

Lesson 2 THE TACTICS OF THE ENEMY

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

Satan’s goal is to destroy you. By knowing this, you will be better equipped to stand up against his attacks.

Here are Satan’s three primary objectives:

- To destroy a believer’s relationship with God.
- To prevent believers from sharing Jesus with others who are unsaved.
- To confuse the unsaved about the things of God.

Satan Wants to Destroy a Believer’s Relationship with God

According to 1 Peter 5:8-9, Satan is our adversary, described as walking around like a roaring lion. He attacks when least expected and attempts to completely devour those whom he attacks. This passage tells us we are to be sober and vigilant.

To be sober means to be self-disciplined, to think rationally, and not to be under the influence of any mind-altering substance. To be vigilant means to be alert to the spiritual pitfalls of life and take appropriate steps to make certain that we do not stumble.

1. Write 1 Peter 5:9.

Satan Wants to Prevent Believers from Sharing the Gospel

In trying to prevent us from sharing Jesus with others, the Devil uses three basic tactics, and all three play on our emotions: doubt, guilt, and unforgiveness.

DOUBT. The Devil knows that if he can cause you to (1) doubt God’s Word, (2) doubt your salvation, (3) doubt God’s work in your life, and (4) doubt God’s eternal plan, he can put you on the defensive. The Devil knows that if you doubt in any of these four areas, it is unlikely that you will share Jesus with anyone.

Satan has used this tactic since the beginning. In the garden of Eden, the serpent subtly asked Eve, “Has God indeed said...?” (Genesis 3:1) This question caused both Eve and Adam to doubt God’s Word that led to their sin.

The word “serpent” here does not mean “snake.” It is translated “the shining one.” Satan transforms himself as an angel of light in order to deceive (2 Corinthians 11:14).

2. Write Proverbs 3:5-8

GUILT. Satan is a false accuser. He will tell you that God hasn't really forgiven you and cause you to dwell on your past sins. Satan knows that if you are dwelling on your own weaknesses, rather than the power of God's Spirit in your life, you will feel too guilty to share Jesus with anyone.

3. Write 2 Timothy 1:7-8.

UNFORGIVENESS. Satan knows that if he can create a spirit of unforgiveness toward others, you will become hardhearted and an ineffective witness. The less you can forgive others, the less you will see yourself needing forgiveness from Jesus. This will create self-righteousness and legalism in your life, and will actually turn unsaved people away from Jesus.

4. Write Ephesians 4:32.

Satan Wants to Confuse the Unsaved

Satan has been in the business of confusing people for a long time. These are his weapons: pride, drugs and alcohol, false religions, cults, humanistic psychology, philosophy and occults. Quite an array, isn't it? The believer has two weapons to fight these lies: the Word of God and prayer.

5. Write 1 John 4:1.

Read 1 John 4:2-3: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

At this time you need to do something very important. First, realize that Jesus has already won the victory.

Read 1 John 4:4: "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Secondly, ask the Lord to show you how the enemy may be trying to use some of these tactics on you, and on your unsaved family and friends. As you do this, the Lord will surely open your eyes and show you how to pray.

*"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother."
(1 John 3:10)*