

## THE STRATEGY OF SATAN

This study is based on a book by this title written by a man named Warren Weirsbe. I am thankful for the men of God who have dug out of scripture the nuggets that prepare us for service. The Bible tells us in **Eph 6:14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; This Bible study will help us to have our loins girt about with truth . I pray it will be a help to you.

### I. The Deceiver

Intro: This evening I would like for us to start a series of messages of the strategy of Satan. God's word gives us a good understanding of how Satan has worked in the lives of God's people and from the study I don't think he has changed his methods. Satan does not need to change his methods because it is his victims that are new and with each new victim he has the same strategy. So as God's people we need to realize we are in a war for the souls of men.

As we go through this material we will be learning

1. The target Satan aims at in your life
2. The weapon he uses to attack you
3. The purposes that he wants to achieve
4. The defenses God has provided for you.

Lets begin by reading several scripture references regarding Satan.

**Joh 8:44** Ye are of *[your]* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

**Rev 12:9** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**2Co 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

**2Jo 1:7** For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Gen 3:1-7 Satan deceives Eve.

#### I. SATAN'S TARGET YOUR MIND

1. When Satan wanted to lead the first man and woman astray he attacked the woman's mind

**2Co 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

We do not live by blind faith, my faith is in God's word and he wants to teach me the truth.

**Joh 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *[then]* are ye my disciples indeed; 1

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

**Eph 4:17-24** The world lives in ignorance of spiritual things and is alienated from the life of

God because of it.

Walk in the vanity of there mind

Given themselves over unto lasciviousness

**LASCIV'IOUSNESS**, n.

1. Looseness; irregular indulgence of animal desires; wantonness; lustfulness.

Ye have not so learned Christ.

We are to be renewed in the spirit of our mind.

God renews our lives by renewing our mind. When we get saved it is because God has revealed to us our sinful condition and the penalty for sin. Then we are faced with the reality of the consequences for our sin. Following that revelation he also shows us what he has done for us in his son and calls upon us to receive forgiveness of sin through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual growth comes because we learn more truth and put our faith in it. We grow in grace and in the knowledge of him.

**Isa 26:3** Thou wilt keep *[him]* in perfect peace, *[whose]* mind *[is]* stayed *[on thee]*: because he trusteth in thee.

**Rom 8:6** For to be carnally minded *[is]* death; but to be spiritually minded *[is]* life and peace.

God is also targeting your mind. He wants us to know the truth

God weapon is truth

**Eph 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

**Phi 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *[are]* honest, whatsoever things *[are]* just, whatsoever things *[are]* pure, whatsoever things *[are]* lovely, whatsoever things *[are]* of good report; if *[there be]* any virtue, and if *[there be]* any praise, think on these things. 2

The target is the mind that is why there is such a battle over what we put into our mind

### **The strategy of Satan**

Satan's Purpose to make you ignorant of Gods will

Intro: This evening I want us to consider Satan purpose. He wants to make us ignorant of God's will. We talked on Sunday of being impatient in God's will. I believe that Satan in his effort to make us ineffective in the will of God wants us to get our eyes off of the simple truth and be willing to look at our lives our ministry outside of the word of God.

We have seen that Satan's target is our mind we have seen that Satan's weapon is lies and Satan's purpose is to make us ignorant of God will.

#### **I. Satan attacks God's word because it reveals God's will**

1. Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and A light unto my path.

**Psa 40:8** I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *[is]* within my heart.

Psa 40:9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

#### **2. Apart from God's word we have no sure understanding of God's will**

**Psa 33:11** The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

### **3. God wants us to know his will**

**Act 22:14** And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

### **4. He wants us to understand his will**

**Eph 5:17** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *[is]*.

**Col 1:9** For this cause we also, since the day we heard *[it]*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

### **5. the result of all this is that we do the will of God from the heart.**

**Eph 6:6** Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

### **6. The will of God is our nourishment**

**Joh 4:34** Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

**Col 4:12** Epaphras, who is *[one]* of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Our minds are to be consumed with God's will Our will needs to be so yielded to God that to see his will revealed in his word is to immediately do it. Satan does not want our hearts to be nit with God's word

**Jam 1:21** Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

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## **The Strategy of Satan**

**Intro: As we continue to consider the topic of the strategy of Satan I want us to realize that God has made it clear what our defense is against Satan.**

### **II. Our defense is his inspired word**

1. We cannot reason with the devil when temptation and lies are before us we must allow God's word to be our defense and our offence

#### **Mat 4:1-11**

We must believe God's word

**Heb 4:2** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *[it]*.

**BELIE'VE**, v.i. To have a firm persuasion of any thing. In some cases, to have full persuasion, approaching to certainty; in others, more doubt is implied. It is often followed by in or on, especially in the scriptures. To believe in, is to hold as the object of faith. "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14. To believe on, is to trust, to place full confidence in, to rest upon with faith. "To them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1. Johnson. But there is no ground for much distinction.

We must submit to God's word

**SUBMIT'**, v.t. [L. submitto; sub, under, and mitto, to send.]

3. To yield, resign or surrender to the power, will or authority of another; with the reciprocal pronoun.

We Must know God's word

**2 Tim 2:15** Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

### **I. The first temptation**

Satan questioned Christ's relationship to God, if thou be the son of God

**Mat 3:17**

Many Christians are defeated right there because they spend there days pondering that question.

**I John 5:11-13** We have life because of Christ end of discussion.

Command that these stones be made bread.

An act of obedience to Satan, he is in control, get your eyes on the physical after 40 days of total abstinence from food. 4

**Deu 8:3** And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *[word]* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Israel was allowed to hunger in the wilderness and God did not feed them with bread but rather Manna in God's time and God's way.

Our Lord remained in submission to God the father. We must be willing to wait on the Lord.

### **II. Second temptation**

1. Satan will repeatedly attack our relationship to God.
2. Secondly Satan will attack our submission to God.

Satan took him to a high pinnacle of the temple and said if thou be the son of God cast thyself down.

Satan used God's word against him.

**Psa 91:11** For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

**Psa 91:12** They shall bear thee up in *[their]* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

As we consider this let us realize that God watches over us in our service to him but he does not tell us to put ourselves in harms way for the only purpose of trying his word.

Satan knew better than we can that many times God did send his angels to stop Satan from doing what he wanted to God's people.

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

God did not put Jesus on the top of that pinnacle of the temple God did not tell him to throw himself down Satan did.

We need to be sure we are lead by God.

### **III. Third temptation.**

The devil taketh him unto an exceeding high mountain.

Satan promises but does not deliver and what he does give will only bring corruption.

To get the world at the hand of the devil can only bring misery.

3. Satan will attack our worship of God.

The church services of our day are only have gone from times of worship where God is

getting the attention and the songs lift up his truth to being times when our flesh is fed and the songs are empty and shallow resemblances of God.

Our Lord was repulsed

Get thee hence Satan. For it is written thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve.

When God's word is fully surrendered to and our obedience is immediate how we respond when in times of temptation is predictable because God's word is the authority.

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## The Strategy of Satan

### II. The Destroyer

Intro: As we continue on in this series lets remember the first name given to Satan in this series is the deceiver. His target is our minds his weapon is lies and his goal is to make us ignorant of God's will. Our defense against Satan is the word of God we see that Our Lord when tempted by the devil used one verse of scripture to silence Satan's temptations. The only way to defeat Satan is to have God's word in our heart, to submit to God's word and to use God's word. Let's realize this truth in our lives.

The second title given to Satan in this series is the destroyer.

**1Pe 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Hast thou considered my servant Job

1. A perfect and an upright man

Perfect carry's the meaning of being complete, he had come to maturity

Job likely lived during the time of Abraham, this was before man had any of God's written word. Job knew God personally offered sacrifice to God for his family on the possibility that they had sinned.

2. Satan did not have an inroad into Jobs life

**Job 1:8**

**Job 2:6** And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold he is in thy hand ; but save his life.

**Job2;7** So went Satan forth form the presence of the Lord ...

From the story of Job we see that Satan could not deceive Job. Job had stayed closed to the Lord

I. Satan's Target was his body

He lost the fruit of his body {his children}

He lost the means to sustain his body {his flocks}

He lost the health of his body {contracted a loathsome disease}

He lost the respect of those around him. { They tried to speak for God }

The story of Job is a remarkable story of a man who loved God above all he had and who handled great wealth and great power without falling in love with them but rather used them to glorify God. 6

Satan can go no further than God allows.

**Job 1:12,2:6**

Satan left to himself would desire to destroy every one of God's children but God's  
**2 Thess 2:7** Holy Spirit restrains him so that he cannot.

**Luke 22:31,32** Our Lord prays for us

Why does Satan desire to target the body of a Saint?

1. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost

**Igor 6:19,20**

He is attacking what belongs to God

2. We are what God uses to reveal himself to others

**Rom 6:13** Our members are his to use for righteousness.

**1 Peter 2:9** we are a royal priesthood.

3. Our physical bodies are what we serve God with in this life.

**Phili 1:20,21** whether it be in life or in death.

As A child of God I do not seek to harm my self, I am not to defile the temple of God by doing harmful things to it. God does not produce suicide bombers or lead people into mass suicides or even to perform acts of penance to show how sorry they are.

This is how Satan works and is a mark of the religions that he is behind.

We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice

**Rom 12:1,2** living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God.

Just as a soldier must be willing to fight and even die for the cause so we must be willing but our intent is to go into battle and to come back from battle.

If I must suffer physically in the line of duty then so be it.

Next week we will consider The weapon that Satan uses the weapon of suffering.

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### **The Strategy of Satan**

Intro: This evening we are going to consider what the Bible has to say about Satan the destroyer and his weapon suffering. One of the truths that we need to get hold of is that we live in a fallen world. This life is going to have its share of trials because it is part of the consequences of sin.

Satan is called the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world.

**Eph 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

**2Co 4:4** 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.

This planet earth is not our home, it is our battle grounds.

#### **I. Satan wants to cause suffering through our circumstances**

Satan was allowed to attack Job's world

**Job 1:11-22** The Lord allowed this great trial to enter Jobs life, Consider all those who were inside the hedge of protection because of the life of one godly man. We do not know just as job did not know how many people were protected by his standing with God.

Satan was then allowed to attack Job's body

**Job 2:1-10**

Now Job's health was gone, let's realize this one truth from all of this

**God was still on the throne**, This test was bigger than Job.

This test has reached out to millions of persecuted Saints to challenge them to say the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away blessed be the name of the Lord.

We know from Job's experience that there is this spiritual war going on where Satan who is described in Revelation

**Rev 12:10** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

This is going on right now this evening.

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**II. Not all suffering is from Satan.**

1. There is natural suffering: from simply being human, Aging and the like.

**Rom 8:18-23** **Rom 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

2. There is Discipline of a disobedient child of God

**CHASTENING**, n. Correction; punishment for the purpose of reclaiming.

**Heb 12:5** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

**Heb 12:6** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

David said this when he was hiding his sin

**Psa 32:3** When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

**Psa 32:4** For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

The psalmist said

**Psa 119:71** *[It is]* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Jonah was three days in the whales belly so that he would do what God had said.

There are also storms that come in the midst of obedience

**Mat 14:22,23**

The Lord sent them into a storm, he allowed them to face the storm and then came to them on the fourth watch. This was when morning was come. They spent the night in the storm and Jesus came walking on the water. Our God is able

Whether the suffering has come from Satan or from the natural order of things or from the chastening hand of God we sometimes cannot tell. We need to be prayerful that we could discern this through our understanding of God's word Is God chastening us, is he allowing us to be attacked by Satan or is the result of living in a fallen world..

Regardless God in his mercy is still on the throne.

What God does not control is how we respond to the suffering. God desires to purify us and this life is not meant to be a place where we simply learn nothing. God has been so good to me and yet I do know that as I continue in my Christian life he is clearly calling me to higher ground. I am too willing to remain the same rather than to be conformed to his image. Let us consider the suffering in our life and how we respond. Next time we will consider **Satan's Purpose in our suffering**

### The strategy of Satan

#### Satan's purpose in our suffering, Impatience with God's will

##### James 5:11

Intro:

As we continue in this study of the strategy of Satan I want us now to consider his purpose in our suffering. Though he does not care the least for any of God's children he does not attack us just for the sake of doing it, He does have a purpose in it. From Heavens side we know that when Satan was given permission to attack Job and truly cause him and his wife immense suffering Satan's purpose was to get Job to become impatient with the will of God. Satan wanted Job to curse God. What a sobering thought. Yet what are people quick to do when they hurt themselves or learn of some terrible news. They use Gods name in vain, they curse God. Let us not be guilty of this grave sin.

**Job 1:9** Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

**Job 1:10** Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

**Job 1:11** But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

1. Impatience is a mark of immaturity

Children are known to be impatient, They have to learn to sit still, When a child wants something they generally want it now , they want an answer now. They want to go now. Or play a game now. Or stop playing a game. When they no longer want to do something they want to quit immediately. We have to be taught patience.

2. Impatience is a mark of unbelief.

**Isa 28:16** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *[stone]*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste

**Heb 6:12** That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

When we walk by faith it enables us to run with the patience the race that is set before us.

We are not looking to the circumstances to decide our state of mind. Rather we are looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

3. Impatience brings costly mistakes

Abraham went in unto Hagar in a state of impatience and as a result we have the conflict in the middle east today.

King Saul's great sin was becoming impatient with the will of God when he was waiting for Samuel to come and offer a sacrifice.

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**1Sa 13:11** And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *[that]* thou camest not within the days

appointed, and *[that]* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;  
**1Sa 13:12** Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

**1Sa 13:13** And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

When God has told us to do something let his word stand even when it is most tempting to disobey God's word for logic sake.

Job had this to say in the midst of his trial

**Job 23:10** But he knoweth the way that I take: *[when]* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Satan wants to make us impatient while God would have us to learn patience

**Jam 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

**Jam 1:3** Knowing *[this]*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

**Jam 1:4** But let patience have *[her]* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

When we find ourselves suffering at the hand of the devil we can take comfort in the fact that we have a defense against Satan in this and next week we will consider what God gives along with the trial of suffering in our lives.

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## The Strategy of Satan

### III. The destroyer

Intro: As we continue on in our study, this evening we are going to consider our defense against Satan in his desire to destroy us. Our defense is the grace of God. This year you know I have been placing a lot of emphasis upon the doctrine of the grace of God. I have been challenging us all to grow in Grace. I said to someone just today that God desires to multiply his grace and peace in us and he does it through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2Peter2:1-4.

When Paul was allowed to have a thorn in the flesh he learned to access the grace of God in order to serve God in the trail. So let us consider this scripture in 2 Cor 12:7-10

Our defense.

#### The Imparted Grace of God

1. Lest I should be exalted above measure ( God's blessing becomes our curse because get our eyes on the gift, the talent, and off of God who gave.
2. God did not give Paul what he asked for rather he gave Paul grace to do what he knew in himself he could not do.
3. **1 Peter 5:10** The God of all grace, after that ye have suffered a while make you perfect.

The Spirit of Grace

**Heb 10:29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the **Spirit of grace?**

The Throne of Grace

**Heb 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the **throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of his Grace

**Act 20:32** And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the **word of his grace**, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

**We are saved by grace :**

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *[it is]* the gift of God:

**Eph 2:9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**He has grace for serving**

**1Co 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *[was bestowed]* upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

**Grace for sacrificing**

**2Co 8:1** Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 12

**2Co 8:2** How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

**2Co 8:3** For to *[their]* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *[their]* power *[they were]* willing of themselves;

**Grace for singing**

**Col 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**Grace for speaking**

**Col 4:6** Let your speech *[be]* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

**Grace for suffering**

**2Co 12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**The Lord would have us to be like Paul in that he came to look at the trials from the eyes of heaven knowing that God was using the trials to make him a vessel that God's power can flow through.**

**Our power is never independent of God's presence**

**Mat 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth

**Act 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Learn to thank the Lord for all things.

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

**Psa 119:71** *[It is]* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes

God's grace is bestowed on us for his purpose as we serve him.  
If I am doing my own thing not really acknowledging him and then fall upon difficult times God will not give me grace to continue in my own stubborn path.

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## The Strategy of Satan

### IV The Ruler

#### I Chronicles 21:1-19

Intro:

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

As I continue to study this subject I am sobered by the reality of the war we are in. This evening I want us to consider Satan the Ruler.

Ask the question: what was David's greatest sin. The sin that cost Israel the most.

Lets consider these scriptures that describe Satan in his role as ruler

**Joh 12:31** Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

**Joh 14:30** Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

**1Ti 3:6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

**1Ti 3:7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**Pro 16:18** Pride [*goeth*] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

**1Jo 5:19** [*And*] we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

We see Satan is described as a ruler a prince now also consider the Bible speaks that we are in a war **Eph 6:12** 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*].

Satan desires for us to rebel against God's authority in our lives and do what he clearly tells us not to.

#### I. Satan's Target

##### 1. Your will

Satan wants to control you he may attack the mind as with Eve or he may attack the body as with Job but ultimately he wants us to surrender our will to him by doing what he wants us to do.

In the case we are going to consider tonight we see that Satan bypassed the mind, David was not deceived and Satan bypassed the body David was not suffering physically. He was enjoying great success. He went right for the juggler vain Consider Satan's demise

**Eze 28:15** Thou [*wast*] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 14

**Eze 28:16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the

stones of fire.

**Eze 28:17** Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Satan wants our will submitted to his will, when that happens we say in our heart I am doing what I want for a change God. We don't say I am doing what Satan wants because we really are doing what we want but we have surrendered our will to the god of this world. And he desires for us to love the world and the things in the world to feed the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. When I desire what Satan desires for me I have surrendered my will to him.

**2Ti 2:25** In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

**2Ti 2:26** And *[that]* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

We must humbly come to God and admit that Satan's has had control of us and we want God who is more powerful than Satan to take control of us once again. We yield ourselves unto God as those who are alive from the dead.

## II. Satan's Weapon

1. Pride.

**I Chronicles 20** gives a list of David's victories, this is a time when Satan uses all that God has done against us by lifting us up in pride.

Satan desires to turn any situation into a reason for us to rebel against God. As we go out into the world Satan wants to use our failures our ailments our successes against us. We must continually come to God and surrender our will.

You know your will is surrendered when you want what God wants. Your love is for the things of God not the things in this world.

David numbered the people only to show how powerful he had become.

He was not deceived or suffering he was in blatant rebellion to God. How many of us are living in that state in some area of our lives. We are clearly violating the word of God.

**1Ti 3:6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

**1Ti 3:7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**2Ch 26:15** And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

**2Ch 26:16** But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to *[his]* destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

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## III. Satan's Purpose

1. Make us independent of God's will

**Act 17:28** For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

We are dependant upon God to live like we are not is to be living in a lie.

We also are dependent upon each other. This church acting independent of each other

will be destroyed.

Our trust is not in each other but just as a body must function in unison so a church must function in unison.

Pride produces this independent spirit in man.

**Deu 6:10** And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

**Deu 6:11** And houses full of all good *[things]*, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

**Deu 6:12** *[Then]* beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

#### **IV. Our defense**

1. The indwelling Spirit of God.

**Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *[which is]* your reasonable service.

**Rom 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *[is]* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The yielding of ourselves unto God by faith involves

1. The body ( present your bodies a living sacrifice.)
2. Te mind ( transformed by the renewing of your mind)
3. The will ( Prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God)

**Phi 2:12** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

**Phi 2:13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *[his]* good pleasure.

God's Spirit working in you will perform his work, God is able to do what we can't  
Our will is not strong it simply must be yielded to God his will is like iron.

16

Intro: We have considered three individuals that had direct attacks by the devil now we are going to consider the fourth. This one is Joshua in the book of Zachariah. Oh what a powerful truth. Lord, Let us understand the depth of your grace as we consider this truth. Consider the following verses

**Rev 12:10** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

**2Co 2:10** 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;

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

**2Co 7:10** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

We have seen that Satan desires to tempt us, he uses every trick in the book to get us to sin. When we are in the temptation we think thoughts like “it’s not that big of a deal. Or I won’t get carried away. Or that preacher isn’t going to control me. I won’t get caught. Next thing you know you are on that roller coaster ride where you have fallen for that sin which doth so easily beset you. You would think Satan’s work would be done at this point but that is far from true. The next thing he does is to accuse us to our heavenly father.

The example we read about is in **Zachariah 3:1-7**

## **I. Satan’s Target: Your Heart and Conscience**

### **The Court Room**

The setting is that of a courtroom God is the judge , Joshua the high priest the defendant and Satan the prosecuting attorney.

Satan seems to have a case against Joshua because he stood in the court room with filthy garments. The high priest was always to where clean cloths.

### **The Case 17**

When Zachariah had this vision Joshua was high priest of Israel. God’s people had been allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple under decree of Cyrus King of Persia. The People had become discouraged in building the temple because of all the opposition by the surrounding nations and had quit building the temple. Instead they were building there own houses. God raised up Haggai and Zachariah to rebuke them and challenge them to finish building the temple. The Jews had also married them strange wives and had gone into idolatry. In short they were already deep into the sin that had caused God to kick them out of the land to begin with.

### **The Accuser**

Satan desires to first get God’s people to go into sin and then he runs to the throne and accuses us before our father.

I recall one time I was fasting and I was almost at the end of my fast and a friend wanted to go to a store and get a pop and something to eat and he talked me into doing that and then once he had succeeded in doing it talked about how my friend Rob would never have given in had he tried to get him to quit his fast.

Satan is hard at work accusing the fallen saints to there heavenly father. Satan puts a sugar stick in front of us and then when we have grabbed hold of it he turns it on us and beats us with it.

Some Christian, you read the Bible and go to church and yet you think that or you do that. If your friends at church knew who you really are they would kick you out.

Before we sin he says you can get away with this and then after we sin he says you’ll never get away with this.

Many Christian are side lined in despair because Satan has attacked there heart and conscience.

## **II Satan’s Weapon: Accusations**

When Satan comes to us he uses lies , when he accuses us to the father he speaks the truth. But is not limited to the truth.

He was aware when Abraham disobeyed and went down into Egypt during the famine and lied about his wife being his sister.

He was aware when David lusted after Bathsheba and the end result was adultery and murder.

He was there During Job's day accusing the brethren but he dared not mention Job.

### **Know the difference between Satan's accusations and the Holy Spirit conviction**

1. The effect of Satan's accusations:

guilt and shame that leads to a defeated heart that is focused on the sin and self 18

**Mat 27:3** Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

**Mat 27:4** Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *[is that]* to us? see thou *[to that]*.

**Mat 27:5** And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

2. The effects of Holy Spirit conviction:

Admission of guilt based on the word and direction to the Lord Jesus Christ who offers forgiveness and cleansing.

**Mat 26:75** And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

**Luk 24:34** Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

Peter repented and was restored to more useful service than ever before. God can teach us valuable lessons form even the sin in our lives when we repent.

### **IV. Satan's Purpose:**

#### **To bring an indictment by God's will**

Satan wants you to feel guilty and even remorseful but not repentant. To have a change of direction, to go to the cross through faith and trust in Christ for forgiveness and cleansing. We can even become convinced that part of the consequences for sin is that we live in this guilt and we must bravely carry our cross.

#### **That is a lie**

Consider the church of Corinth when they were to Judge the man who was living in sin with his step mother.

#### **I Cor 5:1-5**

They heeded Paul's counsel and excommunicated him form the church.

He repented but they refused to forgive and restore him to fellowship Paul then counseled them to receive him back

**2Co 2:6** Sufficient to such a man *[is]* this punishment, which *[was inflicted]* of many.

**2Co 2:7** So that contrariwise ye *[ought]* rather to forgive *[him]*, and comfort *[him]*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

**2Co 2:8** Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm *[your]* love toward him.

### **V. What is our defense:**

#### **The Interceding Son of God**

**Zachariah 3:2-5** The Lord rebuke thee, a brand plucked out of the fire.

1. As a child of God the Lord is never our accuser,

**Rom 8:31-34** Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died

2. He maketh intercession for us. 19

**IJohn2:1-3** He is our advocate

**Heb 13:20** Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Heb 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *[be]* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

3. Christ ministry is twofold

1. As our high priest he intercedes for us enabling us to do that which is well pleasing in his sight.

2. As our Advocate he goes to our defense when we have sinned drawing us back enabling us to be forgiven and restored to fellowship.

3. In Zach 3 God removed Joshua's filthy robes and gave him a new one

4. We also will experience this in the most literal sense

**Rev 19:7** Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

**Rev 19:8** And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Our Lord is never our accuser to the father Oh what a blessed truth. As I have studied this it has made me realize that there have been many times when I have lived in the despair the accuser wants to bring and have been taken captive by him at his will because I got focused on the guilt of the sin and the powerlessness of self to change rather than trusting in his grace and the finished work of Christ. Yes we must come to God and repent of our sin When God's Spirit through the word convicts us of sin but then we look to our advocate who offers forgiveness and restoration to fellowship with the father and with his son Jesus Christ.

**God is so good.**

### Over view of the strategy of Satan

	Deceiver	Destroyer	Ruler	Accuser
<b>Person</b>	<b>Eve</b>	<b>Job</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>Joshua</b>
Satan's Target	Genesis 3	Job 1-3	I Chronicles 21;1-14	Zachariah 3
Satan's weapon	The mind	The Body	The will	The heart & accusation
Satan's Purpose	lies	suffering	Pride	
Your defense	Ignorant of Gods	Impatient	independent of	Indictment by
	Inspired word of	imparted	Indwelling Spirit of	Interceding Son

