





Notes

During his 40 days in the wilderness where Jesus was tempted;

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. **"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me"**( Matthew 4:8-9 NIV).

Rulership of the world system; it's values, attitudes and beliefs was under the control of Satan and was his to give away.

We know that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one** (1 John 5:19 NIV).

vi. **Roaring Lion**

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the **devil prowls around like a roaring lion** looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8 NIV).

Like a roaring lion is hunting for prey, his nature is to destroy and maim.

When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were **harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd** (Matthew 9:36).

These words in the Greek language describe a helpless animal that has been pursued by a predator such as a lion or bear. The wild beast of prey has captured the sheep and ruthlessly torn the victim's fleece apart with its claws.

This is how Jesus saw people; victims of a predator; flayed and mangled, torn apart by the circumstances of life, their life being drained from them because of sin and its effects (John 15 Jesus is the Good Shepherd who has come to our rescue).

Joy Adamson was a naturalist and author, married to a game warden in East Africa. One day her husband brought home three lion cubs, found after their mother had been killed. Joy nurtured the three cubs until they were grown and released them into the wild.

She then told the story of Elsa, one of the lionesses in her book titled 'Born Free.' Other books followed; 'Living Free' and 'Forever Free'. The books were best sellers and each was made into a popular motion picture.

Joy forgot she was dealing with wild beasts capable of destruction. At the age of 69, while at a camp 30 miles from a telephone, she was attacked and killed by a lion. You cannot tame Satan, or say 'if I leave him alone, he'll leave me alone.' He is not a merciful being. His nature is hatred and he is bent on our injury and ultimate destruction.

c. **His weaknesses**

While it's true our adversary is a formidable foe, he is limited and has weaknesses:

i. **He is a created being, a fallen angel.**

The contest with God is not dualistic between two equal forces. Satan is not omnipresent (Can't be everywhere; although he does have an extensive host of evil angels to do his bidding); he's not omniscient (all knowing; can't read our thoughts, although our enemies can hear what we say and see what we do); and he's not omnipotent (all powerful, he has no power to create, only counterfeit).

ii. **He is a defeated foe.** Jesus is greater

iii. **Eternal fate is fixed.** (Revelation 20:10) Since victory of the cross, the disintegration in the world retarded and the reign of God restored. Satan is on a short leash until the return of JC.

d. **His tactics**

African hunters have a clever way of trapping monkeys. They hollow out a coconut or gourd and then cut a hole in it just big enough for a monkey's hand to pass through. Then they place some food inside the coconut; orange, banana or rice, tie it to a tree and then and wait for the catch.

Sooner or later an unsuspecting monkey swings by and is attracted by the delicious food inside the coconut. The monkey then slips his hand through the small hole, grabs

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hold of the food and then tries to pull it through the hole. However while the monkey has hold of the fruit he is trapped. While the monkey struggles with the orange or banana the hunters throw a net over the unsuspecting animal and he is captured.

Our adversary who disguises himself as an 'angel of light' has cleverly designed sugar coated traps, devices, strategies to lure and capture us.

*"... and that they will come to their senses and escape from the **trap of the devil**, who has **taken them captive** to do his will," (2 Timothy 2:26 NIV).*

*Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all **strategies of the devil**.* Ephesians 6:11 NLT

*No **weapon** formed against you shall prosper* Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

*"... in order that Satan might not outwit us. **For we are not unaware of his schemes** (2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV).*

Other words used for schemes are devices, wiles (i.e. trickery), or sly ways.

Are we familiar with/aware of Satan's evil schemes?

The reality is many Christians are slow to recognise or remain ignorant of his devices. Our adversary doesn't blatantly put up a sign saying 'This way to hell'; he doesn't turn up in our lives and introduce himself as a 'murderer from the beginning' or the 'father of all lies', but he comes subtly, in disguise as an angel of light. He orchestrates his rulership in the world through a well organised hierarchy of evil angels or demons, using custom made, cleverly crafted individual plans.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE EVIL ONE'S CUNNING TACTICS/STRATAGEMS?

### **i. Temptation:**

The major role of Satan is temptation, in other words provoke us to do evil. 'Tempter' is one of his names. Satan's first serious encounter with Jesus was in the area of temptation.

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread" (Matthew 4:1-3).*

*When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed (James 1:13-15 NIV).*

There are seductive enticers at work, continually looking for ways to tempt/ trap both the believer and unbeliever into sin.

### **ii. Deception:**

Satan is a deceiver. Jesus called Satan the 'Father of all lies.'

*He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. **When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies** (John 8:44 NIV).*

*Satan masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) and leads the whole world astray (Revelation 12:9).*

*The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who **leads the whole world astray**. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him (Revelation 12:9 NIV).*

He deceives people into thinking that right is wrong and wrong is right.



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Against Satan we are in a powerless hopeless situation with no hope of deliverance apart from an outside intervening force. No amount of legislation, social reform or aid will fix the inherent problem of sin.

Verse 22 The stronger one is Jesus Christ who came into the world to rescue us from our predicament, to break the power the enemy has over us.

**The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work** (1 John 3:8 NIV).

*"...only by dying could he (Jesus) break the power of the devil, who had the power of death"* (Hebrews 2:14 NLT).

Apart from the mystery of the cross where the Son of God died for the sins of the world and his consequent resurrection, there is no freedom, no redemption, no forgiveness. Jesus is the stronger one who has fought the battle and won. He has broken the power and bondage of Satan. When we receive Him, His victory becomes ours. We are not fighting for victory but FROM VICTORY!

*For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,* (Colossians 1:13 NLT).

There is one final verse that Jesus adds in Luke 11:23, *"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters."*

In other words there can be no neutral ground, no exceptions, no alternatives, unless you have received the deliverance and rescue that has come to us through Jesus, then you are still in bondage. We choose whether we will remain victims of Satan's powerful forces or victors through our acceptance of Jesus, the one who has come to destroy the works of the devil.

- **Be alert**

I want to consider some foundational teaching in this whole area of Spiritual Warfare:

**Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you** (James 4:7 NIV).

**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 5:8 NIV).

We need to be positioned well, armed and ready for battle. Firstly we need to be submitted to God. The word translated as submit is a military term that at means to align oneself under the authority of another. The picture is of an army in orderly arrangement under their commanding officer,

The key to victory is staying close to God. No way known can we defeat the devil and his demons in our own power; neither can we wash away our sins or be a holy people in our own strength. I like what A.W. Tozer says, 'I'm not afraid of the devil; sure he can handle me; he's got judo I've never heard of. But he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined; he can't handle the one to whom I'm united; he can't handle the One whose nature dwells in my nature.'

Victory is assured as we submit our lives to the authority of God through His son Jesus. It's not complicated. There is no plan B; no other way to win. Jesus is enough; everything we need is in Him.

Secondly, we are instructed to be self-controlled and alert. In other words be vigilant, attentive, watchful, focussed and on guard. The opposite of complacent; unconcerned, indifferent, apathetic. Ultimately this is an eternal, life and death issue- the enemy is like a lion on the prowl looking for someone to devour- and he will always head for the weakest in the herd first.

What is your attitude towards the enemy? Do you believe he exists? Are you ignorant? Some knowledge but doesn't impact faith much? Do you believe that this something only the weird Christians get involved in? Peter is instructing us here to wise up, to tune in on the spiritual radar into what is going on both within and without of our lives. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth that we are to be aware of Satan's schemes so that he might not outwit us (2 Corinthians 2:11).



