

"Your Enemy Satan"

You have an enemy who wants to make you feel good only to steal your soul. Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." And today we're examining the greatest enemy of all time, Satan. Stay tuned.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. The word of God gives us the greatest protection from evil. It teaches us about our enemy Satan, and the works of the flesh, and the way to fight for our souls. The word of God is a thorough handbook on Satan's tricks and how to overcome them. We have no greater friend than God and no greater wisdom than His word, the Bible. And we're indeed blessed to have a good God who wants what is best for us. We'd love to hear from you and we want to be a part of your life each week.

From the beginning, Satan intended to steal every person's heart from God. He seduced Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; he was out to win her heart from God. Satan used Eve's disobedience to influence Adam to sin. Satan lied about God and told her "you surely will not die." Then he gave her the impression that God had cheated her. "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3 verse 5).

Because Adam and Eve fell for the devil's schemes, physical and spiritual death entered the world. The devil uses many schemes to move our hearts away from the God that made the world and His Son Jesus. The bible says in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Satan lies, deceives, twists the Scriptures, and teaches myths. He's not your friend or benefactor; all his ways leads to death. We must not be fooled by his deceitful ways. We got to know Satan's schemes, because falling for them will cost our souls.

Now we offer this study, your enemy Satan, free! And if you'd like a printed copy and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. Now for those outside the United States, we also have programs and free materials on our website, www.searchtv.org. You can also see us on YouTube.

We'll now worship in song, read from John 8:42 to 44, and examine the tricks of your enemy, Satan.

Our reading today is from John chapter 8 verses 42 to 44 and here Jesus is talking to some Jews who called God their Father but we're rejecting Him. And so here's what he says.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Oh this is something for us to recall. That the devil is the father of lies. Let's pray together. Oh Heavenly Father help us to listen to Your son Jesus that we may know the truth. And help us to reject the lies and the schemes of the devil. Help us to always to follow You and to be close to You in every way. In Jesus name, Amen.

The schemes your enemy, the devil, dreams up can lead you astray and cost you your soul. We must never take them for granted. Make no mistake! The devil will trick you so that he can separate

you from our God. How does the devil trick us? Well, first, Satan uses lies and half-truths from the voices surrounding us. The Lord Jesus said in John 8:44 to the Jews He says, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

The best way to distinguish the truth from error is to study Scripture. We should continually remind ourselves of God's truth. Your best defense against Satan's schemes is to know God's Holy Word. The Lord Jesus said in John 8:47 that, "Whoever is of God hears the words of God." The Scriptures contain the answer to every false teaching and every doctrine dreamed up in the heart of men. Some who call themselves prophets "speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord" (Jeremiah 23 and verse 16 says that).

Second, the devil uses other people. The problem of peer pressure is nothing new. Some think if everyone is doing it, it must be okay; others see family or friends sinning and believe that sin must be all right. People, however, are not the standard of right and wrong; God is. People may have no problem with what God calls sin, but God does! God will not overlook what He calls sin. And unless the blood of Jesus cleanses you from sin, you must bear the penalty of it!

Now the law of Moses said in Deuteronomy 13:6 to 8, "If your brother, your mother's son, or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods' (whom neither you nor your fathers have known, of the gods of the peoples who are around you, near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other end), you shall not yield to him or listen to him." While we love people, we must love God even more. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 10:37 that, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

The children of Israel began to grow close to the pagans, they intermarried with them, and slowly began to adopt their ways. When Solomon first became king, he walked in the ways of his father David and was faithful to God, but Solomon married many foreign women from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love (1 Kings 11 verse 2 to 5). His many wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God. And so Solomon did evil in God's eyes and opened the door for Judah to turn the hearts away from God to these idols. When you compromise and leave the Lord, you encourage others to do the same. The apostle Paul warned the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Third, the devil will tempt you. He uses selfishness to steal your heart from God. He wants to drive a wedge between our desires and the God who made us. 1 John 2:15 to 17 reminds us, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

Satan wants people to be jealous, to feel cheated, to be discontent, or to covet what others have. The devil wants us to despise other people's success and rejoice at their failures. The devil frustrates good works and he shames those who won't follow his vices and evil ways. Jeremiah 17 verse 9 says that, "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" The Lord Jesus understood how the heart leads us astray and said in Mark 7:21 to 22, "For from within,

(that is) out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness." People with evil hearts do evil things.

Now people grow to love sin when it brings them some pleasure, but they don't realize how sin can ruin their lives and cost their souls. Jeremy Taylor said this about sin, "First it startles him, then it becomes pleasing, then easy, then delightful, then frequent, then habitual, then confirmed. Then the man is impenitent, then obstinate, and then he is condemned." Satan wants you to love your sins, but loving sin causes being lost in sin.

One must never tolerate or condone evil. When people tolerate evil, it's not long before they accept it and practice it. You can't walk through the mud and not get muddy. And as time passes, people celebrate their evil as good. And in the end, they pass laws supporting their evil and persecute those who refuse to practice their evil. David Lipscomb said, "The devil wants to get the wedge of a little sin allowed in your heart, and you'll soon be all his own. Never play with fire—never trifle with little sins."

Fourth, the devil loves to tell people they cannot change. The devil hates it when people repent of their sins. The devil even tries to paint repentance as a punishment, when in reality it's a process of healing. Evil people hate the light and they mock those who leave evil lives to live in the light of righteousness. They're gonna mock them. They don't like being reminded their immoral lifestyle is truly evil. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:4 to 5, "In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, (that is moral looseness) and they malign you (they put you down); but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead."

I tell you people can change! They can turn their lives around, and I have seen them do it! You can choose what is right and forsake what is evil. You don't have to stay enslaved to sin. Paul spoke of the Corinthians who changed their lives. 1 Corinthians 6:9 to 11 says, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." God can wash you, make you holy, and declare you innocent in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Sin enslaves, but the Lord Jesus promised in John 8:36, "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." Paul said in Galatians 5:13, "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Christians can be free to do what is right and loving instead of acting in selfishness. God's ways bless everyone. When we follow Jesus, we enjoy the fruit of righteousness. Galatians 5:22 to 23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." My friend, that is real freedom! It's freedom to bless. There is no law against righteousness, no law against love, joy, or peace. No one can blame you for being patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, or self-controlled. God's way is a blessing to everybody!

Fifth, Satan loves to accuse the people of God. Satan likes to turn things upside down and make evil into good and good into evil. Revelation 12:10 says, "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren (that's the devil) has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night." In ancient times, the accusers said that Christians were cannibals, because they ate Lord's Supper remembering the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The accusers said Christians

were incestuous, because a Christian brother would marry a Christian sister. No fleshly kin but religiously kin. They were not kin that way but only in Christ Jesus. The accusers said that Christians were atheists, because they didn't believe in the Roman, Greek, Egyptian, or Babylonian gods, but they did believe in the God of the Bible who created them. You know accusations filled with lies and half-truths led men to become prejudiced against the people of God.

Today Satan still makes accusations against the people of God. If they have the least weakness, Satan labels them as hypocrites. Now a hypocrite is someone who pretends to be what he does not intend to be. There are hypocrites indeed in the world, but struggling with sin and hating one's own sins does not mean one is a hypocrite; it means he's human and has weakness. All Christians struggle with sin and strive daily to fight it. They're not pretenders. Faithful Christians confess their sins and ask God to forgive them; a hypocrite pretends he never sinned. The difference is clear.

Today Satan's people accuse Christians of being mean-spirited and narrow minded. Oh Satan loves to slander and mock God's people. The Lord Jesus said in John 3:19 to 20, "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

Satan wants to justify and glorify sin and error. When God calls something sinful and God's people acknowledge what God says, Satan and his crowd become mean and accuse God's people of being unloving. My friends, it's loving to teach people about God's moral laws, because God's morals are kind and protect. It's cruel to lie to people about morals and encourage people to practice sinful things. When God's people teach a whatever they teach from God we must obey. Because God is always true. We should never go beyond the teaching, or listen to Satan and his crowd and then accuse God's people and slander them.

God said in Isaiah 5 and verse 20, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" Don't be fooled by Satan's schemes, and lies, and false accusations. Satan is the earliest source of fake news, and he's never stopped trying to blind us to God's truth! When you ignore or refuse to believe God's truth, you fall for Satan's schemes. Please don't do that.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so thankful for Your love and for the good things that You have done for us. For the truth that You teach us and the way You protect us from sin and from the temptations of the devil. Help us Heavenly Father to love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. And to love one another. In Jesus name, Amen.

How do you fight the devil? First, fill your heart with God's word so that you'll know the truth and be able to spot the errors and schemes of Satan. God doesn't want us to "be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes" (according to Ephesians 4 and verse 14). God wants us to know the truth!

Second, we must stand strong and resist the devil. James 4:7 to 8 says, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." God gives us the armor we need to fight the devil. Ephesians 6:10 to 11 says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." Truth, the gospel, faith, hope, salvation, the word of God, and prayer all make up our armor. When we wear God's armor and have Christ's strength, we can defeat Satan to the salvation of our souls.

Third, remain alert. The devil attacks when we're vulnerable. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Keep resisting the devil!

If you want the Lord in your life to strengthen you and win this struggle, then become a Christian! Put your faith in Christ and His teaching. Turn from the sins that wage war against your soul and take up your cross to follow Christ. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, just as Acts 2:38 teaches. Start your Christian life today!

We hope our study, Your Enemy Satan, has caused you to turn to God. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy, send your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now for all our viewers outside the United States, we have free programs and biblical materials on our website, www.searchtv.org. SEARCH is also on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry" and then like the programs. We offer free Bible Correspondence courses. And don't worry, we're not asking for money. We're here to help you draw close to God. And we want to encourage you to find a church, a church of Christ, and go and be a part of their church family.

Well, as always we like to say to people keep watching our program and tell a friend about it. And remember that God loves you. And God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.