

**THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD
HOW SATAN ATTACKS THE SAINTS
EPHESIANS 6:11; 2 CORINTHIANS 2:11**

INTRODUCTION

Last time we said this word translated "*wiles*" has been translated in some places as "*schemes*." The devil is a *schemer*! We also said we get our English word "*method*" from the Greek word for "*wiles*." We must be aware of the *methods* of the devil! The word carries the idea of *craftiness, cunning, and deception*... **Satan's evil schemes are often built around stealth and deception!**

Make no mistake—**Satan** and his demons, seek to attack **BELIEVERS!** And just as we should use all of the **ARMOR** and **ARSENAL** that have been given us to thwart his attacks, understand he uses everything he can in his effort to defeat us!

Let's see **9 ways Satan attacks the SAINTS:**

- 1. Satan Attempts To Impugn GOD'S CHARACTER And The CREDIBILITY Of Both GOD And HIS WORD!**
e.g. Genesis 3:1-6 Eve in the Garden of Eden.
e.g. Job 1-2 His attacks against Job.

In countless variations **Satan** will continue to **TEMPT us to DOUBT GOD'S WILL** and to **DOUBT GOD'S MOTIVES**, and to **DOUBT GOD'S LOVE** and **CARE!**

- 2. Satan Seeks To Undermine Present VICTORY By Generating Trouble That Makes Our Lives Difficult!**
e.g. Paul and Barnabas Missionary Journey. Acts 13:42-14:22

Satan tempts us to forsake our adherence and obedience to **GOD'S STANDARDS** and/or **GOD'S CALLING**.
1 Corinthians 16:9—“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Acts 19:8-10; 2 Timothy 4:14-18

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- 3. Satan Attacks BELIEVERS Through Doctrinal Confusion And Falsehoods! BELIEVERS** who are not students of **GOD'S WORD** easily fall prey to wrong ideas about the things of **GOD!**
Ephesians 4:11-14
Galatians 5:7—“Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”

Paul mentioned two blasphemers by name that he said he had to deliver over to Satan (*Hymanaeus and Alexander—1 Timothy 1:20*)

- 4. Satan Attacks GOD'S PEOPLE By Hindering Their Service To Him!**
Romans 1:13—“Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,)...”

Romans 15:22—“For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.”

1 Thessalonians 2:18—“Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.”

All through the book of *Acts*, the **APOSTLES** were hindered!

- 5. Satan Attacks BELIEVERS By Causing Divisions Among Them!**
(1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Hebrews 12:14-15)
- 6. Satan Attacks BELIEVERS By Persuading Them To Trust Their Own Resources Instead Of Trusting GOD!**
Realize that one of our greatest strengths is for us to TRUST GOD FULLY! *Proverbs 3:5-6—“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.*
So, one of **Satan's** objectives is to cause us to **TRUST** something or someone other than the **LORD!**
- 7. Satan Attacks BELIEVERS By Leading Them Into Hypocrisy!**

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He loves for us to talk a good talk, but not walk a good walk!
He loves for us to say one thing with the mouth and but live contrary to what we say!
We must guard against being like the Scribes and the Pharisees!
(*Matthew 23*)

8. **Satan Attacks BELIEVERS By Leading Them Into Worldliness!**
2 Timothy 4:10— For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. (Cf. Colossians 4:14)
9. **Satan Attacks BELIEVERS by leading them to disobey GOD’S WORD!** (*1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 4:27*)

Conclusion

Satan has it in for us, but remember that **GOD** has **PROMISED** us the **VICTORY** through our **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

1 Corinthians 15:57—“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

GOD has given us the **WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD** with which we can stand **VICTORIOUSLY** against the **schemes** of **Satan!**

GOD has graciously provided the **ARMOR!** But we must be **OBEDIENT** and do as **HE** tells us—**PUT IT ON!**

There are **five pieces of ARMOR** here with which we should be clothed. A once and for all decision should be made by us to wear the **ARMOR!** But I also believe that daily we should make sure the **ARMOR** is in place!

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LORD willing we’ll look at one of these pieces of the **ARMOR** each week!

LORD willing, next week we will consider *Ephesians 6:14a* - "*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...*"

PAUL was in prison when he was writing this. He was being guarded by a **ROMAN** soldier who probably had most, if not all of this **ARMOR** with him.