

25. What satan doesn't want you to know -Part 1

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One of my friends is a Staff Sergeant of US Army Special Forces, a.k.a. Green Beret. Special Forces are often deployed to preclude, preempt and resolve terrorist incidents abroad as well as handle unconventional warfare quietly and decisively. Their idea of the best operation is that no one knows that they are in the target area until they get out of harm's way and the target is destroyed.

In a way that is how satan wants to operate. He doesn't want believers and unbelievers to know about his true identity or what he does against them day in and day out. He'd prefer people to think about him as a little comic character who wears red spandex with a pair of little horns on his forehead, a pointed tail, carry a pitchfork and sit on people's shoulders and whisper bad things to their ears.

Or satan also wants them to think that he has the equal power like God and is seated on a big, fiery throne in the midst of hell's flames. All the little demons with their horns and pitchforks report in each day, receive their orders and head out into the world to do his bidding. Either one is false.

We don't want to underestimate or overestimate him and his demons. After all, he's been perfecting his arsenals for about 10,000 years of dealings with mankind, and he has the tricks of his trade well-honed. We need to look at him rationally and understand exactly who he is and what we are dealing with.

I like what French author Victor Hugo said, "A good general must penetrate the brain of his enemy."

2 Corinthians 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

A. HE IS AND HE IS NOT

Satan is a powerful spiritual being, yet he is no match for the Lord our God. He is a created being and his power is limited by the will of God in the life of the believer.

But if you have not made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and are not a born-again Christian, satan's power is essentially unlimited in your life. He can do whatever he wants. Maybe you like to think that you're the master of your destiny, the captain of your ship, but in reality, you're his puppet and he lets you think that you are in control of your life.

2 Corinthians 4:4 the god of this age [the devil] has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Another thing satan doesn't want us to know is that he has been conquered at the cross of Calvary.

1 John 3:8b For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Satan is a dangerous wolf who often disguises himself as a sheep. Sometimes, he will come on like a roaring lion, but more often he sneaks in like a snake. Sometimes, he appears in all of his depravity and horror. Other times, he disguises

himself as an angel of light. You may be resisting him on one hand and setting up housekeeping with him on the other without realizing that you've been duped.

B. SEVEN WEAPONS SATAN USES OFTEN

I am sure that there are many more, but I compiled seven weapons satan uses often. There is no way I can go over all of them today. So we will cover three of his weapons.

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

1) Frontal attack – Persecution

Satan knew that our Savior Lord Jesus was going to come through the lineage of king David. So he did his best to destroy the nation of Israel throughout the centuries. From the birth of Jesus to His death and burial, satan was constantly at His heels. Once the Lord ascended to heaven, the fury of satan was dumped on the Lord's disciples in Jerusalem.

Satan's first thought was that by physical persecution, he could snuff out the tiny group of believers in Jerusalem. He bombarded them with harassment and persecution and in doing so, he accomplished great things for the cause of the Gospel. When persecution hit, Jesus' disciples simply spread out and went everywhere preaching the Word. Instead of wrecking the church, persecution strengthened it. Much to the devil's disgust, it became a "lean, mean, preaching machine."

He even used Saul of Tarsus to persecute the church. But instead of being faithful to satan's way, this guy became literally the second in command of Christianity and is called Apostle Paul later.

Persecution against Christians is still going on around the world. According to the Voice of the Martyrs organization, an average of over 100,000 Christians per year lose their lives around the world for their faith in Jesus Christ. So, what does the U.N. which stands for 'United Nothing' do to stop this persecutions against Christianity? Absolutely nothing.

2) Infiltration and compromise

I am sure that satan was not exactly happy with what was happening when the church spread out all over the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. That was not exactly what he had in his mind.

His plan B was a much more shrewd one. Since he couldn't break them, he joined them. Satan decided it was time to go undercover and infiltrate. There was a time in church history when, almost overnight, believers went from the catacombs of the Roman empire into the palaces of its emperor. This occurred when a Roman emperor known as Constantine claimed to be converted and stopped oppressing the church. Being a confessed believer himself, he elevated Christians from persecution to a place of prominence. They literally went from rags to riches, practically overnight.

But the Christians' new respectability weakened them immensely. Compromise set in. You may say, "I don't get it. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the emperor on your side?" Not necessarily, because Constantine made a decree to everyone in his empire – "Convert to Christianity or die." That was to everyone including the existing Roman pagan priests who embraced Christianity with their idea of pagan rituals.

Great theologian G. Campbell Morgan said, "The Church persecuted has always been the Church pure. The Church patronized has always been the Church impure."

This satanic tactic applies to individual as well. Satan and his demons may confront you in a blatant outward attack or persecution; or an enticement to do evil; or maybe temptation to become sexually permissive; cheating on your spouse; dabbling in drugs or alcohol; steal or lie. Then, you would know that you are being attacked, so you run to the Lord in prayers and reading your Bible, keep on going to church.

But when the demonic force comes more subtly and says, "Wow, you are such a great Christian. How diligent you are for the Lord! You can go ahead and go to church if you want and read the Bible and pray. Just lower your standards a little. You don't need to be uptight for everything." Or "You went to church last Sunday, you don't need to go there every Sunday. There is other things to do around the house, people to hang around. Besides, there are many great basketball games on TV. Relax, you deserve a break today. Kick back. Do it later. Mañana." If you say, "OK, I'll skip the church today," then satan and his demons would say, "Sucker!!!"

Do you think that this doesn't happen to you? Let me bring this a little closer to home. Do you come to the church no matter what, because you want to hear from the Lord and feel that you need to be recharged by the Word of God? Or do you look for any feeble excuse why you cannot or should not come to the church every Sunday? Unless you are working on Sunday because of your job, or you have physical limitations, you can set aside a few hours for the fellowship between the Lord and yourself. I'd dare to say that your attendance to the church services generally is a good indicator of your spiritual maturity.

3) Counterfeits

In Matthew 13, Jesus told His disciples about the parable of a man who sowed wheat. In the night an enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. A tare, which grows from a darnel seed, is a plant that, in its initial stages of growth, looks exactly like a stalk of wheat. Ultimately, it uproots the wheat.

Matthew 13:37-42 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

In addition to the counterfeits satan throws into our lives, he also implants counterfeits in the pews and pulpits. From pathetic fake religions to cultic teachings that bear the name of Jesus which are nothing but the gospel of greed.

I am going to list a few well-known Christian celebrity and teachers now:

a. Paul Crouch – Owner of TBN

“He [God] doesn’t even draw a distinction between Himself and us... You know what else that’s settled, then, tonight? This hue and cry and controversy that has been spawned by the devil to try and bring dissension within the body of Christ that we are gods. I am a little god!... I have His name. I’m one with Him. I’m in covenant relation. I am a little god! Critics, be gone! (Praise The Lord – July 7, 1986)
Folks, I am not a little god. I don’t find what Crouch said anywhere in the Bible. I am a mere rotten sinner who was forgiven by the grace and mercy of God. If I am going to boast, I’d rather boast about what the Lord has done in my life, not who I am. What Crouch said is a heresy to the core and it is the same thing that the Mormons claim.

b. Kenneth Copeland

“I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the Bible actually is. The biggest one is God. I mean, He lost His top -ranking, most anointed angel; the first man He ever created; the first woman He ever created; the whole earth and all the fullness therein; a third of the angels, at least – that’s a big loss, man. Now, the reason you don’t think of God as a failure is He never said He’s a failure. And you’re not a failure till you say you’re one.” (Praise-a-Thon program on TBN – April 1988)

Copeland also boldly proclaimed, “Satan conquered Jesus on the Cross” (Holy Bible: Kenneth Copeland Reference Edition – Fort Worth, TX: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1991)

He described Jesus Christ in hell as an “emaciated, poured out, little, wormy spirit,” during his TBN TV program “Believer’s Voice of Victory in April 21, 1991

c. Benny Hinn

“We may have two years before the rapture. Can I be blunt with you? I don’t know if we have two years left. I’m going to prove to you from the Word tonight, that we have less than two years.” (Praise-a-Thon – November 9, 1990)

“In fact, if Jesus could not sin, you and I could not have identified with Him. He offered himself without spot to God through the eternal Spirit. It’s right there. You can’t argue with it. And anybody that thinks Jesus could not sin, you haven’t read the Bible right, because the Bible says He was tempted in all points. (Praise The Lord TBN – April 24, 1998)

There are many more of the Word of Faith movement teachers who teach just about the same garbage. I know some of you may say, “You should not say that kind of things against God’s anointed.” Yes, I can and I should, because they are not God’s anointed ones and they are poisoning people’s hearts with their heresies. I don’t care what they call themselves, how many followers they have and how much money they have.

Satan has pretenders in the pews and predators in the pulpits. He also has a counterfeit gospel:

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

It’s not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

The reason these kinds of heretic preachers can still fill TV airwaves is that people want to hear what they want to hear instead of what God wants them to hear . They'd rather hear that they can demand from God what they want, God has an obligation to give to them. These false teachers quote Bible verses out of context to justify their false doctrines instead of teaching the sound doctrines of God's Word.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

C. APPLICATIONS

- 1) **We need to remember that satan is no match for God and he is limited by the will of God in believers' lives. Fear not.**
- 2) **We need to remember that satan always entices us to compromise our Christian values and standards. Don't give in.**
- 3) **We need to remember that satan has many heretic Bible teachers behind the pulpit who poison believers' hearts. Be aware.**