

nigh to you!”

- Like Christian:
 - You Need To Learn How To:
 - Resist The Devil:
 - And The Devices He Uses:
 - To Draw You Away From The Lord!

9. And So - Tonight:

- I Want Us To Look At:
 - Three Of The Devil’s Devices:
 - And What You Need To Use:
 - To Repel Them & To Resist Him!

* The First Device Of The Devil Is This:

1. He Will Test Your Faith!

- Your Faith In:
 - The Lord - Your New Master!
 - He Will Often Do This:
 - In Very Subtle Ways!
 - He Will Bring Questions & Doubts Into Your Mind!
 - Like Doubts About:
 - The Lord’s Protection:
 - Of His People!
 - At The Beginning Of His Encounter With Christian:
 - Apollyon Threatened Christian:
 - And Said - “I Perceive Thou Art One Of My Subjects! / Were It Not That I Hope Thou Mayest Do Me More Service, I Would Strike Thee Now, At One Blow, To The Ground!”
 - No Doubt Christian Was Afraid!
 - And Even If Our Fears:
 - Are Not Directly Induced By The Devil:
 - They May Still Cause Us:
 - To Doubt God’s Power To Protect Us!
 - The Apostle Paul Fear:
 - When He Wrote In **2 Corinthians 7:5** - “For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears!”
- What Can You Do:
 - When The Devil Tests Your Faith:
 - In God’s Protection:
 - Through Fear?
 - Remember The Comfort Of God:
 - As Paul Did - 2 Corinthians 7:6-7 - “Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus!”
 - It Is The Comfort Of God:
 - That Will See You Through Any Fear & Any Threat You Might Face!
 - The Comfort Of God’s Word, God’s Spirit, Even God’s People!
- But Also - Remember As Christian Did:
 - You No Longer Belong To The Devil!
 - You Are No Longer:
 - His Subject!
 - Say As Christian Said:
 - “I Have Let Myself To Another, Even To The King Of Princes; And How Can I, With Fairness, Go Back With Thee?”
- Another Way The Devil:
 - Might Test Your Faith Is:
 - By Bringing Doubt Into Your Mind About:
- The Lord’s Provision:
 - For His People!

- Apollyon Reminds Christian:
 - Of "How Many" Of God's Servants "Have Been Put To Shameful Deaths!" - And How:
 - "He Never Came Yet From The Place Where He Is, To Deliver Any That Served Him!"
- Now - Christian Had Just Come From:
 - The Palace Beautiful - Where - In The Study:
 - He Read About Many:
 - Who Were Persecuted & Even Killed Because They Believed In & Followed After The Lord!
 - So - Could Apollyon Be Right?
 - How Would You Respond & Answer:
 - To This Doubt?
- Well - Christian Had Also Learned That:
 - Hebrews 11:40 - God Has Provided:
 - All Of His People:
 - "Some Better Thing For Us!"
 - And That Is Why He Could Say To Apollyon:
 - "For, For Present Deliverance, They Do Not Much Expect It, For They Stay For Their Glory, And Then They Shall Have It, When Their Prince Comes In His And The Glory Of The Angels!"
- When The Devil Tests Your Faith:
 - In The Protection & The Provision Of The Lord:
 - Remember The Truth:
 - About Him - As Found In Is Word!
 - Remember - As Christian Did:
 - "His Service, His Wages, His Servants, His Government, His Company, And Country" Are So Much Better Than:
 - What The Devil Ever Offered To You!
 - James 4:7 - "Submit Yourselves Therefore To God! Resist The Devil, And He Will Flee From You!"

* Another Device Of The Devil Is This:

2. He Will Try Your Faithfulness!

- Your Faithfulness To:
 - The Lord - Your New Master!
 - Again - He Will Bring Questions & Doubts Into Your Mind:
 - Not Just About:
 - The Lord - But Especially About:
 - Your Devotion & Service To Him!
 - This Was Apollyon's Next Ploy:
 - To Defeat Christian:
 - In His Mind - Without Ever:
 - Throwing A Dart! With:
- An Accusation!
 - He Said - "Thou Has Already Been Unfaithful In Thy Service To Him; And how Doest Thou Think To Receive Wages Of Him?" - And Then:
 - Apollyon Rattled Of A List Of Christian's:
 - Sins & Failures - All Of Which Were True!
 - He Was True His Name:
 - As The "Accuser Of The Brethren!" (Revelation 12:10)
 - What Can You Do:
 - When The Devil Brings Back Up:
 - These Accusations Against You?
 - If He Brings Them Back:
 - To Your Mind - You Can Be Certain That:
 - He Is Bringing Them Back Up:
 - To God - Even As He Tried To Do With Job!
 - Remember - Like Christian:
 - That No Matter What The Accusation Is:

- You Now Have:
- An Advocate!
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - **1 John 2:1-2** - “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: / And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world!”
 - And Though Christian:
 - Remembered His Sin:
 - Even More Than Apollyon Did!
 - He Also Remembered:
 - That He Had A Greater Savior!
 - He Told Apollyon:
 - “But The Prince, Whom I Serve And Honor, Is Merciful, And Ready To Forgive!” - And Not Only That:
 - He Had Already “Obtained Pardon” From The Lord For All Of His Sin!
- So - When The Devil Tries Your Faithfulness:
 - By Bring Up “Railing Accusations” Against You:
 - Remember That You Now Have:
 - A Greater Advocate:
 - “Jesus Christ The Righteous!”
- James 4:7 - “Submit Yourselves Therefore To God! Resist The Devil, And He Will Flee From You!”

* The Third Device Of The Devil That We Will Look At Tonight Is This:

3. ***He Will Tempt Your Flesh!***

- Your Flesh - In Order To Cause You To:
 - Stumble & Sin Against The Lord Afresh!
 - Since Apollyon Couldn't Defeat Christian:
 - In His Mind - He Sought To Defeat Him:
 - Through His Flesh!
 - And - All Too Often:
 - This Is Where He Succeeds:
 - Because - Even Though - As Jesus Said:
 - “The Spirit Indeed Is Willing, But The Flesh Is Weak!”
 - And So - The Devil Will Try To Attack You:
 - At Your Weakest Point!
 - Your Flesh - And Even:
 - Your Greatest Struggles Within The Flesh!
 - Although Christian Was Able To Use:
 - His “Shield Of Faith” To Catch:
 - The First “Flaming Dart” That Apollyon Threw:
 - At His Heart - To Test His Love & Devotion For The Lord!
 - Christian Was No Match For:
 - The Darts That He Threw At Him:
 - “As Thick As Hail!”
 - And He Was Wounded!
 - He Was Wounded:
 - In Much The Same Ways:
 - As Adam & Eve Were:
 - When They Sinned In The Garden!
 - Christian Was:
 - Wounded In His Head!
 - Which In The Margin:
 - Bunyan Describes As His Understanding!
 - Perhaps This Is Because:
 - The “Pride Of Life” Was Still Deeply Ingrained Within Christian!
 - Remember What John Tells Us:
 - In **1 John 2:15-16** - “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. / 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!”
- There Was Still Much Pride:
 - In The Heart & Life Of Christian!
 - This Seems To Be Why:
 - He Left The Palace Beautiful Before He Was Truly Ready To Leave!
 - This Seems To Be Why:
 - He Slipped On The Way Down The Hill On His Way Into This Valley Of Humiliation!
 - The Devil Will Often Use Your Pride:
 - To Tempt You!
 - But Christian Was Also:
- Wounded In His Hand!
 - Which Bunyan Describes As His Faith!
 - Perhaps This Was Apollyon’s Attempt:
 - To Appeal To Christian’s:
 - “Lust Of The Eyes!”
 - Because - The Opposite Of:
 - Walking By Faith - Is:
 - Walking By Sight!
 - And It Seems Like Christian’s Eyes Strayed:
 - From Heavenly Things Back To Earthly Things!
 - The Devil Will Also Use The Things That You Can See:
 - To Tempt You Away From:
 - The Things That You Cannot See:
 - Apart From Faith!
 - But Remember - 2 Corinthians 4:18:
 - “We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal!”
 - But Christian Was Also:
 - Wounded In His Foot!
 - Which Bunyan Describes As His Conversation:
 - Which Means - His Life & Walk!
 - This Might Refer To Christian’s:
 - “Lust Of The Flesh!”
 - Because - Through This Wound:
 - Along With The Others:
 - He Grew “Weaker & Weaker” Until:
 - Apollyon Pounced On Him & Wrestled With Him, And Caused Christian To Fall & Lose His Grip On His Sword!
 - Christian Sinned Some Kind Of Great Sin!
 - And In Doing So:
 - He Neglected The Very Means God Gave Him:
 - For His Help - The Word Of God!
 - Christian Had Failed!
 - Christian Had Fallen!
 - Could Christian Be Forgiven?

Conclusion:

1. The Answer Is - Yes!
 - Because - Even When The Devil Tempts Your Flesh:
 - And Even When:
 - You Yield To Those Temptations:
 - As God’s Child - You Have This Promise:
 - **1 John 4:4** - “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world!”
2. How Did Christian:
 - Gain The Victory Over Apollyon?
 - I Love How Bunyan Puts It:

- “But As God Would Have It!”
 - Christian Regained His Sword:
 - And Claimed Victory:
 - Through The Lord!
- Romans 8:37 - “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us!”
 - You See - *The Victory Can Be Yours:*
 - *When The Battle Is The Lord’s!*
 - Use The Sword He Has Given You:
 - When You Are Deep In The Throes Of Temptation!
 - Remember That - According To 1 Corinthians 10:13:
 - “God Is Faithful, Who Will Not Suffer You To Be Tempted Above That Ye Are Able!”
 - And Then - Keep On The Look Out For His:
 - “Way To Escape, That Ye May Be Able To Bear It!”
- 3. Now - Even Though Christian Is Not Yet Out Of The Woods:
 - He Learned What He Needed To Learn:
 - In That Valley!
 - Because Then - As Bunyan Himself Comments:
 - “Christian Goes On His Journey With His Sword Drawn In His Hand!”
- 4. How About You Tonight?
 - Are You “Going In **Your** Journey With Your Sword In **Your** Hand?”
 - Because - Only Then:
 - When The Devil Or Any Of His Minions:
 - Like Apollyon - Attempts To:
 - Test Your Faith!
 - Try Your Faithfulness! Or Even:
 - Tempt Your Flesh!
 - You Can Boldly Say - From Hebrews 13:6:
 - “The Lord Is My Helper, And I Will Not Fear What Man – Or The Devil Himself – Shall Do Unto Me!”

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