The Devices Of Satan

by

Ellis P. Forsman

The Devices Of Satan

by

Ellis P. Forsman

October 15, 2011

The Devices Of Satan

2 Cor. 2:11

When Paul wrote his second epistle to the Corinthians, he alluded to the possibility that Satan might take advantage of them:

2 Cor. 2:11, "*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*"

Informed Christians, however, need not be in a position to be caught off guard.

Satan's advantage is based upon one being "ignorant of his devices". But if we are aware of the methods Satan uses to lead people astray, we can resist him successfully!

What are some of "The Devices Of Satan"? How can we defend ourselves against them?

In this study we shall attempt to answer these questions. We begin by noticing a "device" of Satan that Paul described later in this same epistle.

Blind the minds of people

Regarding this "device" of Satan…

There are some whom "*the god of this world*" has blinded.

2 Cor. 4:3-4, "*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*"

The Spirit warned this would be done through "*doctrines of demons*".

1 Tim. 4:1-3, "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.*"

Today, many minds are blinded to the truth...

- By the doctrine of ATHEISM — believe there is no God.
- By the doctrine of EVOLUTION — we are simply animals.
- By the doctrine of HUMANISM — man is the measure of all things, and in him alone is the solution to our problems.

Those who are so blinded are hindered from receiving the truth.

Our best defense against it…

Is actually a strong offense, involving a war for the "thoughts" of men.

2 Cor. 10:3-5, "*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*"

Our greatest weapon is TRUTH, which can defeat the false arguments and free those who have been blinded into captivity.

John 8:32, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*"

Thus, the need for discussion, in order to cast down "arguments".

2 Cor. 10:5, "*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*"

Consider the example of Paul, who "reasoned" with others.

- Acts 17:2-3, "*And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.*"
- Acts 19:8-9, "*And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.*"

Other weapons involve CHRIST-LIKE ATTITUDES that are "mighty in God"...

The meekness and gentleness of Christ.

2 Cor. 10:1-4, "*Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*"

Patience and humility in correcting others.

- 2 Tim. 2:24-26, "*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*"
- Eph. 4:15, "*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*"

We can defeat this "device of Satan"!

Another "device of Satan" is to...

Get people hooked on "the things of the world"

Regarding this "device" of Satan…

I am referring to those things described in:

1 John 2:15-17, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*"

- The lust of the flesh.
- The lust of the eyes.
- The pride of life.

Satan used these tactics against EVE.

Gen. 3:6, "*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*"

- What she saw was "*good for food*" (the lust of the flesh).
- It was "*pleasant to the eyes*" (lust of the eyes).
- It was "*desirable to make one wise*" (pride of life).

Satan also tried these tactics in tempting Jesus.

Matt. 4:1-11, "*Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 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. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 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. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 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; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 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. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*"

- "*command that these stones become bread*" (lust of the flesh).
- "*If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down*" (pride of life).
- "*All these things will I give thee, if...*" (lust of the eyes).

Today, Satan uses these tactics with a vengeance, tempting people through...

- Immorality (lust of the flesh).
- Materialism (lust of the eyes).
- Arrogance (pride of life).

Our best defense against it…

Saturate ourselves with the Word of God!

This is how Jesus overcame His temptations by the devil.

Note how He answered each temptation by saying "*It is written…*".

- Matt. 4:4, "*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.*"
- Matt. 4:7, "*Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*"
- Matt. 4:10, "*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.*"

Develop a strong love for the Father! For that love is incompatible with a love for the world.

1 John 2:15, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*"

One cannot be a friend of the world and maintain friendship with God.

James 4:4, "*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*"

By saturating ourselves with God's Word and being strong in our love for Him, we will effectively submit to Him and be able to resist the devil, causing him to flee!

James 4:7, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*"

Yet, let's not think that Satan will give up easily; there are other "devices" up his sleeve, including…

Persecuting those trying to do right

Regarding this "device" of Satan…

Peter warned that the devil sought to devour Christians through persecutions.

1 Pet. 5:8-9, "*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.*"

Paul worried that afflictions brought about by Satan might tempt the Thessalonians to give up.

1 Thess. 3:1-5, "*Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.*"

Even today, Satan persecutes Christians!

Some literally, through great suffering as Christians.

Others through social pressures that are often equally effective:

- Peer pressure.
- Ridicule.
- Ostracism.

Our best defense against it…

Encourage one another!

This is what Peter sought to do.

1 Pet. 5:8-10, "*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. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*"

Paul sent Timothy to do the same.

1 Thess. 3:2-3, "*And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.*"

Adopt the proper attitude: Rejoice!

Knowing that trials can make us stronger.

- James 1:2-4, "*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*"
- Rom. 5:3-4, "*And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*"

Knowing that those who endure are blessed by God.

- 1 Pet. 4:12-14, "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*"
- Matt. 5:10-12, "*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*"

Commit yourself to God in doing good.

1 Pet. 4:9, "*Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*"

God is a faithful Creator. He takes note of our suffering, and will one day repay those who trouble us (including Satan himself!), and give us rest.

- 2 Thess. 1:4-8, "*So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking*

vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- Rev. 20:10, "*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.*"

There is another "device" of Satan, that often has deadly effect…

Get people to enjoy evil company

Regarding this "devise" of Satan…

The wrong companions can defeat one's effort to do good.

1 Cor. 15:33, "*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*"

Amnon was led astray by the counsel of his "friend", Jonadab.

2 Sam. 13:1, "*And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.*"

Today, many Christians are hindered in their spiritual growth…

- By the company they keep.
- By the activities in which such company engages.

Our best defense against it…

Realize the danger of the wrong companions.

Prov. 13:20, "*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*"

Heed the advice Paul made to the Corinthians:

- 2 Cor. 6:14-16, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*"
- 2 Cor. 6:17-18, "*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing;*

and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

- 2 Cor. 7:1, "*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*"

Finally, let's look at one more "device" of Satan...

Discourage people through unChrist-like church goers

Regarding this "device" of Satan…

This relates to Paul's concern in our text.

2 Cor. 2:6-11, "*Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*"

A sinning brother was disciplined, and had repented.

The need now was for the church to confirm their love and forgiveness.

Otherwise, Satan might take advantage of this situation:

Defeating the church by their unwillingness to forgive.

Overcoming the weak brother by his being swallowed up in sorrow if forgiveness was not granted by the congregation.

Today, Satan sometimes wins souls by this "device".

Christians who are unloving, unmerciful, and unforgiving, become stumblingblocks to others.

Christians who are apathetic, sluggish, in their service and devotion to God, adversely influence new Christians.

Our best defense against it…

Place our ultimate faith in the Lord, not in brethren.

2 Tim. 4:16-18, "*At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that*

by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

This is not to suggest that brethren can't be trusted.

But brethren are fallible, the Lord is not!

Remember, that not all brethren set the proper example.

3 John 1:9-12, "*I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.*"

Imitate the good examples.

Don't let the bad ones discourage us.

Conclusion

This is not an exhaustive list, rather only a sampling of "The Devices Of Satan".

The scriptures certainly reveal much more about how the "Great Deceiver" works.

I trust this study has been sufficient to show the devices of Satan, however…

Our adversary is indeed strong.

Ignorance of his devices makes us susceptible.

If we are not diligent, he can indeed take advantage of us!

Remember, therefore, these important words of the apostle Paul…

Eph. 6:10-13, "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*"