

Satan's Strategy of Sin

Genesis 3:1-6

Introduction:

Satan has a simple yet effective strategy when it comes to enticing us to disobey God's commands. From the very beginning of human history up until now, Satan's strategy has not changed. He uses the same tactics to get you and I to sin as he did way back in the garden. Paul says that we are not to be ignorant of Satan's devices, to that end, let's explore the strategy that Satan uses to entice us into sin.

Side Note: Satan cannot **MAKE** us do anything. He does, however, have a strategy that he uses to entice our flesh to make a choice of disobedience; and we, sometimes, **ALLOW** that strategy to be successful in our life.

I. He Discredits God's Word

**He endeavors to destroy our confidence and our certainty in the Word of God by causing us to question it.*

A. He Attacks it's Authorship

Lie #1 – God's Word cannot be trusted.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Peter 1:21 – For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

B. He Attacks it's Accuracy

Lie #2 – God's Word cannot be believed.

John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Psalms 119:160 - Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Proverbs 30:5a - Every word of God is pure...

Man's Response – Delusion

**When man doubts the authorship and accuracy of the Word of God, he will begin to produce his own version of the Word of God.*

Proverbs 30:6 - Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Revelation 22:18-19 - For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Galatians 1:8-9 - But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

II. He Disputes God's Word

**He endeavors to derail our commitment and our consecration to the Word of God by causing us to diminish it.*

A. He Attacks it's Authority

Lie #3 – God's Word does not have to be followed.

James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Matthew 7:24-29 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. 28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Joshua 1:7-8 - Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

John 14:15 - If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Numbers 32:23 - But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

A. He Attacks its Aim

Lie #4 – God's Word is holding you back.

Romans 15:4 - For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

1 John 1:4 - And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

1 John 5:11-13 - And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10:10 - The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Man's Response – Deterrence

**When man diminishes the authority and aim of the Word of God, he begins to be deterred from putting it into practice.*

III. He Diverts from God's Word

**He endeavors to distract us from the commands and cautions of the Word of God by causing us to ignore it.*

A. He Diverts Toward Self-Gratification

The Lust of the Flesh – This Feels Good

B. He Diverts Toward Self-Perception

The Lust of the Eyes – This Looks Good

Psalms 101:3a - I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:

Lamentations 3:51a - Mine eye affecteth mine heart...

Proverbs 23:33 - Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 23:30-32 - They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

C. He Diverts Toward Self-Esteem

The Pride of Life – This Makes ME Look Good

Isaiah 64:6 - But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Psalms 53:3 - Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 12:3 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Man's Response – Disobedience

***When man diverts his attention toward self-gratification, perception, and esteem, he will begin to head down a path of disobedience, death, and destruction.**

Conclusion:

How to combat this strategy:

***For the secret to overcoming Satan's strategy of sin, we look no further than our example, Jesus Christ.**

*Matthew 4:1-11 - Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 **But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.** 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 **Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.** 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; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 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 thou serve.** 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

We see that each time Satan tempted Christ, the Living Word directed him right back to the Written Word. Jesus used the Word of God to combat the attacks of Satan, and you and I must do the same. We must maintain our faith in the Authorship, Accuracy, Authority, and Aim of the Word of God, so that Satan cannot divert our attention away from its principles and precepts and direct it toward self-gratification, self-perception, and self-esteem.