

Three Things The Devil Wants To Do

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2 Cor. 2:11

The devil wants to destroy you.

Do you believe in him?

I am not talking about a superstition or how Satan lives.

I am talking about a person, a Spirit, the evil one.

- 2 Cor. 2:11, *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”*
- 1 Pet. 5:8, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*
- Eph 4:27, *“Neither give place to the devil.”*
- Eph. 6:11, *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*
- James 4:7, *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*
- 1 John 3:8, *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”*

Satan wants to keep you ignorant or keep you out of the church

Paul said he once lived in ignorance.

1 Tim. 1:13, *“Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”*

The Athenians were worshipping in ignorance.

Acts 17:23, *“For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”*

The religious world as a whole is ignorant.

We must hear, study, and know the truth to obey God.

- Rom. 10:17, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
- 2 Tim. 2:15, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*
- John 8:32, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*
- James 1:22, *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*

If Satan can keep one ignorant then he can keep one lost.

He knows how important the church is to God.

Acts 20:28, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

He knows that Christ is the Saviour of the body, the church.

Eph. 5:23, *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”*

He also knows that he can cause one to be lost if he can keep him out of the church.

Satan wants to get you back into the world

Those who obey God are in the world, but not of the world.

We are not to love the world.

- 1 John 2:15, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*
- James 4:4, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

We cannot serve two masters.

Matt. 6:24, *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

It will be worse for the person who having once accepted Christ returns to the world.

2 Pet. 2:20-22, *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”*

The prodigal son learned his lesson.

Luke 15:11-32, *“And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he*

was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.”

The Lord will send His angels to gather out of His kingdom all that offend.

Matt. 13:41-42, “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

How shall we live any longer in sin?

- *Rom. 6:1-12, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”*
- *Rom. 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by*

the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Satan, therefore, knows that if he can get one back into the world and keep him there, he will be lost.

Satan wants to render you worthless to the church

If one is determined to remain with the church, not to give it up, then Satan’s strategy would be to try to render that person fruitless and worthless to the church.

Satan would advise him:

- “It is enough to be a member.”
- “It is enough to live a good moral life.”
- “You are too busy to give so much time to the church.”
- “Why be so zealous to take the gospel to others when they have Bibles and they can learn the truth and obey if they really want it.”

“We should be teachers of God’s word.

Heb. 5:12-14, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

We must work for the Lord. We must be faithful to Him and His cause.

Conclusion

Have you allowed Satan to get to you?

If not, you must be on guard or he will get to you because he never gives up.

The best way to escape him is to be determined to serve the Lord.

