

SATAN'S DEVICES

PART 1

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We are taking up a subject and hope, from the Scriptures, to understand it in such a way that we may get deliverance from our troubles. It is the thing that has caused all our troubles, all our burdens and oppressions—that is listening to the lies, suggestions, and plans of Satan.

We desire to bring that out—Satan's works and activities. His subtilities are not very well known by many people. Therefore, we allow him to come as an angel of light and get our minds and attention and also to heed his suggestions and give credence to them; then at once, we are in trouble, difficulty, and darkness. He is always picturing, discouraging, and trying things; telling us something dreadful is going to happen in the future; he oppresses us in the present, and disturbs and annoys us concerning what we may have done in the past.

There was a sister who had a child oppressed in body; it was Satan—although unknown—who was hindering her from trusting God. He brought his suggestions and painted his pictures to her mind and in this way caused her to be very fearful; hence, afraid to trust God at all. That is the cause of all our difficulties in trusting God—giving heed to Satan's suggestions and accepting his dark pictures, which robs us of all faith in God.

I can imagine when this sister heard the Truth it appealed to her; and of course, Satan came and put thoughts into her mind concerning what she would do if she got seriously ill, or if anything happened to her children; what she was going to do about being protected. She never settled the question of what she was going to do, and the battle came.

Then Satan again made his appearance with the question—“Why, it might be something serious; that child may die, and what would the neighbors say about it? What will the authorities do? They would put you in prison and make your relatives suffer; besides, everybody would be saying what a cruel mother you are, and people would certainly think you were very strange.

Those people up there are fanatical after all; that congregation is composed of some strange and

ignorant people; they do not know much and do not have common sense, to say the least. The Pastor up there takes poor people's money and spends it on himself. He has a big bank account.”

By that time the poor soul says, “Well, to be on the safe side, I guess I better have a doctor.” Of course, she is frightened to death; she is scared into having a doctor. Why was it so? First, Satan brought the disease; then secondly, he brought the fear; thirdly, he pictured everything so dark that she would not dare trust God for a minute.

Beloved, we want to take notice of that. That is only an illustration, but it is the cause of all trouble—listening to Satan and paying attention to what he says and what he does, and losing sight of what God is, what God has provided, and what God says in His Word. That is the cause of all our troubles. If Satan can get our eyes turned his way and our attention drawn to him and his plans and ways, he has succeeded in his subtlety.

There are just three things we need to consider: **1.** What the Blood has done. **2.** What God is able and willing to do. **3.** What the Word says is done. That is all we have to consider.

Satan is always going around endeavoring to get our ear; always picturing dark and discouraging things; always trying to tell us that the Word does not mean what it says; what the Word teaches is not true; that we cannot be sure about its meaning.

He tells us there are many good people in the world besides those who are so strict about obeying the Word just as it reads. He will send people around to see you, who will tell you that their grandmother went to Heaven and she was a Presbyterian.

Satan comes at first to the outside door, but before we are aware of the fact, he is working on the inside like a canker; because he has our attention, we are listening to all he has to say, and his purpose is accomplished at once. It is impossible to listen to him and not lose sight of the Gospel.

“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.” (2 Corinthians 4: 3-4)

We do not see the Blood; we do not see what God is able and willing to do. We have lost sight of the Word of God even for the time being. We are blind and cannot hear anything but the lying suggestions of the adversary. The god of this world, Satan, hath blinded us temporarily, and we will find that we cannot listen to Satan's evil suggestions without being affected by it

spiritually, without losing ground; and eventually being lost entirely.

The pastor said that a brother gave a testimony. He came to me and said— “Satan is tormenting me and telling me that I have done something in the past, which I have not confessed; I simply have no peace at all.”

I said, “that is a trick from Satan; you have not disobeyed any passage of Scripture. Sin is a disobedience of the law, and you have not disobeyed the Word of God; it is only Satan.”

He could not see it at first; but I urged him to take a chance on God and His Word; and while we were talking, Satan fled, and he has had no bother since. He said the moment the devil was located, he disappeared.

I tell you, beloved, Satan must work under cover; that is why he comes as an angel of light to deceive and fool us. He did the same in the Garden of Eden. He called Eve’s attention to the trees of the garden, and in that way received a listening ear. He got an audience and that was all he desired; he well knew he could manage the rest. He got her mind and attention, and then he began to paint his pictures.

“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” (Genesis 3: 2-4)

That was a clean-cut positive command; there was no mistake about it. Satan comes along and says— *“YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE.”* Satan first came with his suggestions (lying); approaching Eve in this manner— *“Yes, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”* (Genesis 3:1)

Then Eve began to lend her ear; she was interested at once. He had gained his point to that extent. Then she gave her answer- *“We may eat of the fruit of the tree of the garden: ‘But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, GOD HATH SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF IT, NEITHER SHALL YE TOUCH IT, LEST YE DIE.’”*

Then came the real opposition to the Word of God, the real clash between the power of darkness and the great God of the universe. What an important moment and what was in the balance! Satan said, *“YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE.”* In other words, he could have said, “That Word is not true; kindly take notice to what I am telling you; that is not TRUE; God knows that when you eat of the fruit of that particular tree you will become equal with Him, and be able to travel on

life’s journey alone; you will not need Him; you will be able to do everything He has done.”

Well, they started out on a career of their own, sad to state. All this was accomplished through Eve listening to that lying suggestion of Satan concerning the plain statement and command of the living God. That has caused all the difficulties and troubles in our homes.

How many Gardens of Eden in the world today have been to this sad end listening to Satan, instead of what God says in His Word? He first begins by just opposing the Word a little, saying it does not mean just what it says.

The Word of God plainly tells us that Jesus Christ died and has set us FREE from all sin, sorrow, and disease. That He really did bear all these things for us on the Cross. That fact is the greatest weapon against the devil which ever could be given.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Satan’s object is to get us away from these three verses and if he succeeds, he can oppress us. We should not dare to look away to Satan or to listen to what he has to say. When we are out of one trouble into another, we can rest assured we are believing everything Satan tells us.

The pastor continued, I had this experience when I was a young Christian; it seemed I was always in tribulation, if it was not one thing, it was another, if I was not in a spiritual battle, it was a physical battle, or a financial trial; I hardly got out of one trial until I was in another. I was always between Satan and the deep sea, as the saying goes. I consoled myself by saying that the Bible said we were to count it all joy when we were in divers temptations.

I was walking along one hot day, and it seemed as if the trial was burning within me even greater than the heat of the day. The thought came to me that it did not do much good for Jesus Christ to die for me. The Scriptures stated that He bore all my sins, sorrows, and diseases, all my troubles; but what good was it doing for me, I was bearing them all myself.

I was not doing this to complain but simply thinking it over; but beloved, this exposed the devil at once. God showed me that I had gotten my eyes away

from the Word of God and the Cross, and Satan had succeeded in getting my whole attention, and I had given heed to his lying suggestions instead of standing firmly on the Word of God, and what it stated about the work on the Cross.

The pastor continued, "If I had kept my eyes on that Cross, I would have seen plainly that I did not need to bear—for one moment—any pain, ache, distress, oppression, or burden, not one heartache. But I had lost sight of that work on the Cross, through lending my ear to Satan."

No one can afford to get away from it. Satan cannot oppress us unless we get our eyes away from the work accomplished on the Cross for us. When we listen to Satan and allow ourselves to be occupied with his suggestions and false statements, instead of standing on God's Word—which is plain enough for every one of us—that Jesus Christ did bear all our sins, sorrows, and diseases, we will be compelled to bear these things ourselves.

If we would not listen to these lying reports of Satan and accept them as truth, we would not have to bear any of these things. Satan cannot force us to bear any of these things, which Jesus bore on the Cross for us; we must volunteer to do so. I had been volunteering all that time, and that was the reason I was out of one trouble into another and was always tormented by the adversary; I swallowed everything down whole. He fled, when I claimed my rights and saw what the Blood really meant in my behalf, what it stood for and claimed its merits with my whole heart. Satan fled in dismay as soon as he was exposed.

Consider Job's case; his whole trouble was the result of listening to Satan—absolutely so.

"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came." (Job 3:25-26)

In other words, Satan came and said—"Job, you are going to have trouble; there is going to be an end to your prosperity; your family is going to be destroyed; your property is going to be taken from you and last—but not least—your health is going to fail."

"All right, Satan."

He scared poor Job so badly that he was an easy victim. He had neither common, nor divine sense, to combat him. However, we must remember that Job had no Bible, no full Gospel truth, as we have it today. He was alone in the country with no one to encourage him.

Still people today think they can hide behind Job, when in trouble. Think of hiding behind poor Job

in such an enlightened age as this is! Hiding behind Job, behind whom was self and Satan, and he thought he was a real righteous man.

Job just listened to Satan, until his calamities came, and then Satan held up a picture of them and told Job to look at his troubles. "See what you have been in the past and now take a look at what you are at present; look at those sores all over your body; just consider how everyone treats you with scorn and contempt; just think what you have lost!"

The more he looked the more aggravated his condition and troubles became, the more distressed he became in mind and body and spirit. He went down, down, down, until he reached the ash heap, full of sores.

What a picture Satan held before him, and he accepted that picture and laid aside the Word of God—all he knew of God—and paid strict attention to all Satan was telling him; which was the cause of the terrible predicament he was in at this time. He never received one particle of deliverance, until he began to deal with God direct.

His attention was called to God in the message of Elihu, and he began to see how different God really was from what Satan had pictured Him. He finally discovered that his condition was the work of the enemy, and that God's plan was entirely different from Satan's, and if he would give God a chance, He would bring him out of his terrible condition.

After he got his eyes on God, and what He was and what He was able to do, it was not long before he was delivered. As soon as he got his eyes off the lying suggestions and works of Satan, off the pictures Satan had presented, then God delivered him out of all his troubles.

His whole captivity was turned, and he was given twice as much as he had previously. He was twice as prosperous as he had been. Listening to the falsehoods of Satan, the "frame-ups" of the devil brought him low; but when he turned his eyes toward the Maker of Heaven and earth—the living God, his captivity was turned.



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