

The Strength of Satan

Rev. 20:2

2/17/21

As we come to this final collection of truths about our enemy Satan we look at the ways he uses our thoughts and feelings to manipulate us.

The 1st we will consider is disappointment. Disappointment comes with finality—the recognition that you don't have, didn't get, or will never achieve whatever it is that you wanted. Again Satan wants to cause us to be in bondage with our emotions. We will have many different degrees of emotions about various events or circumstances in our life journey. Here is a list of verses to combat Satan getting the advantage of us on this emotion. Phil. 4:6-7; Rom. 8:28; Jer. 29:11; Col. 3:23-25; Psa. 121:1-8; Isa. 40:28-31; Psa. 23:1-6; Heb. 4:14-16; Psa. 73:1-28; Jn. 10:10; Mat. 10:29-31; Psa. 42:11; II Cor. 4:8-9; Prov. 3:5-6.

The 2nd is discouragement which is usually known by Counselors as the second stage of disappointment. Discouragement is a loss of confidence or enthusiasm. It is feeling defeated and not being able to do anything right. Again temporary feelings of discouragement are common after a failure of any kind. The problem comes when we allow it overcome us. Psa. 34:17-19; Psa. 147:3; Psa. 55:22; Isa. 41:10, 31; Isa. 42:16; II Cor. 5:7; Gal. 6:9; Phil. 4:19; I Pet. 1:6-9.

The 3rd is despair which is the third and final stage of the first two. Despair that is left unchecked can prove fatal to the Christian life. Despair is the complete loss of hope.

The individual taken over by despair cannot see a way out with fear overwhelming them. Isa. 55:8-9; Phil. 4:12-13; Psa. 46:1; Prov. 18:10; Mat. 10:28; Heb. 11:10; Psa. 43:5; I Cor. 13:13.

The 4th is doubt. To doubt is to hesitate or waver. If Satan can get any leeway in this emotion he has gotten a major victory over anyone. If we come short of total belief we are weakened in our race. Prov. 3:5-8; Mat. 14:28-31; Mark 9:21-24; Mat. 28:16-17; Heb. 11:1-2.

The 5th is disbelief. Disbelief is defined as the inability or refusal to accept that something is true or real. It is lack of faith. (The none's) This is the logical end of doubt. Rom. 8:7; II Tim. 3: 1-4, 7; 4:3-4; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 3:12.

The 6th is doublemindedness. This, as we discussed in an earlier study, is to be one way and then the other. It's like a piece of cork on the water being moved by whatever current is there. In Phil. 2:5 we find "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Satan desires for us to not focus as we should on our walk. We need to daily submit to the Holy Spirit and the clear teachings of the Word. Our actions, thoughts, and intents then will be focused in one direction. "sound mind" II Tim. 1:7. James 1:8 "unstable in all his ways". Mat. 6:24; Eph. 4:14; I Jn. 2:15-17.

The 7th is deceit. Jer. 17:9 "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Deceit is the act of causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid. II Cor. 2:17, 4:1-2, 11:13; II Jn. 1:7; Rev. 22:16-19.

The 8th is dullness. Dullness is the state of lacking interest or excitement. Heb. 5:12-14; I Cor. 3:1-3.

The 12th is disobedience. God has given to each of His creation the ability to obey or disobey. We have been given that freedom of our will which is taught over and over again beginning at the Garden of Eden. Mat. 21:28-31: "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise, and he answered and said I go sir and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father?" In every conversion shown in the Bible the individual heard the truth, received the truth, and believed the truth.

There are two famous men by the name of Saul in the Bible—one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. A very profitable study can be made by comparing and contrasting these two men. Both were from the tribe of Benjamin (I Sam. 9:2; Phil. 3:5). The first began as God's friend but ended up as His enemy, while the second started as His enemy but wound up as God's friend (I Sam. 9:16; 10:6,7; 28:6; Acts 9:1; II Tim. 4:18). One went to the witch of Endor in the hour his death, while the other turned to the Word of God (I Sam. 28:7; II Tim. 4:13). What really made the difference between these two men? The answer is tragically simple—one was disobedient, the other was obedient.

I Sam. 15:22,23: "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou has rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king."

This state of emotion is used by Satan to keep us out of the fullness of fellowship and, like the others, lead us away from Jesus.

The 9th is a state of deadness. Deadness is a direct result of unchecked dullness. Many will allow the enemy to push this emotion to its clear ending. We, as Christians, are to be dead to sin and alive to righteousness. Eph. 2:1, 5; Rom. 6:1,2, 11; 12:1,2. James 2:17,26; Rev. 3:1.

The 10th is delay. If Satan cannot deceive individuals about the wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus he will then work on the feeling of putting off this gift. Yesterday is fixed. It is a record. Tomorrow is not promised. Today is what we have. Every conversion in the Bible happened in the today framework. It is sad to think of how many intended to surrender to the call of the Lord but waited too late. Put it off until your older, sure, and ready. Keep kicking the can down the road. Deal with it later. Salvation is the decision that needs to be settled while there is time. Heb. 4:7, 8; James 4:13-15; Prov. 27:1.

The 11th is leading people into defilement. The Bible has an abundance of scriptures teaching about defilement. Moses was asked to remove the shoes from His feet because he was on Holy Ground. Jesus clarified the deep of true fellowship and victory in God when He explained the thoughts of anger and lust in the mind of individuals was sin. We, as Christians, must be praying for the Lord to make us usable. The fields are white with harvest. The work is there for those who are in shape to be used. God requires a clean vessel. One that is defiled with the things of this world can never be used regardless of education, ability, energy, or experience. I Cor. 3:16-17.

The 12th is disobedience. God has given to each of His creation the ability to obey or disobey. We have been given that freedom of our will which is taught over and over again beginning at the Garden of Eden. Mat. 21:28-31: "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise, and he answered and said I go sir and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father?" In every conversion shown in the Bible the individual heard the truth, received the truth, and believed the truth.

There are two famous men by the name of Saul in the Bible—one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. A very profitable study can be made by comparing and contrasting these two men. Both were from the tribe of Benjamin (I Sam. 9:2; Phil. 3:5). The first began as God's friend but ended up as His enemy, while the second started as His enemy but wound up as God's friend (I Sam. 9:16; 10:6,7; 28:6; Acts 9:1; II Tim. 4:18). One went to the witch of Endor in the hour his death, while the other turned to the Word of God (I Sam. 28:7; II Tim. 4:13). What really made the difference between these two men? The answer is tragically simple—one was disobedient, the other was obedient.

I Sam. 15:22,23: "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou has rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king."

Acts 26:12-19: "Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee: delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."

Rom. 6:14-18: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."