

Day 1

The Devil at Your Door – The Destroyer

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

We are in a very real, daily spiritual battle, but this battle isn't with the people around us. Whether we realize it or not, our battles are spiritual battles against an enemy who is seeking our destruction. The Devil prowls around looking for someone to devour. He's not looking for unbelievers, but those who are unprepared and unaware; those not paying attention.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Does Jesus have a plan for your life? Yes, He wants to give you life and to help you live it to the fullest. But Satan also has a will for your life. He wants to "steal, kill and destroy." Despite what the World says, following Satan's plan does not lead to a good time, but rather to destruction, loss of Joy, a wasted life and death.

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

Whose will are you following in your life? Are you seeking God's will daily? If not, you can bet that you are following the will of Satan. Seek God and His will today. Don't let Satan win the battle.

Day 2

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4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:4-7)

Satan's Plan – Steal

Satan wants to steal from you all the benefits of the Christian life (peace, love, joy, purpose, etc.). Many people are suffering from anxiety because their peace has been stolen by Satan. When we begin to feel anxious, we are supposed to take that anxiety to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving. When we do, God imparts His peace into our life. If we don't take our anxiety to God, we won't have the peace in our life that God wants us to have.

I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly. (Psalm 85:8)

Loss of peace doesn't just affect our lives. When we lose the peace of God, we lose peace with one another and the relationships in our life begin to break down. Peace is just one example of a benefit from God that Satan is trying to steal. If you let him, Satan will steal your joy, your purpose, your witness, your family and every other good thing that God wants you to have.

Do you have peace in your life or are you filled with anxiety? Don't let Satan steal the good things that God has for you.

Day 3

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9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:9-14)

Satan's Plan – Kill

The next strategy Satan uses is to kill. This may mean to end your life, but more likely to get you to the place where you don't want to live anymore. When you are in a dark place where you hate your life, you aren't going out to witness and live for God.

Satan's Plan – Destroy

The final strategy Satan like to use is to destroy. To make your life count for nothing. To destroy your relationships, possibilities, etc.

God is not going to fight your battle for you, but He's already given you everything you need to win the battle. Remember, you are not fighting to achieve victory, but from a place of victory.

Satan wants to bring you to a place where you can't stand living anymore. He wants to destroy your relationships and your future. But remember that Jesus has already won the victory and He wants to help you live a full life that glorifies Him.

Day 4

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12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (1 Cor. 10:12-13)

One of the primary ways that Satan tries to destroy us is through our will with pride. Satan doesn't only attack you when you are feeling down, but he also will attack you when you feel like you are on top. Pride:

- Lost the battle of Ai (Joshua 7)
- Kept Moses from the promised land (Numb 20. and 27:13-14)
- Caused King Nebuchadnezzar to become like an animal (Dan 4)

Pride was the downfall of nations, the original sin, Satan's downfall and the Pharisee's stumbling block. You may never be more vulnerable to the Enemy than when there is pride in your life. In 2 Kings the prophet Isaiah gives Sennacherib a word from God as he threatens Jerusalem:

*22 Who is it you have ridiculed and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel!
23 By your messengers you have ridiculed the Lord. And you have said, "With my many chariots I have ascended the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon. I have cut down its tallest cedars, the choicest of its junipers. I have reached its remotest parts, the finest of its forests. 24 I have dug wells in foreign lands and drunk the water there. With the soles of my feet I have dried up all the streams of Egypt." (2 Kings 19:22-24)*

Humility is not a weakness because when you are humble you have the strength of God with you.

Day 5

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1 Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are." 3 But Joab replied, "May the Lord multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord's subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?" 4 The king's word, however, overruled Joab; so Joab left and went throughout Israel and then came back to Jerusalem. (1 Chron. 21:1-4)

14 So the Lord sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead. (1 Chron. 21:14)

Satan incited David to take a census of the people. When David counted the people, he didn't do it at the direction of God. In essence he was saying, "Look at what I've amassed" and he took the glory of God and put it on himself. He also didn't do it according to God's law.

11 Then the Lord said to Moses, 12 "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the Lord a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. (Exod. 30:12)

Satan knew David's point of weakness and tailored his attack to David. As a result 70,000 men died. What is not a temptation to you may be to the person beside you. Satan knows our weaknesses and will tailor his attacks against us.

Don't let pride be your downfall. Ask God to keep you humble during the good times and be quick to give the glory to God.

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12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." 15 But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. (Isa 14:12-15)

Pride breaks down our relationships and causes little disagreements to inflate into major issues. Pride causes a small disagreement to blow up into not talking to your spouse for days. It says "She's the one who's wrong, not me." "I'll forgive him, but only if he comes crawling back and asks me for forgiveness." In Isaiah 14 we see the fall of Satan. Notice how many times he says "I will". Lucifer said my will, but Jesus said thy will. (Luke 22:42)

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:6-7)

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. (Prov. 16:18)

You can't control the pride in others, but you can in yourself. Humility recognizes that God is the author of every good and perfect gift. (James 1:17) Humility puts aside emotions and recognizes the part that you played in your broken relationships and then calls you to humble yourself and seek reconciliation first.

Are you allowing Satan to Steal God's best for you? Don't let your pride keep you from having a good marriage or solid friendships.

