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what the **DEVIL**
doesn't want
YOU to know

*And the Tools You Need to **Stop** Him in His Tracks*

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WHAT THE DEVIL DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW

Part One

I. Satan Is Our Enemy!

A. **John 10:10** – He comes to kill, steal and destroy everything good and godly in life.

1. Satan is fully evil and a hater of all that is good.

We should take time to ponder how wicked he is and that he is the source of all evil everywhere.

B. **John 8:44** – He is a liar; the truth is not in him.

1. He works continually to deceive people (to get them to believe lies). If we believe lies they become truth to us, even though they are not true in reality.
2. Example: For many years, I believed I would always have a second-class life due to the abuse I had endured in my childhood. I also believed that each time I made a mistake God was mad at me, and I had to do something to appease Him.
 - a. Both of these were not true according to the Bible, but they were my reality because it was what I believed.
 - b. What we believe is extremely powerful!

Proverbs 23:7 says that we will become what we believe.

- C. Satan is against anything that is for...
 - 1. Righteousness, peace, joy, love, generosity, compassion and kindness. He vehemently opposes our progress in any of these areas.

- D. We are in a war, but...
 - 1. **I John 4:4** – Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.
 - 2. **Romans 8:37** – We *are* more than conquerors through Christ Who loves us.
 - 3. **Colossians 1:13** – The Father *has* delivered us out of the realm of darkness and *has* transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.
 - 4. **Remember:** You are not fighting for victory, but from victory. Jesus has already defeated Satan!

- E. Our protection and defense is in the true knowledge of the Word of God (hearing, receiving, loving and obeying it).
 - 1. **John 17:11-12** – We are kept safe in the knowledge of God.
 - 2. **Ephesians 6:17** – The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit needed to be successful in spiritual warfare against the devil.
 - 3. If we know but fail to do, we have no protection.
 - 4. Paul received grace due to ignorance, but knowledge gives us responsibility.

II. The Deceiver

- A. Eve (See **Genesis 3:1-4.**)

1. Step Number One: The devil questioned God's Word.

“Indeed has God said?”

- a. He put a question in Eve's mind regarding God's goodness.
- b. Satan's deceptive thoughts:
 - 1) “Perhaps you misunderstood.”
 - 2) “Surely if God loved you, He would not keep anything good from you.”
 - 3) “You should re-think this.”
 - 4) “Perhaps God did not really say what you think He said.”

2. Step Number Two: Satan denied God's Word.

“You will not surely die!”

3. Step Number Three: He substituted his own lie. **His lies are his weapon!**

- a. “You will be like God.”
- b. **Isaiah 14:12-14** – Satan's downfall was caused from him wanting to be like God.

B. **II Corinthians 11:3** – Paul said, “I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”

- 1. Simplicity is to simply believe what God says without question or doubt.

“God said it and I believe it.”

2. **II Corinthians 10:4-5** – The mind is the battlefield.
- C. **Romans 8:6** – The mind of the flesh and the mind of the spirit
1. The mind of the flesh is developed by receiving Satan's lies as our own thoughts, but the mind of the spirit is developed by renewing it according to God's Word.
 2. **Romans 12:2**
 3. **Ephesians 4:17-24**

III. The Destroyer

- A. **I Peter 5:8** – Be alert at all times! Your adversary, the devil, roams around like a lion seeking someone to devour.
1. Think about what you are thinking about. Be aware of what is going on in your mind.
- B. If Satan fails to defeat you through attacking your mind, he will attack your body and your possessions.
- C. Job
1. **Job 1:13-22**
 2. **Job 2:3-9**
- D. Your body and your health are very important. God works through you! He built an ark through Noah, He killed Goliath through David, and He preaches through the lips of men and women.
1. Without your health, Satan may rob the world of the gifts God has placed in you.
- E. When Satan comes against your body, he is attacking the temple of God. (See **I Corinthians 6:19-20.**)

1. When we abuse our own bodies by not taking care of them, it is equal to not taking care of God's home.
- F. Satan tries to hinder you from giving God glory. (See **Matthew 5:16**.)
1. Jesus is no longer here in body. He is invisible to the world and needs our bodies to work through. We are His instruments or tools in His toolbox.
(See **I Corinthians 12:27**.)
 2. **Colossians 1:18** states that Christ is the Head of His body, which is the church.
- G. Never underestimate the importance of taking care of your physical body – the Christian who is careless about his health is playing right into Satan's hands.
- H. **Satan's weapon is suffering!** He plans to destroy us with it, but God permits it at times to test our response and to mature us.
1. **I Peter 4:12** – God tests our quality.
- I. Suffering occurs when we endure a thing rather than running from it or trying to avoid it. There are many different types of suffering.
1. The basic definition means to undergo a thing, to let it happen, to bear it or endure it.
 2. Example: **I Corinthians 6:7** – Let yourself suffer wrong rather than bringing a lawsuit. We grow when we trust God to be our Vindicator.
 3. **II Corinthians 4:8** – Paul said they suffered embarrassment, and they were troubled and oppressed in every way. They could have avoided it by leaving town, but they stayed because they knew they were where they were supposed to be.
- Suffering occurs when you stay where you don't want to be for the sake of another.

4. **Acts 9:16** – God made it clear to Paul how much he would suffer as an apostle, but Paul still took the job.
5. **II Timothy 2:24** – We must be willing to suffer wrong and still be kind, peace loving and forgiving.
6. **II Timothy 3:12** – Those who determine to live a godly life will suffer persecution. Perhaps this unwillingness to suffer is why we see so much compromise and lukewarmness among Christians today.
7. **II Timothy 4:5** – Be willing to suffer hardships.

A missionary suffers hardships. Not all ministry is on a platform in an air-conditioned building.

8. **I Peter 3:14, 17** – If we suffer for righteousness' sake we are blessed. Just be sure we don't suffer as a wrongdoer.
9. **Hebrews 11:24-25** – Moses chose to suffer in order to help bring deliverance to others.
10. **Hebrews 11:36-37, 39-40** – They suffered so we could know God today.
 - a. Someone always pays the price for another's freedom.
 - b. What we enjoy today, someone else paid for with their pain and willingness to endure.
 - c. In a small way I, along with women before me, suffered rejection as a woman preaching the gospel to clear the way for other women to be openly accepted in later years.
11. Last, but most important – Jesus suffered for us that we might be free.

The next time you are selfishly tempted to avoid something painful, take a moment and remember Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross.

12. Here is the reward:

Hebrews 5:8-9 – We become equipped to take up our positions in God’s army when we are willing to endure rather than avoid suffering.

a. I would venture to say that we will never be what we are intended to be without a willingness to suffer.

b. Even when we attempt to obey God we often experience rejection and judgment from loved ones. We must be willing to suffer the loss of family and friends to do the will of God.

13. **I Peter 4:1-2** – Set your mind to patiently suffer rather than fail to please God.

J. Satan seeks to make us impatient!!

1. Impatience is a mark of immaturity.

2. **Hebrews 6:12** – We inherit the promises of God through faith and patience.

3. Satan knows that if he can make us impatient, he can lead us to do something rash and stupid that will get ourselves and others into trouble.

4. Impatience is very costly!

5. The only way we can learn patience is by going through the difficulties assigned to us. The Greek word for patience means to remain under a thing. It states that patience is only developed under trial and no other way.

- K. How can we endure it? Where do we get the strength?
1. We learn to receive the grace of God, which enables us to do anything we need to do.
 2. Grace is God's ability coming to us freely to enable us to do with ease what we could not do on our own with any amount of struggle and effort. Grace makes the impossible possible.
 3. As we wait on God and spend time in His Word, we are strengthened with the ability to go through!

Part Two

I. The Ruler

- A. Satan wants to rule us!
- B. His target is our will.
1. He wants us to be prideful and independent of God.
- C. He begins with an attack on your mind. He may then proceed to an attack on your body or possessions. He brings suffering, hoping you will take matters into your own hands and act independently of God.
1. His ultimate goal is your will.
- D. The Christian must not be emotional. His life must be chiefly a matter of the will. He must make the right choices no matter how he feels.
1. Decisions mold character and chart the course of your life.
 2. Love, for example, is a matter of the will – not of feeling. We chose to treat people good unconditionally.
 3. We don't obey because we feel like it. By God's grace, we will it.

E. **Satan's weapon is pride.**

1. Pride is a sin of the spirit and is more dangerous than any sin of the flesh.
2. If we judge someone who is guilty of adultery, gluttony or greed, our sin of judgment is actually worse than theirs.
3. The prodigal son was guilty of sins of the flesh, but his older brother was guilty of judgment.
4. David's sin of numbering the people of Israel resulted in 70,000 people dying. It was a greater punishment than when he committed murder and adultery.
 - a. David numbered the people in order to brag about and be prideful over the number of people who followed him. He did it for his own glory!
 - b. **I Chronicles 21:1** – Satan stirred David up to number the people.
5. **I Timothy 3:6** – Paul said not to put a new convert in leadership lest he fall into pride and behave stupidly.

F. Pride is one of Satan's chief weapons for it always comes before a fall.

G. **II Chronicles 26:15-16** – Uzziah became famous, for God had helped him mightily. But his heart was lifted up in pride, and he behaved corruptly and was unfaithful to God.

H. The higher a person is in a spiritual position, the more his sins can affect others. David sinned, and 70,000 people died.

I. No wonder Paul embraced his thorn in the flesh and said, "When I am weak in human strength, then I am truly strong in God."

1. **II Corinthians 12:7-10**

J. Beware when you feel:

1. That you have arrived.
2. That you are more important than another.
3. That you are above the rules.
4. That you are qualified to judge another.
5. That you may mistreat another person due to your own superiority.

K. Your defense is SURRENDER!

1. The indwelling Spirit of God will convict you, but you must immediately surrender to God's will and way.
2. Tell God that He is right and you are wrong. Make no excuses! Just humble yourself, repent and learn a good lesson.

L. Nebuchadnezzar fell due to pride, but he learned a good lesson and more greatness was given than he had before. (See **Daniel: Chapter 4.**)

II. The Accuser

A. Satan now accuses you of the very sin he tempted you to commit. He accuses you of your pride and independence.

1. **Revelation 12:10** – He is the accuser of the brethren.
2. Satan is our adversary. He is against us, contrary to us – like an opponent in a lawsuit. He brings legal charges against us before God.
 - a. His accusations are often right; but he has no right to accuse us because we belong to God, and “in Christ” we have died to the law that Satan tries to use against us.
(See **Galatians 2:19-20.**)

2. **Psalm 32:5-6** – Repent, and God immediately forgives all your sin.
- E. **Ephesians 1:4** – God’s will is that we stand before Him blameless and without reproach.
- F. Your defense is the Word of God.
1. You can battle “feelings” of guilt with God’s Word on forgiveness, restoration and righteousness.
 2. We can repent and God restores, revives, renews and redeems.
- “Re” means to go back to the beginning or the starting place.
- G. All guilt does is destroy your peace, joy and fellowship with God!

III. What To Wear To The War

- A. Be strong in the Lord and put on the full armor that God gives.
1. **Ephesians 6:10-11**
- B. “Put on” is an action phrase that has nothing to do with feelings.
1. When we put on a thing, it is an act of the will.
- C. Things the Bible tells us to put on:
1. Put on Christ
 2. Put off the old man and put on the new man.
 3. Put on God’s whole armor.
 4. Put on the breastplate of righteousness (a breastplate covers your heart).

5. Put on shoes of peace.
 6. Put on the helmet of salvation (be sure you think like a person who has been redeemed).
 7. Put on the belt of truth and tighten it in battle.
 8. Lift up the shield of faith with which you quench all the fiery darts of the enemy.
 - a. **Romans 1:17** – We must learn to live from faith to faith.
 - b. When we put down our shield, we are open to Satan’s attack.
 - c. Satan attacks relentlessly with doubt, double-mindedness, uncertainty, insecurity, fear, unbelief, shame and guilt – but we can lift up the shield of faith and defeat him.
 9. **Colossians 3:14** – Above all that you put on, put on love.
- D. Instead of putting on sackcloth and ashes or mourning and despair, we must “put on” righteousness!
1. **Job 29:12-17** – Job put on righteousness.
 2. Satan seeks to paralyze the Christian so he cannot do the works of God.
 3. We must know Satan’s strategy and resist him at all times!!

