



JOYCE MEYER
MINISTRIES®

SHAKING OFF SERPENTS

How to resist the devil at his onset!

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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at his onset!*

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SHAKING OFF SERPENTS

I. We Have An Enemy – The Old Serpent.

- A. **Genesis 3:1-4** – Eve encounters the serpent in the garden.
- B. **Genesis 3:13-14** – The serpent beguiled Eve.
- C. The serpent (Satan) works through flesh.
 - 1. **Ephesians 6:12** – We wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with the devil.
 - 2. **Romans 6:6** states that our body (flesh) is the instrument of sin. Satan could not tempt us if we had no flesh!
- D. Our enemy is still the old serpent, and people are still being snakebitten daily.

II. How To Handle Snakebites

- A. **Acts 28:5** – Paul was bitten by a serpent, and **HE SHOOK IT OFF.**
- B. **Mark 6:11** – The disciples were instructed to “shake it off.”
- C. **Luke 10:1-11** – In order to do what God has called you to do, you will need to “shake off” all judgment and disapproval.
 - 1. The act of physically shaking dust from their feet was simply a message saying, “You are not going to bother us or stop us.”
- D. **Matthew 10:5-24** – You will encounter men whose way or nature is to act in opposition to God – **SHAKE IT OFF!**

- E. This teaching is recorded by all four Gospel writers.
 - 1. I believe this signifies that it is **very important!!**
- F. **Acts 13:49-51** – The people came against the apostles as they spread God’s Word, and they reacted by shaking it off.

III. The Serpent’s Tongue

- A. **Psalms 140:3** – When the serpent bites with the tongue – **SHAKE IT OFF!**
- B. **Isaiah 54:17** – No weapon formed against us shall prosper; and every TONGUE that rises against us in judgment, we will show to be in the wrong.
- C. **Matthew 12:34-35** – You offspring of vipers! The poison coming out of your mouth originates in your heart.

IV. Various Types Of Snakebites To Watch Out For

- A. Rejection
 - 1. **Despise** (defined/Vine’s) – To set aside; to disesteem, violate, reject. To treat as having no value.

(Defined) – Give no place, to be without a place, bring to nothing, to spit out, loathe, refuse, cast away.
 - 2. **Luke 10:16** – He who rejects you, rejects Jesus.
 - 3. People rejected Jesus all the time – and He went on with His ministry and with life.
 - a. **Isaiah 53:3** – *He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men . . .*

- b. **I Samuel 8:6-7** – The people wanted a king to rule over them instead of God; and He said, “They have rejected Me, that I should not be King over them.”
 - c. **Jeremiah 6:19; 8:9** – People reject His word all the time.
 - d. **Psalms 118:22** – *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*
4. **I Samuel: Chapters 16 and 17** – David was snakebitten with rejection, but he shook it off.
- a. David’s father did not even call him in from the field to be considered for the anointing when the prophet Samuel came to anoint a king from among his sons.
 - b. His brothers rejected him, they did not want him at the battle with them, and they really did not even want to see him.
 - c. Saul later hated David and sought to kill him for years. David loved Saul and his son Jonathan, so it must have hurt him deeply to experience this kind of rejection.
5. Joseph was snakebitten by rejection that was rooted in jealousy. He shook it off and went on to become a mighty ruler. His brothers did not deal with the snakebite, and it poisoned their lives and left them in poverty.
6. Louis Pasteur, Alexander Graham Bell, and Thomas Edison all experienced tremendous rejection – but

THEY SHOOK IT OFF!

- B. Jealousy is a snakebite.
- 1. **I Samuel 18:9** – Saul gets snakebitten. But he did not shake it off, and it poisoned him and ultimately killed him.

2. Jealousy is a “sin of the flesh” that we are warned to resist steadfastly.
3. **James 4:1-2** – Jealousy causes strife, fights, quarrels, unfulfilled desires, and hatred toward others – which is murder as far as your heart is concerned.

C. Being offended is a snakebite.

1. Offense (defined/Vine’s/Greek) *Skandalon* – The part of the trap on which the bait hung that lured the victim into the trap.
2. **Matthew 24:10** – In the last days, many will be offended. The serpent is definitely loose in the last days, biting everyone he can.
3. **Psalm 119:165** – Blessed is the man who is offended in nothing.
4. **Mark 4:17** – Satan steals the Word from people through offense.

D. Anger

1. **Ephesians 4:26-27** – Shake it off! It isn’t worth it.
2. Inventory how often you get snakebites in this area.

E. Discouragement

1. See courage:
 - a. **Deuteronomy 31:6-7, 23**
 - b. **Joshua 1:6, 9, 18**
2. Courage – To be alert, physically or mentally strong, to prevail, be steadfast minded.

3. To be **DIS-couraged** would be the opposite of the above definition.

Discourage (Webster's) – The opposite of courage, to deprive of confidence, hope, or spirit. To deter or dissuade, to try to prevent by expressing disapproval or raising objections.

4. Discouragement usually occurs after disappointment – when people do not meet our expectations or treat us properly the way we expect, when our circumstances do not meet expectations, or even when we expect more out of ourselves than we are able to perform.
5. The believer has a rare privilege. When he is disappointed, he can always get re-appointed in Christ. We always have a place of “new beginnings” in Him.

SHAKE IT OFF!

F. Depression

1. Depress (Webster's) – To lower in spirits, to push down, sadden, lower, weaken, lessen the activity or force of, dejected, flattened downward. To sink below normal levels. Synonym: backward.
2. **Psalm 42:5; 43:5; 143:3-6**
3. **Isaiah 61:3** – Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.
4. Go out, call someone, sing, do something for somebody worse off than you, or listen to some good music.

SHAKE IT OFF!

G. Self-pity

1. Beware of it for any reason at all.

2. For example:
 - a. Feeling bad physically
 - b. Short on money
 - c. Lonely
 - d. Disappointed
 - e. Did not get your way
 - f. Personal failure
 - g. Rejected

SHAKE IT OFF!

