

Day 1

The Devil at Your Door – The Accuser

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Eph. 6:12)

In the mythological story of the Trojan horse, after a 10-year siege against the city of Troy, the Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse and selected a force of men to hide inside. The Greeks pretended to sail away in defeat, leaving a gift to the people of Troy as a victory trophy. The people of Troy brought the horse into their city where they had a victory celebration. That night the Greek force crept out of the horse and opened the gates for the rest of the Greek army, who sailed back under the cover of darkness. The Greeks entered the city and destroyed it.

Just like the people of Troy, we often think the threat is on the outside, but the greatest threat to the church is not on the outside. The Enemy has snuck in and is working inside the church and we don't even recognize that he's there. We are in a fierce battle for the souls of our children, families and friends.

Has Satan tricked you into thinking that the Enemy is on the outside? He's already penetrated the walls and is causing trouble, but God has given us everything we need to have victory.

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Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (Rev 12:10)

Even though Satan has been cast out of Heaven, he now spends his days and nights accusing me and you before God. The Greek word diabolos means to accuse and is used 35 times in the Bible.

8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." (Job 1:8-11)

Before Satan accuses you, he lies to you. He lies to draw you into sin and then after you sin, he comes back and accuses you. "God could never use someone like you." "You are unlovable." "You are a no good failure." "What you did is unforgivable." When the Enemy speaks:

About God – he lies.

About you – he accuses.

Have you believed Satan's lies about God? Are you listening to his accusations in your life? Ask God to show you where Satan is speaking lies into your life and claim God's truth in every situation.

Day 3

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Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" 3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you." 5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by. 6 The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: 7 "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here. (Zech. 3:1-7)

In the Old Testament, "angel of the Lord" often referred to the pre-incarnate Jesus (before He put on flesh). This is referred to as a Christophany. In Zechariah we see that a man named Joshua was snatched from the fire and was standing before Jesus while Satan accused him. Joshua was dressed in filthy robes (which stand for his sin). Joshua was guilty of the things Satan was accusing him of. One day we too will find ourselves standing before God feeling way underdressed.

Satan is standing before God accusing us of every sin that we have committed. We need an advocate, someone to come to our defense. Thanks to Jesus we can have an advocate and savior. We can't stand against the accusations of Satan, only Jesus can stand against these accusations on our behalf.

Day 4

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My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1)

The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” (Zech. 3:4)

In Zechariah 3:4 we have a picture of the gospel in the Old Testament. When Satan accuses us, we who are saved have the righteousness of Jesus to cover all our sin.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:20-24)

In the story of the prodigal son, after the son comes to his senses and returns the father, his father sees him while he is still far away and runs to him. His father takes off his son’s filthy robe and gives him the best robe he has. Jesus has done this for all of those who have accepted Him as their Lord and Savior. As soon as we turn to Him (even though we are still far away from Him relationally) Jesus runs to us and takes off our filthy sin and puts His righteousness on us. And there is a great celebration in Heaven.

When Satan reminds us of our past, point to the cross and remind him of his future.

Day 5

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6 *The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: 7 “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here. (Zech. 3:6-7)*

In verse 7 Jesus doesn't let Joshua's past sin cripple him. Instead He gives Joshua a job to do. It's time to put the past behind us and move forward to serve the Lord.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:13-14)

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. (Isa 43:18)

Satan would have us dwell on our past failures, but Jesus forgives us and points us to the future. But how can we determine if we are being convicted by the Holy Spirit or accused by Satan?

Accusation vs Conviction

- Satan accuses you of sin that has already been forgiven.
- The Holy Spirit convicts you of unconfessed sin.
- Accusation drives us away from God.
- Conviction draws us toward God.
- The Devil know your name, but calls you by your sin.
- Jesus knows your sin, but calls you by your name.

Can you separate Satan's accusations and the Holy Spirit's conviction? Confess any sin you know of and when Satan brings it back up, use your sword (the Word of God) to remind him it's forgiven.

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no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. (Isa 54:17)

When we begin to buy into Satan's accusations it leads us into despair. Satan wants to paralyze us and make us ineffective for the Kingdom of God.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:11-12)

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7-9)

When we confess our sin and ask for forgiveness, God will remove our sin. God wants to use us to further His kingdom. We can't win the battles if we are ignorant of Satan's schemes.

11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Cor. 2:11)

Have you forgotten who you are in Christ? You are a new creation. Don't be paralyzed by your past sins, but ask God for forgiveness and Jesus will cloth you with His righteousness. Then look forward to what God is ready to do in your life.