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### Satan's Strategy to Defeat You

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## SATAN'S STRATEGY TO DEFEAT YOU

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
NUMBER 70  
EPHESIANS 6:11-12

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr.  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Little Rock, Arkansas

EPHESIANS 6:11-12 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

We live in the age of the intensification of the Angelic Conflict. The battle is on for every Christian. Whether you win the battle or not depends on your use of the resources God has provided for you. These resources are available for every Christian. At the point of salvation you are in union with Christ and you will never get out of that position as long as you live. Every believer is indwelt by the Lord Jesus Christ. Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Since that moment when Christ was seated at the right hand of God, every believer under operation footstool represents the absent Christ as an ambassador. You are his personal representative here on the earth during the Angelic Conflict. For the first time in human history during the Church Age, every believer is a priest. For the first time in human history, every believer is in full-time Christian service and every believer has a supernatural way of life.

### The Church Age Believer Is Unique

You, living as a believer in the Church Age, are the most fortunate and blessed believer of all times. Your resources are fantastic. The completed Canon of Scripture is your possession and you are living a life of grace. Your accomplishments do not depend on your ability but rather on the work of grace performed by God in your heart and life. The learning of Bible doctrine and the storing of this truth in your mind is an absolute necessity for every effective Christian. Once you understand this Bible truth it is called "gnosis." But to apply what you understand, you have to transfer this truth into your human spirit and it becomes "epignosis" and this truth is now on the launching pad ready for your use. This is what James means when he wrote, "Be not a hearer of the Word but a doer also." You hear the truth and that is "gnosis" but now you transfer it to your spirit so you can perform and be a doer and this is "epignosis." This is your capacity to exhale faith toward God and to grow in his likeness. The human soul is always deficient and cannot cope with life apart from this provision which God has made for your soul and your life.

EPHESIANS 6:11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." This verse started out with an aorist, middle, imperative of "enduo." It is used to "put on" equipment to fit the believer for battle. This aorist tense means the point of time when we study and learn and get ourselves mentally set for the battle. The middle voice means that we will be benefited by doing this. The imperative mood means that this isn't optional but it is an absolute must. We are to put on "The whole armour of God." The word for this is "panoplia" and this means complete equipment, the whole armour. In order to wage a successful warfare, we must have this whole armour. "That" introduces a purpose clause. "Ye may be able" is a present, active, infinitive of "dunamai" and this is the ordinary word for ability, but back of it is the word "ezischuo" and this mean

REVELATION 12:9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

The nation is a divine institution and Satan always attacks the nation. Satan wants internationalism and wants to defeat the nation. History is filled with stories of how nation after nation has been defeated by Satan. Satan is aiming his big guns at the U. S. A. right now in 1976. Satan has a strategy for nations.

4. SATAN HAS A STRATEGY FOR BELIEVERS.

a. By accusation.

He observes Christians and keeps a card file on every believer. Satan keeps a file on every Christian. He keeps a file on you. In the Angelic convocation, your name may be on the agenda for today and Satan may center an attack on you. You might be interested in hearing what the fallen angels say about you. We have some passages on that very subject.

REVELATION 20:9-10 "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

ZECHARIAH 3:1-2 "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, the Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

And the first chapter of Job.

When your name is mentioned and sins are brought up against you, Jesus Christ is your defense attorney. This is taught in 1 John 2. When Christ died on the cross for you, every one of your sins were judged and the sins that were mentioned against you in that satanic and angelic convocation were all judged at the cross. So God simply says, "Case dismissed." Those sins have already been judged. Thus another case is thrown out of court. So the first strategy of Satan against believers is accusation. The Hebrew "Shatan" and the greek "Diabalos" both mean "accuser." "Lucifer, the son of the morning" is his real name.

b. By persuading believers to ignore the Word of God.

The pastor-teacher is called the "didaskalos" and it means to teach in a public assembly. It is not one-on-one teaching. Satan wants to get believers to be so busy they don't have time to attend Bible class. Satan would rather have you lose interest in learning Bible doctrine than anything else in the world.

c. Worry

The devil wants to destroy your stability of mind with worry and doubt and fear.

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1 PETER 5:7-9 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

When a believer loses his norms and standards through drugs or alcohol or immorality, he wipes out the power which fortifies his life. In a way, this is how a human is reduced to the animal level of living. Worry can neutralize the mind of any believer.

d. Mental attitude sins.

Mental attitude sins can neutralize your mind and erase your poise and effectiveness as a Christian.

e. Emotionalism.

This will reduce the effectiveness of any Christian. Emotion is a bona fide facet of the soul and is designed to enhance your life. But emotion has no spiritual significance. Many times the devil distorts emotion into that which is false. This is why the devil wants to get people into the tongues movement and into all kinds of spiritual gymnastics. But these things have no spiritual connotation. How you feel emotionally has nothing to do with your Christian life. The factor which controls your spiritual life is your spiritual I.Q. based on the amount of Bible doctrine you have stored in your mind.

Just think for a moment of some time when you were spiritually out of line, and yet you were emotional. Or think of some time when you were spiritually victorious and you didn't have any particular emotion to accompany that experience. It all boils down to this--when you put emotion over doctrine, you've had it so far as your Christian maturity is concerned.

f. The Devil also wants to entice the believer to depart from the will of God.

Remember, there are three types of the will of God.

The operational will of God.

GALATIANS 5:7 "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

JAMES 4:7-8 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

The geographical will of God.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

The mental will of God.

1 TIMOTHY 4:11 "These things command and teach."

It is the purpose of Satan to interrupt the working of the will of God in the life of every believer.

g. The Devil seeks to destroy your focus.

He wants the believer to get his eyes on himself.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-11 "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you."

GENESIS 3:4-5 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 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."

1 KINGS 19:10 "And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

He wants you to get your eyes off of God and on people.

GENESIS 19:28 "And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace."

GENESIS 20:1 "And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and so-journed in Gerar."

He wants to cause us to get our eyes on things.

HEBREWS 13:5-6 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

h. Satan wants to frighten believers concerning death.

HEBREWS 2:14-15 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

There is much more concerning the work of Satan, but in the main, this is the strategy of Satan as he tries to neutralize the effectiveness of the believer.

EPHESIANS 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The word translated "For" is "Hote" and it means because. "Because we wrestle" and the word for wrestle is "pale" and it means combat with the enemy.

"Our combat is not face to face with human beings." But we have an unseen enemy, the demon army of Satan. We are face to face in personal combat with Satan's whole demon army.

1. Principalities.

The word is "archon" and this is the highest demon worker. The "archon" is the highest officer in the devil's organization. These are the five star generals in his organization.

2. Powers

The word for powers is "ezousias" and this means commissioned officers. They are directly under the "archons." These are corps commanders, divisional commanders, company commanders.

3. Rulers of darkness.

The word is "kosmokrator." It means a world ruler of darkness. This is Satan's special G-2. The devil is always attacking world rulers. In Daniel 10:13, "The Prince Of Persia" was under attack. In Daniel 10:20, "The Prince of Grecia" was under attack. Any powerful national ruler will sooner or later be attacked by Satan. The VIP will also come in for satanic opposition. Men like the Apostle Paul will meet Satan's opposition.

4. Spiritual wickedness in high places.

This is a very inadequate translation. It really means "spirits of evil in the heavenlies." This refers to the rank and file of demons working for Satan. They may attack the body and health. They may attack the vocal cords and lead one into the tongues movement. These demons try to disrupt the fellowship of the church, defeat the pastor-teacher, and confuse the church members.

In our next study we will survey the Angelic Conflict as it is related to the Armour of God.