

4-24-16
BEWARE OF THE SUBTILITIES OF SATAN

II Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

II Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Intro: The Longer I live the more I realize that this world is no longer my home. The Scripture predicts that in the end times..

II Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Satan is waging war against the Saints of God.. and this war will escalate right into the tribulation period described in Revelation 13 .. Where it says..

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Many years ago.. when I first came to the church as Pastor.. I decided to canvas the area and knock on doors.. I thought I would just knock on every door going south on Route 106 .. When I got to a house just outside of Carbondale, I knocked on a door and a fellow answered the door and I introduced myself as the new Pastor of the Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford.. he kindly took my literature but said he wasn't interested in Church. Then he said, "I would like to ask you a question." He said, no one has been able to give me a satisfactory answer and every time I meet a minister I ask this same question. I said, what is your question?

He said, "If God is all powerful why is it that it seems that evil is prevailing? I mean, God is supposed to be more powerful than Satan but as far as I can see, Satan seems to be winning in this world." I proceeded to give him an answer, but now after 33 years have passed from the

time that this fellow and I had this conversation looking back in retrospect, I may have not given him the best answer..

Today I would say, your observations are absolutely right. The Bible says,

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

You see in heaven, Satan was defeated, and he was cast down to earth .. drew 1/3 of the stars of heaven with him. You see the premise of Satan was that if he was able to win the vote over God in heaven .. his throne would be greater than God's he would exalt His throne above the stars of God. In heaven he lost the vote .. and was cast out.. But here on earth power is given to him to prevail. God is looking for people who are willing to follow God even if it means that you will be in the minority. So this man's observation was correct it seems that Satan in this world is prevailing.

But this is where faith kicks in.. I have read the last Chapters of this book and though Satan will prevail for a little season.. when that season is up Christ will return and all things will be placed under His feet.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

The Lord said.. the tricks and subtilty of satan is so great that if it were possible he would deceive the very elect..

I am so glad I have a book that keeps me on the straight and narrow..

I am so glad that I don't need to run after this thing or that..

I am so glad .. I don't have to chase this idea or that..

I am so glad .. I don't have to unlearn what I learned when it comes to the Word of God..

I am so glad ... that..

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

I don't think like the peoples of this world..

If I found a candidate I really could get behind for president he would never make it.. We just always seem to vote the lesser evil.

I can tell you for certain who will not win an election .. it is the one I like.. Why? Because Jesus said..

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

When that fellow asked me.. If God is all powerful why is it that evil seems to prevail? The answer is because that is by design.. GOD IS LETTING EVIL PREVAIL, because Satan has deceived this world and they are following him..

So today we pray.. OH LORD THY KINGDOM COME.. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN,.. Someday His Kingdom will come to earth when Jesus returns.. and then Satan will be bound.. God's Kingdom will come to earth.. God's will will be done on earth..

Now until then we need to occupy till He comes..

Till then we live by faith believing His promises..

We live by Hope.. We are saved by our hope...

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

This is why I preach.. I preach to you.. who are not part of this world..

I preach to you who do not fit in with the prince of this world..

I preach to you who are Pilgrims and strangers.. aliens.. etc..

This is why you need preaching.. to remind you about what we are hoping for..

To remind you about His promises

To remind you that this world is at enmity against Christ.. and so against us!

Now in light of this we need to be careful because the Bible says..

Matthew 24:24 if it were possible, Satan would deceive the very elect.

His ways are subtle..

His temptations are subtle..

PAUL SAID..

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted

HIS WAYS ARE SUBTLE..

HIS TEMPTATIONS ARE SUBTLE...

HIS PROMISES ARE SUBTLE

HIS THINKING IS SUBTLE

I. BEWARE OF SATAN'S SUBTLE WAYS

He has not changed all these thousands of years

Satan is the author of confusion. His ways are subtle.. so he needs to confuse you.. trip you up... Make you think right is wrong and wrong is right..

One of the subtle things he does is to ask a question where there seems to be no right answer..

For instance the Pharisees came to Jesus and said is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar.. If He said yes then He was condoning Roman occupation over Israel.. if He said no then He would be accused to the authorities as disobeying those who were rulers of the land..

Often this is just plain devilish.. people ask you a question and there is no right answer.. it seems anyway!

His ways are subtle..

They bring a woman to Jesus and accuse her of Adultery and ask him what should we do about .. the law says to stone her.. but if He said to stone her they would have accused Him to the Romans because He had no civil authority to put anyone to death .. If He said don't stone her than He would be saying the Bible is not to be followed!

Satan asks questions to trip us up ..

Satan through his subtlety creates confusion and doubt ..

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

HIS WAYS .. HE ALWAYS TRIES TO INDUCE CONFUSION.. AND DOUBT..

Webster gives the following definition of the word Subtle

- * hard to notice or see : not obvious
- * clever and indirect : not showing your real purpose

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Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Satan comes in the back door.. and asks Eve about what God said.. to catch her off guard.. You see Eve was not there when God said don't eat of the tree.. She was not even created yet.. the command was given to Adam and Adam told Eve not to eat of the tree.. The woman disobeyed her husband.. and Adam disobeyed God!

We should avoid foolish questions..

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

The Word of God is not to be disputed.. it is to be obeyed!

Satan's ways are subtle.. he disguises his motives...

Everyone needs absolutes....

The word of God is an absolute - it never changes....

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Not only do we need to be aware of Satan's Subtle ways...

II. BEWARE OF SATAN'S SUBTLE TEMPTATIONS

Hath God said?
THIS IS WHERE ALL TEMPTATIONS TO SIN START

One of the great devices of Satan is to get you to think it is your idea to sin.. or do something.. He never told Eve to eat the fruit.. he made her think it was her idea...

He created a desire in Eve to eat the forbidden fruit!

The command was very simple...

The devil makes it more complicated.... He gets us thinking.. the wrong way.. he is the Pied Piper of sin!

Every young person is going to be bombarded, with questions and implantation of doubts etc.... They will think it is their idea..

I hear young people saying they want to be different so what do they do they follow the pied piper of sin.. I used to tell my Kids.. if it is in style it is wrong... you don't need to know why it is wrong.. HE IS THE PIED PIPER ... AND THE WORLD FALLS IN LINE..

John Newton for example... he was trained to believe the Bible...
A few skeptics got him doubting it and he became an infidel...

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II Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

How sure are you about the integrity and infallibility of the Word of God...

Illust. Devil will send others who will try to get you to doubt...

HATH GOD SAID

Scientific arguments....

Social Arguments....

Doubting miracles....

Making light of those who follow the Bible...

Pretty soon, as you listen to these skeptics, you too will start questioning the Bible...

SATAN QUESTIONS EVE.. AND SO HE QUESTIONS US.. TOO..

No proof you will die... He said to Eve.....
No proof there is a heaven a hell etc...
No proof that these things are true....

IF THERE WERE PROOF WE WOULD NOT NEED FAITH .. FAITH BELIEVES GOD
GOD BLESSES OUR FAITH!

There will be those who will come to you contradicting the Bible...

Beware....

Sometimes just listening, puts you in agreement with the skeptics...

Illust. Psalms 1:1 Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

As you associate with skeptics and you do not rebuke them and argue with them
You become partakers of their skepticism...

We need to have boldness to rebuke those who contradict the Bible...

Eve didn't say that she believed the devil or disbelieved, she just listened with an open mind....

Application: You need to be careful who you open up your mind to....

Subtlety, is that sin sneaks up on you...

Many young people get in trouble and it all starts when they get associating with the wrong crowd.... they think they can be friends with skeptics but not fall or be influenced them..

IF YOU REBUKE A SKEPTIC HE WILL CEASE TO BE YOUR FRIEND
IF HE IS YOUR FRIEND IT IS BECAUSE HE IS INFLUENCING YOU AND YOU ARE NOT
REBUKING HIM LIKE YOU SHOULD.

SUBTLE WAYS

SUBTLE TEMPTATIONS

SUBTLE PROMISES

**III. BEWARE OF SATANS SUBLTE PROMISES OF BENEFIT FOR VIOLATING
THE WORD OF GOD**

Think about it: How is it that Satan was willing to give Christ all the Kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship him.

MAT 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

MAT 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

MAT 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt

Subtlety of Satan's sin and temptation is that he offers us all these benefits now if you listen to him .. Note what he promised Eve.. equality with God to determine for herself what is right or wrong good or evil..

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

World promises you a good time for violating the word of God...

**THIS IS THE CRUX OF THE WHOLE MATTER.. Who has a right to determine good or evil?
YE SHALL BE AS GODS KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL..**

So this is where we are at today.. we can redefine what marriage is.. we can redefine what life is.. we can redefine what is acceptable sexual behavior and unacceptable.. Why? Because we think we are our own little gods..

So we can decide by our own whim..

Note: Devil never told Eve to eat the fruit....

The subtlety of the tempter is that he makes you think that it is your own idea to sin!

Vain promises of the pleasures of sin for a season.

Why do we do what we do? We do it because we think we will gain advantage from our choices and actions.

Here is the lie.. True blessings only come from God.

Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
Mark 8:37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

There is much to do over the death of the Rock star Prince Nelson.. truth is I knew very little about him because when I got saved in 1974 I dropped out of the music scene and did not keep up with any of it..

But this one thing I know that if his music was popular it was so because it promoted all that was in the world..

THE LUST OF THE FLESH
THE LUST OF THE EYES
THE PRIDE OF LIFE..

And with all the success that he had.. today he is dead and he had to stand before God and give an account of his life like we all will have to do.

So it is - read the book of Ecclesiastes. The conclusion that the wisest human being could ever make in this life is to

Ecclesiastes 12:13 ... Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

So Satan will whisper in your ear that you will get all these benefits by doing it the worlds way.. It is a lie! It has always been a lie.. and it will continue to be a lie..

Any temporal benefit that the "PRINCE OF THIS WORLD" can give you is dung compared to the benefits of eternity..

Why would you trade all that this world has to offer for eternal rewards..

In 1974 I decided to bail out of this world..

Now here is the amazing thing about the world..

The Bible says..

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

THE WORLD LOVES IT'S OWN..

I had a friend that used to collect my music .. he had every song I ever wrote.. kept a better log than I kept. After I got saved I took him a record we produced for a Pastor and he played it and when he heard the words.. he took it off the turn table and handed it to me and said thats not music and then he proceeded to take out one of my old tapes and played it and said that's music..

THE WORD LOVES IT'S OWN..

People say, why don't you try and get your music published? It's because the world would never receive my songs.. there is too much theology in my music..

I write songs for a purpose ..

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

A lot of these musicians of the world supposedly have been converted.. but mark it down if they were truly converted to Christ.. They would no longer love the world and the world would no longer love them..

IV. SOLUTION: LEARN TO BE ON GUARD AND FIGHT THE WAREFARE AGAINST SATAN ... HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE SUBTLETIES OF SATAN?

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Realize that this life is a war between the kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God....

In this war Satan is continually seeking to trip you up and get you to sin and be ineffective for God....

Illust. Movie.... about WW I soldier... everyone in his platoon was killed except him and another fellow who lost his leg...

He was wounded and survived.... his sergeant was killed, along with everyone else...

It was the end of the war and Germany and the allies were coming up with terms to end the war.....

As he was writing his memoirs... he saw a bird... in a tree.. and decided to draw a sketch of the bird.... he forgot himself and stood up to get a better look at the robin... and a sniper shot him dead....

He had learned to be on guard all those years, only to get careless once....

So too the Bible says,

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

I Peter 5:9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

We are in a Battle.. and that battle does not end in this life..