

Knowing Your Adversary [01.25.09]
Will Groben [willii@groben.com / www.groben.com]

“Satan” means “Adversary.” The Bible says he is real, with power on the Earth, control of the fallen angels, and sway over mankind.

Identity: Satan is a supernatural being – a powerful and capable cherub – who became proud because of how God had made him and then sinned against God [Ezekiel 28:12b-17a]. He is deceitful, capable of appearing as an angel of light [2 Corinthians 11:14].

Goals: Satan desires God’s glory, power, and authority for himself [Isaiah 14:13-14].

Methods: Satan tries to deceive us about God and his Word, especially denying Christ’s divinity and work on the cross, leading us to follow Satan in living for and exalting ourselves, instead of God.

Types of Deception:

I. Temptation

- A. negative emotions
- B. lustful desires [many kinds]
- C. distractions [stresses/worries or good things]

II. Confusion about the truth

- A. false gospels / false righteousness
- B. lies about God’s Word
- C. accusations [negative thoughts]

Resistance:

1. We are to _____ the devil and he will flee [1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7]. We must resist anger and other negative emotions, lustful temptation, distraction from our purposes, accusation [taking every thought captive!], and evil in the world.

2. We must _____ on God in this process [1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7].

3. We must put on the _____ of God [Ephesians 6:11-18].

† Truth and righteousness will equip you to resist temptation!

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† Truth and righteousness will equip you to resist temptation!

- † The Gospel and the Word of God will dispel deceptions, arm you against temptation, equip you to fight evil, and help you grow!
- † Faith and salvation provide courage, hope, and motivation!
- † Also submit to the Holy Spirit, be alert, and persevere in prayer!

4. We must _____ ourselves about the signs of false religion and religious deceptions [2 Corinthians 11:13-15].

5. We must learn to _____ ourselves for signs of self-reliance, self-justification, or independence from God [1 Corinthians 11:28], for it is only by grace that we are justified before God [Romans 3:23-24]: we are to rely on Christ, not ourselves!

Truths to Counter the Big Deceptions:

1. You cannot save yourself: you must accept the salvation God offers through Christ's death [Romans 3:23-24].
2. You have no claim to righteousness from what you accomplish: you must accept the righteousness of Christ that God offers you [Romans 1:16-17; 2:29; 3:19-20; 8:10].
3. You have no sacrifice of moral effort to make: you must accept the sacrifice for all sin that Christ provided [Titus 2:14].
4. You cannot build your own character: you must allow the Holy Spirit to bring you the Fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5:16-25].
5. You cannot conform yourself to what is good: you must allow yourself to be transformed by the Holy Spirit into Christ-likeness [Romans 12:1-2].

Suggested Resources:

General

- † YOUR BIBLE! Give yourself a chance, read your Bible!
- † Ryrie, Charles C.: *Basic Theology*

Resisting Our Adversary

- † Chafer, Lewis Sperry: *Satan: His Motives and Methods*
- † Lightner, Robert: *Angels, Satan, and Demons*
- † McGee, Robert: *The Search for Significance*
- † Anderson, Neil: *Stomping Out the Darkness*

[Anderson uses scripture poorly sometimes, but he has insights.]

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