective, soul-winner. Nor will learning about "resisting the Devil," necessarily mean that the believer will just automatically defeat Satan's work in his life. For some, they will be entering unexplored territory, with the usual first-time fears.

The believer needs to know what Scripture teaches concerning the history of the Devil. The Bible tells us that Satan, at one time, was an arch-angel, guarding the very throne of God in heaven. It seems as if he was first in command, right after the God-head itself. He was created by God with great wisdom, a mighty ruler of the spirit world in heaven, however, because of pride, he fell from his habitation in heaven. He still retained his power. His great wisdom became craft and guile to deceive mankind.

God uses Satan, allowing him... [within certain limits]... to deceive, in order to *test* believers.

Satan became "the god of this world," as a result of Adam turning the headship of this world over to him.

The New-birth makes a person a New Creature in Christ Jesus, under the control of the Holy Spirit. However, he still has the influence of his old nature, which can be greatly influenced by Satan. The believer can choose who will rule his old nature, God or Satan.

God has provided a way of delivering the believer from the power of Satan. The struggle between the believer's *two natures*, his old nature and his new nature in Christ Jesus, makes for the believer's spiritual growth. The Spirit of God and the spirit of Satan, both have access to the spirit of man. Satan uses the material which is on deposit in the subconscious portion of the believer's mind - in this "programmed computer" of his past life. These reflections arrive in the
believer's mind, received by his senses, and thoughts are formed as suggestions, becoming temptations. The believer is free to respond to these suggestions, or to refuse them.

The believer still retains his "old nature" even after he is born-again. This is where Satan functions. He triggers an idea, that arrives in the believer's thought life as his own. Since it has to do with self, the believer never suspects an outsider has anything to do with the thought and believes it to be his own. Satan is willing to forgo public worship because he realizes that a believer would not, under any circumstance, worship him, so he, simply, gets the believer to live for self!

Satan controls believers by bombarding their thought life with suggestions that appeals to self!

Satan hides his activities in the believer's mind with the disguise of SELF! Satan's ideas appeal to the passions, instincts, appetites and natural ambitions of the believer, who never realizes what is going on within his spirit. Whenever the believer lives for SELF, he is filled with the spirit of the UNholy spirit and, when he is living completely for Jesus, he is filled with the Holy Spirit.

The believer needs to study his own life and see who is in control?

When Jesus commanded His followers to "watch and pray," He was saying, "Catch the Devil working, detect Satan in your weaknesses, and, then, resist him"

Jesus taught WATCHFULNESS in Matthew 26:41, when He said, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

The believer is given RESOURCES AND A WEAPON in Ephesians 6:14-17, which states, "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Believers are taught RESISTANCE, in James 4:7, which teaches, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," and, 1 Peter 5:8-9, which teaches, "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."