

The Strategy of Satan

By Warren Wiersbe

Part One

Satan is The Deceiver: John 8:44, Revelation 12:9, II Corinthians 11:3, II John 1:7

Old Testament Example: With Eve in Genesis 3:1-7

1. Satan's Target: Your Mind
2. Satan's Weapon: Lies
 - a. He denied God's Word
 - b. He substituted His own lie
3. Satan's Purpose: To make you ignorant of God's Will
 - a. God wants you to know His will – Acts 22:14
 - b. God wants us to understand His will – Eph. 5:17
 - c. God's will should control us – Col. 1:9
4. Your Defense: The Inspired Word of God
 - a. We must KNOW God's Word – John 16:13-15
 - b. We must MEMORIZE God's Word – Ps. 119:11
 - c. We must MEDITATE on God's Word – Joshua 1:8
 - d. We must USE God's Word – II Cor. 5:7

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Part 2

Satan is the Destroyer

Biblical Example: Job

Some suffering due to chastening – like Jonah

Some suffering due to obedience – Matthew 14:22-33

1. Satan's Target – Your Body I Cor. 6:19-20, Phil 1:20
2. Satan's Weapon – Suffering
3. Satan's Purpose – Make you impatient with God's Will – James 5:11
4. Our Defense – The imparted Grace of God – II Cor. 12:7-10, I Peter 5:10
 - a. Immediately submit yourself to God – Job 13:15
 - b. Thank God for the Trials – Eph. 5:20
 - c. Spend much time in the Word of God – Acts 20:32, Ps. 119: 67,71
 - d. Look for ways to glorify God - I Peter 2:20, I Peter 4:16

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Part 3

Satan is the Ruler

Biblical Example: David - I Chron. 21:1-2, 7-8, 14-19

1. Satan's Target: Your Will
2. Satan's Weapon: Pride
 - a. With Christ – Matthew 4:8-9
 - b. In Ministry – I Timothy 3:6
3. Satan's Purpose: To make you independent of God's Will –
II Chron. 26:15-16, II Cor. 12:10
4. Your Defense: The Indwelling Spirit of God
 - ** Three Works that God does in you – Eph. 2:8-9
 - A. Salvation – Work that God does FOR you
 - B. Sanctification – Work that God does IN you
 - C. Service – Work that God does THROUGH you

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Part 4

Satan is the Accuser

Biblical Example: Joshua (Zechariah 3:1-7)

1. Satan's Target: Your Heart and Conscience – Zechariah 3:1-7
2. Satan's Weapon: Accusations
3. Satan's Purpose: To bring an indictment by God's Will – II Cor. 2:6-8, 11
4. Our Defense: The interceding Son of God – I John 2:1
5. The Stages in the experience of confessing sin (from example in Zechariah)
 - a. Satan's Resistance
 - b. God's Rebuke of Satan
 - c. The Restoration

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Part 5

Living by Faith – I Thess. 3:1-2, 5-7, 10

** the problem is UNBELIEF – Matthew 13:58

The Four Tests of Faith

1. Am I doing this for the glory of God or just to please self?
 - Not Faith in the actions, but faith in God – Romans 4:20
2. Am I rushing ahead or am I willing to wait? – Is. 28:16
3. Can I defend what I am doing from the Word of God? – Romans 10:17
4. As I contemplate this move – do I have joy and peace within? – Rom. 15:13

Old Testament Illustration: Genesis 16

New Testament Illustration: Acts 27

Note the four previous Illustrations:

David acted for self when numbering the people

Job was willing to wait on God

Eve disobeyed the very Words of God

Joshua had no joy or peace while in sin and suffering

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Part 6

Don't Give Satan a Beachhead – Eph. 4:25-32

Sin opens the door for Satan

1. Lying – Satan is the father of lies but God is Truth – John 17:7
2. Anger – opens the door to other sins – Rev. 12:12-17, Matt. 5:21-22
3. Stealing – John 10:10, Mark 5:1-20
4. Filthy speech – Eph 5:4
5. Unforgiving spirit – leads to bitterness
6. Slander – I Timothy 3:11, Titus 2:3

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Part 7 – What to Wear to War

** Ephesians 6:10-18 The Whole Armor of God

1. The Girdle of Truth – III John 4
2. Breastplate of Righteousness – II Cor. 5:21
 - a. Imputed Righteousness – put on your account and cannot be changed
 - b. Imparted Righteousness – yielding to the Spirit and is gradual
3. Shoes of Peace – Romans 5:1-2
4. Shield of Faith – warding off fiery darts of doubt
5. Helmet of Salvation – protection against discouragement
6. Sword of the Spirit – the only offensive weapon

Putting on the Armor – How? Through Prayer

1. Persevering Prayer (at all times)
2. Spirit empowered Prayer – revealed by the Spirit
3. Watchful Prayer – always alert

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Satan and the Home (Part 8)

* Satan's first attack was against the home

I. Satan attacks marriage - I Timothy 4:1-3

- A. Cults that forbid marriage – religious reasons
- B. Culture that deems marriage unnecessary
- C. Culture that corrupts marriage – Same Sex

II. Satan attacks structure in the Home Ephesians 5:22-23 Galatians 3:28

III. Satan entices with moral impurity I Corinthians 7:1-5

IV. Satan makes people busy outside of the home I Timothy 5:14-15

V. Husband is responsible before God for spiritual condition of home
Ephesians 5:18

VI. Satan tempts the children to rebel against their parents

VII. Satan brings discontent within the home