

# SATAN'S DEVICES

## PART TWO

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Somebody will say or do something terrible to you; that is Satan working against you; somebody may slight you a little, and Satan magnifies that and causes you to get your eyes on it, and you lose sight of the Word of God, which commands us not to resent the evil man. Then Satan will whisper, "What would you do, if you got into some real trouble?"

I tell you, we cannot afford to listen to any suggestions of Satan, as they are discouraging, doubtful, and unbelieving; neither can we afford to listen to anything concerning our past.

You will have thoughts along this line—"You should not have done that; you did not meet that circumstance right." That is as direct from Satan as if you saw him utter it with his own lips. What you have done in the past, you cannot help now. What you are doing in the present is the only thing which counts.

The only thing which will help us is for us to take God at His Word and accept the great Gospel of God for our present needs and deliverances, asking God for our deliverance in the present moment; and leaving the past under the Blood; as God has promised to bury our sins in the sea of His forgetfulness.

If Satan cannot get us to lend our ear to his suggestions, he will try to make us believe we are under condemnation; however, he first comes with direct suggestions to the mind.

We have an illustration of this in the parable of the sower, where Jesus explained the parable to His disciples. *"When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside."* (Matthew 13 :19)

The seed is the Word of God which was sown in the heart; then Satan comes and plucks the seed right out of the heart, by saying—"That is not true." This draws their mind and attention in some other direction, occupies them with some other line of thought contrary to the Word of God which has been sown in their hearts; gets their

eyes on their difficulties and on their troubles; and of course, the Word of God was gone.

*"But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."* (Matthew 13: 20-21)

When Satan came and caused them to go through trial, temptation, and tribulation, they stumbled and fell, because they had no root in themselves; no foundation to plant their feet upon. Like Peter, they got their eyes on the winds and waves, when he was walking out to meet Jesus; the moment he lost sight of Jesus Christ, the source of his strength, down he went.

Satan made those winds and waves very boisterous, and he does the same today; so, we will be fully engrossed with them instead of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Many times Satan makes the winds and waves boisterous for us in order to get our eyes off of God and on to our difficulties, troubles, and oppressions, to have our minds engaged with natural conditions for the time being at least. This is the cause of all our trouble, and our only hope is to place our eyes on the Word of God.

It is written that Abraham was not weak in faith. *"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead,.....He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded, that what he had promised, he was able also to perform."* (Romans 4:19-21)

This means that he really kept his eyes fixed on the promises of God; that he held on to the promise given him without wavering; he firmly believed that what God had promised, God was able to perform.

Now we will bring it down to our personal application. You take the nobleman, who came to Jesus on behalf of his dying son. (John 4: 46-54) People will argue that this healing in Abraham's case was under the law. People are having the time of their lives in these days to receive a little healing. It is a paradox, when God—through His Son—has borne every infirmity, every ache, and pain.

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and gave Him all power and authority in Heaven and earth to deliver us from these things. Jesus Christ with all that power and authority is at our side, with the utmost longing to help us and His Word tells us how to receive that help.

Any of Satan's devices to oppress us and all our difficulties are the direct result of listening to his lies and giving credence to his suggestions and thoughts to our mind instead of to the Word of God.

Some of us were in the same place as the nobleman, some of us have been raised out of the jaws of death. He told Jesus that he had a dying boy at home. He was in just the position we are speaking about, in a position to believe the lying reports of Satan only and Jesus exposed to him his heart's condition, as He always does. That is the first step toward victory.

*“Jesus said unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.”* (John 4:48)

In other words, He said— “You are far more interested in what Satan says than in what God's Word says.” He really meant to say that he was desirous of seeing that boy well before he believed it. He did not consider the Word of God as sufficient evidence that the work was done. Jesus brings out the fact here that such people are in a serious condition spiritually.

*“The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.”*

Jesus gave him the Word. Let us take particular notice, because all healing comes through believing the bare Word of God.

*“Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”* (Psalm 107:17-20)

“Distresses” in that case mean oppressions. When we come to the place that we will accept God's Word in preference to the lies of the adversary, there is no healing that we cannot receive. We desire to illustrate this.

The nobleman asked Jesus to come quickly ere his son would die. Jesus did not make one step toward his home; but He gave him the Word— *“Go thy way; thy son liveth.”*

He did not receive one thing apart from the simple, bare Word of Jesus Christ; a person Whom the best students of the day said was not divine. The professed children of God said He was a deceiver and an impostor—with very few exceptions. However, it is written—“And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.”

The pastor continued, “Now, we do not desire you to think that we have an idea that divine healing in the Bible was easier to receive than it is today; or that we can be a Bible Christian without getting our deliverance. That is a paradox. It was just exactly the same then as now; there were just as many difficulties in the way as there are today. Satan, who was in the Garden of Eden and tempted Adam and Eve, our first parents, has never gone out of business. He pictured to that nobleman, just as he pictures to us today—“That word is not true, and you know it is not; that man is not divine, he is the son of Joseph, the carpenter, he is not the Son of God at all.

“Just think of the condition of your boy when you left him; no doubt, he is dead by this time. Do you see his corpse lying on the bed?” Difficulties upon difficulties. It seemed so plausible to count him dead, as Satan told him how white and frail he looked when he left the house. “Where are you going to bury him? Who are you going to have to preach the funeral sermon?”

He had just the same temptations that we have today. The only difference is that we fall for them many times, while this man held steadfast to the Word of Jesus Christ—that is the only difference. That man believed the Word and accepted that bare Word against all arguments and lies of Satan. He continued to say— “That boy is living; that is God's written Word which cannot be broken; I believe that boy was delivered when Jesus Christ spoke the Word.”

That is just the attitude we are to take; that we are delivered the moment we are through praying.

*“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”* (1John 5:14-15)

Is there anything mysterious about getting deliverances? No, positively NO! There is only one reason why we do not receive them, and that is we believe the devil's lies and accept his pictures and doubts instead of believing the bare Word of God; that is what causes all our troubles.

*“With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”* (Matthew 19:26)

*“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”* (Mark 9:23)

The pastor continued, “A woman wrote in and told us that she was praying for the salvation of her son, and she had the feeling: that it was

going to be accomplished, that her prayer was answered; but it never happened, and she desired to know why. She thought it so strange that because she had the assurance that her son was going to be saved that it did not happen. There was nothing strange about it; because we are not taught to pray and pray until we “feel” that our prayer is answered. Real faith is based on what God’s Word says; not on what we “feel.”

Mary and Martha only prayed a few words and received their victory. This woman said she prayed all night. People will tell you that Jesus Christ prayed all night; well, that is not you; what are you compared to Him; we are only like mosquitoes on a fly wheel. We do not have to pray all night. We can receive our deliverance any hour of the day, or at any place, or at any time we are willing to BELIEVE and ACT on the written Word of God and reject the lies of the devil.

Now, please do not get the idea that Satan did not tempt people to doubt in those times as he does us today, because he was in that business just as much as he is today; however, if we choose to BELIEVE the Word of God, there will be no trouble, as that is just where all our battles are.

The very moment that we are in difficulty, in distress, in any kind of trouble, it is because we have believed the lies of Satan, instead of the Word of God, the Blood of Jesus Christ, and the power of God. We have failed to realize that the Blood has given us perfect peace, pardon, health, strength, salvation of our children. If our children are going astray, we are listening to Satan instead of the Word of God. If your children and mine are going astray, it is a paradox; because God’s Word says that the righteousness of parents reaches unto children’s children.

*“But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and his righteousness unto children’s children.”*  
(Psalm 103 :17)

It is Satan’s plan to get children to wander from the right road, and if we find them going astray, we are just to PRAY for them, placing them into God’s hands for Him to control them and then leave them there. We are to trust God to break Satan’s power over them, and we will find that boy or girl being saved at once. Just consider the demoniac of Gadara; if Jesus Christ could tame him, surely there is no excuse for us giving up and refusing “YES” for an answer for our children.

The woman of Canaan is another encouraging example. She came to Jesus

saying— *“My daughter is grievously tormented by the devil.”* If we have a wife, husband, or children who are disturbing our peace, we have the same promise that she received. All she received at first was a rebuff. Jesus Christ told her in plain words that He did not come to heal her daughter. He told her He did not come to cast Satan out of the daughters of anyone but Jewish women.

He compared her to a dog and yet she said— *“Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from the master’s table.”* That woman went home with her basket full of deliverance, one hundred per cent, and upon her arrival home, she found her daughter, fully delivered.

Now, concerning our unsaved loved ones, let us tell God that we have stood it long enough, that we have listened to Satan’s lies long enough. We can change our attitude this very moment and make a deliberate choice to BELIEVE the Word. We can be delivered immediately from every oppression, as Satan has no right to touch our families, spiritually, physically, or financially.

When we have committed our loved ones into God’s hands for Him to convict of their true condition, and to deliver them from Satan’s power and influence, then by a choice of the will we are to believe that God has already taken over the job. We are then to rest in God’s peace concerning them. Because anything we see according to the promises of God, and through the Atonement of Christ, becomes a reality. That is why Paul tells us that the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness. But unto us who believe, it is the power of God.

So, as we hold steadfast, it will enable God to bring us to the place where we have made our last resentment and our last self-effort—and to the place where if we could deliver ourselves in the human way by the least self-effort—even by a word, we would not do it. Then, everything and everybody will be as we would like it to be—and everybody will treat us as we would like to be treated.

Then God’s full power can work unhindered in convicting and bringing to repentance our unsaved loved ones—making our home a united and happy one in the Truth.

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