

Am I a Threat to Satan?

Satan tries to retain his current holdings with incredible tenacity. And, to God's liberated people, he responds with various forms of temptation and aggression, in an effort to compromise and weaken us, render us harmless to him and useless to the Lord. *Satan especially targets those who are a threat to him.*

Satan is a thief, a destroyer and a murderer (John 10:10). He focuses his attacks on families, ministries, resources and relationships. He works through self-centeredness, envy, unfaithfulness, distrust, unforgiveness, anger, hate, bitterness and a multitude of similar weapons. He resorts to deception, intimidation, gossip, slander and psychological, emotional, physical and spiritual violence.

He tries to infiltrate the church and destroy it from within. He doesn't *pretend* to be an angel; he *is* an angel. But he disguises himself as an angel of *light*, even though, in reality, he's an angel of darkness, destruction and death. He doesn't *play the role* of an imposter; he *is* an imposter. He is a master at misrepresenting and perverting truth.

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some [Christians] will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron" (1Timothy 4:1-2).

Satan has his own people and propaganda in this world, for the purpose of sabotaging and destroying God's work.

After Satan unsuccessfully tempted Jesus in the wilderness, "...he left him until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13). When are times and circumstances favorable for him? They are different for different people. In addition, he tempts us in cycles; he comes and goes. He works systematically, relentlessly and almost always incognito. He is the original terrorist. He pushes us to do things our way, not God's way. (Few of us deal with Satan himself; most of the time we contend with subordinates who follow his orders.)

When does Satan strike?

- He strikes when my family life is close, loving and devout.
- He attacks when I've had special success in my personal Christian life or ministry.
- Or when I'm a good role model.
- When I am a godly, effective leader.
- When I enlighten others about his (the devil's) character, methodology and activities.
- When I'm spiritually, physically, mentally or emotionally exhausted.
- When I abuse drugs, including alcohol.
- When my moral guard is down.
- When I take credit for who I am and what I do, instead of giving God the glory.

Spiritual leaders are most often tempted in the following areas:

- egotistical power over people
- self-centered motivation or lack of the right kind
- pride of pulchritude
- pride of perception

- pride of performance
- financial deviation
- moral deviation

Why do otherwise well-meaning and sensible men and women yield to these temptations and commit these sins? It is because of “...*sin’s deceitfulness*” (Hebrews 3:13). When we talk about the *deceitfulness* of sin, we mean it is seductive (enticing), beguiling, deceptive. Combine a deceitful human heart (Jeremiah 17:9) with a deceitful devil, and what can you expect? If we are not “...*strong... in the Lord and in his mighty power*” (Ephesians 6:10,11), we are almost powerless against temptation. If we are not wearing “...*the full armor of God...*” fulltime, we have no protection. Apostle Paul tells the Christians in Corinth that Satan tempts us when we don’t have self-control or when we don’t exercise self-discipline. (1Cor. 7:5).

Satan is called “...*the accuser of our brothers [and sisters],*” because he “...*accuses them before our God day and night...*” (Revelation 12:10). However, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit intervene and intercede for us and defend us before God the Father, who justifies us (Romans 8:27,33-34). But, how important it is for us to live in such a way that we do not give Satan reason to accuse us! ◇◇◇