

# THE DEVICES OF SATAN—Deception Genesis 3:1-13

## *How to Detect and Defeat the Devices of Satan*

Introduction:

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1. Scammers use different techniques to exploit weaknesses of human nature...
  - a. They use lies to exploit INSECURITIES, FEAR of loss, DESIRE for Success, GREED for \$
2. They OFFER You Something You WANT—in order to TAKE Everything You HAVE
  - a. However, if you know the TRUTH—you have nothing to fear from their LIES!
3. Satan is a Master Manipulator—but “we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11)

**In the Old Testament we see 4 examples & 4 devices he uses<sup>1</sup>**

PERSON	EVE	JOB	DAVID	JOSHUA
Satan's Device >	Deception	Destruction	Temptation	Accusation
Satan's Target >	the Mind	the Body	The Heart/Will	Conscience
Satan's Tactic >	Lies	Suffering	Selfish Pride	Accusation
Satan's Intent >	to be Ignorant of God's Will	to be Impatient with God's Will	to be Independent of God's Will	Indictment by God's Will
Your Defense >	FAITH in God's Word	FAITH in God's Goodness	FAITH in God's Power / Protection	FAITH in God's Grace

## I. THE DEVICE—DECEPTION

Read Genesis 3:1–13

### A. THE TARGET—Your Mind

1. When Satan Wanted to Tempt Eve in the Garden, He Targeted her Mind
  - a) We see this in (2 Corinthians 11:3)
2. Why Would Satan Target the Mind? Your Mind is the Center of your Being
  - a) It Affects Everything About You—Your Intellect, Will and Emotions.
  - b) Your Actions, Your Feelings, Your Life and Your Destiny
  - c) *‘For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.’ (Proverbs 23:7)*
3. Satan Seeks to Exploit Deep Human Needs, Vulnerabilities or Weaknesses
  - a) The Need for Significance, to Feel Loved, Appreciated or Accepted, Important
  - b) These are Legitimate Needs, but Satan Offers Illegitimate Solutions to them
  - c) He Offers Counterfeits and lies... Powerful Delusions that actually block you from the Only Source of true joy, meaning and fulfillment Found Only in God
4. Your Mind is the Battlefield—Because it is a War FOR Your Mind
  - a) Where Decisions are Determined—that Determine Your Destiny (Rom 8:6-7 ESV)

### B. THE TACTIC—Lies: the Weapon Satan used against Eve

1. **DOUBT: HE CREATES DOUBT ABOUT GOD'S WORD (3:1)**
  - a) Did God really say...? ...Maybe You Misunderstood?

<sup>1</sup> Chart: Warren W. Wiersbe, The Strategy of Satan, p.85, 1979; adapted

- b) If God Really Loved You He Wouldn't Keep something Good from You would He?
- c) Satan begins with seeds of Doubt

**2. DENIAL: HE DENIES GOD'S WORD (3:4)**

- a) You Will NOT surely die...
- b) A Short Step from Questioning God's word to Denying it
- c) But Now Satan is going to give HIS interpretation...

**3. DECEPTION: HE SUBSTITUTES HIS OWN LIE (3:5)**

- a) "You will be like God!" ... You will know Good and Evil
- b) Satan is offering them Divinity!

**4. DISCONTENT: HE QUESTIONS GOD'S CHARACTER (3:5)**

- a) "For God knows..." You will become like God!
- b) God doesn't want that, He wants to keep you in your place!

Suggesting God is Jealous

- c) And Suggesting You Deserve More! Leaving You Discontent with Blessing You Have

**C. THE INTENT—Spiritual Deception / Ignorance of God's Will**

**1. Satan is exchanging the truth of God for the lie...**

- a) so they will serve the creature rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25)

**2. Although he's called the serpent in Genesis 3, the Bible reveals his identity**

- a) "The great Dragon, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world" (Revelation 12:9).

**3. Even People Who Believe in God Are Susceptible to enemy lies (Jn 8:44)**

- a) Notice how the same serpent who seduced Eve is, in this dispensation, engaged in seducing the Church of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3)

- b) As He Deceived the Bride of Adam—with Lies...

- c) He Seeks to Deceive The Bride of Christ—His Church—with Lies

**4. Satan Uses Spiritual Deception to Create Counterfeit Truth...**

Notice the warning here... (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

- a) Counterfeit Gospels (Galatians 1:6-9)

- b) Counterfeit Prophets (Matthew 24:11)

- c) Counterfeit Teachers (2 Peter 2:1)

- d) Counterfeit Righteousness (Romans 10:1-3)

- e) Counterfeit Apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13)

- f) Counterfeit Christians (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

- g) Counterfeit Churches (Rev. 2:10)

- h) Counterfeit Christs (Matthew 24:4-5 > 1 Jn 2:22 > 2 John 7)

*"After the prophets, the false prophets; after the Apostles, the false apostles; after the Christ, the anti-christ." (Chrysostom)*

**5. A Virus is a Foreign Invader that Attacks it's Host. It does not have it's own energy source, it needs a host to animate it with life...**

- a) “When the human genome was sequenced at the end of the last century, one of the big surprises was that our genomes are full of the fragments of viruses. Basically the remnants of these relatively harmless viral infections, that we are constantly undergoing.” (Decoding COVID-19 Nova, PBS 2020)
- b) “The problem is when we run into a virus we’ve never met. “It’s very difficult on a cell to be infected with the virus, because the virus sort of says, ‘Stop doing what you’re programmed to do. Instead, do what I programmed you to do.’”

**6. This is Why I call Sin a Mind Virus...** [covid can kill but cannot condemn, sin can]

- a) The Mind Virus of Sin is a Contagion passed into the mind. It tries to reprogram your mind to replicate the mind virus of sin to control your mind and thinking. **(Rom 8:6)**

*“do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom 12:2)*

## II. YOUR DEFENSE—THE WORD OF GOD

### A. THE WORD OF GOD—IS YOUR DEFENSE AGAINST LIES

**1. Satan Seeks to Exploit Your Vulnerabilities or Weaknesses w/ Lies...**

**But The Antidote to Lies—is not more lies...**

- a) People find many ways to cope with the hardships of life...
  - (1) Self-Centered Ideologies to feel BETTER ABOUT THEMSELVES
  - (2) Self-Centered Lifestyles to FEEL IMPORTANT
  - (3) Self-Centered Mindsets to Feel SAFE, or POWERFUL, or SIGNIFICANT

**2. The Antidote to Satan’s Lies is the TRUTH—God’s Word!**

**When Satan Attacked Jesus with Temptation in the Wilderness...**

- a) Jesus Answered Every Assault—with Quoting God’s Word...
- b) As He was Carrying the Cross—He cited the Prophet Hosea...
- c) As He Was on the Cross—He Quoted from Psalm 22 and Psalm 31
- d) Jesus prayed, *“Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)*

**3. There is POWER in THE WORD OF TRUTH to Save You From the Trials, Persecution and Attacks of the world (2 Corinthians 6:4–7)**

### B. KNOW THE WORD OF GOD—TO SET YOU FREE...

**1. UNLESS YOU KNOW THE TRUTH—YOUR NOT FREE! (John 8:31–32)**

**The Truth Will Set Your Free—But Only if You KNOW IT!**

**2. From the beginning, Satan Has Tried to...**

- a) Undermine God’s people—by Undermining God’s Word.
- b) But Today He can Undermine Us Just as Effectively...
  - by getting us to **NEGLECT God’s Word** — as by getting us to doubt it!

**3. Without God’s Word—We Wouldn’t Know God’s Plan to Save Man!**

- a) We Wouldn’t Know that God Created us in His Image
- b) That God Loves Us with an Eternal love...
- c) A love so great that Jesus paid our debt in full at the cross!
- d) Without God’s Word We Would be in Darkness, without Hope in this world!

#### 4. No Wonder Satan Tries to Undermine God's Word!

—> **Are You Free? —Do You Know the Word of God?**

### C. INTERNALIZE THE WORD OF GOD—TO NOT SIN AGAINST GOD

#### 1. Store it and Hid it in your heart (Psalm 119:11)

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. (ESV Store up)

- a) Treasure it in your heart (Psalm 40:8)
- b) Internalize it in your heart (Psalm 37:31)
- c) Meditate on it, so you don't forget the Truth (Psalm 119:15–16)

#### 2. **Ex: When Life is Easy we tend to forget God's word...**

**but when times get hard we tend to remember (Psalms 119:147-148)**

—> **Do You INTERNALIZE the Word of God?**

### D. USE THE WORD OF GOD—AS YOUR DEFENSE

#### 1. This is the Armor We Are To Put On Every Day! (Ephesians 6:10–18)

a) When David Was Going to Face the Enemy of Israel, Goliath...

b) King Saul offered David His Physical Armor... Which was way too big for David!

c) David was Just a Boy—But He Already Had the Armor of God! FAITH!

He Didn't Need Man-Made Armor—Because He Had the Armor of God!

#### 2. Faith comes from the Word of God (Romans 10:17)

a) Do You Put the Armor of God on Every Morning, with the Word and w/ Prayer?

—> **Do You USE the Word of God?**

### E. OBEY THE WORD OF GOD—TO BE SAVED

#### 1. Not Only Do We Need to Know God's Word, Internalize it, Use it, we must OBEY it!

#### 2. The Gospel is the Power of God to Save! (Rom 1:16-17)

a) But Knowing the Gospel is Not Enough—You Must USE IT in Your Life!

—> **Do You OBEY the Word of God?**

### CONCLUSION:

#### 1. Without Knowing the Truth—Your Not Free!

**But if You Know the Truth—the TRUTH Will Set You Free!**

#### 2. Take the Time to Know God's Word, Internalize it, Use it, obey it

#### 3. This is the Armor of God that Protects You from the Enemy

**(Ephesians 6:11–12)**