

Satan's Tactics

(Part II)

“Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

Devil is not an easy thing to deal with, but God's Word teaches us how to discern and discover its schemes and how to combat it. Paul in his letter to the church of God in Corinth warned them about that when he gave them certain instruction about how to deal with a repentant brother or sister and how to forgive him; he told them, ***“The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him.” (2 Corinthians 2:6)*** That instruction was in order to avoid devil's destructive plan as we can read; ***“In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” (2 Corinthians 2:11)*** Devil can confuse us and give us the impression that we are doing the right thing while we are really in the wrong path.

Let us read the following passage from the Bible so we will understand more about devil schemes and tactics: ***“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then He warned His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ. From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” (Matthew 16: 13-23)***

What we have found here is that Jesus is asking who do people say the Son of Man is? He got different answers but finally Simon Peter answered Him correctly, ***“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*** Truly Jesus commended Peter for that because that was a true revelation from heaven to Simon Peter. Therefore upon that Jesus promised Peter that He will use him to build His church as we can read here, ***“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matthew 16:18)*** And Jesus gave to Peter authority as well as He gave this authority to those whom He entrusted His church to them.

But when Jesus started to explain to His disciples about God's plan for Him that He must go to Jerusalem to suffer and to be killed and on the third day to be raised from the death, He got a different response as we can read, ***“Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” (Matthew 16:22)***

Now for the first impression what we can see that Peter loved Jesus and that is why he got angry because he did not want Jesus to suffer and die. But let us read the reply of Jesus to him, ***“Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” (Matthew 16: 23)***

Now Peter loved Jesus and his emotion was with Jesus, but what he said to Jesus was not God's will or the plan of God. If the Lord Jesus Christ would not suffer and die on the cross then there will be no salvation and no eternal life. His death on the cross was mandatory for atonement for our sins. And His resurrection from the death brought the hope of salvation to all man's kind as we can read here, ***“And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.” (Romans 8: 11)***

Therefore what Peter spoke to Jesus when he refused that Jesus would suffer and die was not from God but from devil. Peter did not speak out of God's wisdom. And in this regard we want to point out that there is two types of wisdom, one is heavenly and from God, but the other is not, ***“Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.” (James 3: 15)***

Earthly wisdom: This wisdom comes from the world; what the people practice and follow. But who says that what the people are doing is right. People they follow blindly others without studying the Word of God or try to find out the will of God and His plan in their lives. The Word of God it tells us not to share the sins of others. Please do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. And don't be afraid to say, 'No,' to people customs, practices or tradition. Do things to please God and not people.

Unspiritual: Peter in what he said to Jesus although it seems good but that was not the true love of God, that was the emotional love. And that emotional love many people they live their lives practicing it but it is emotional and foolish love. It is a spoiling love. Parents can spoil their children if they don't discipline them. Families would be broken and destroyed if husband or wife follow their emotions and not the Word of God in their lives. Many people they practice wrong love, but not the true love of God. We advice you here, 'Don't be one of them.'

Devil wisdom: Satan is subtle, can make something almost like the original in order to trick you. ***“The Spirit clearly says that in the later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” (1 Timothy 4: 1)*** Don't let demons deceive you or lead you out from true faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

My Dear and Beloved: ***“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4: 7)*** Be alert then, humble yourself and ask God to give you heavenly wisdom. Resist the devil, do God's will and His plan in your life as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I humble myself in your hand. Make me more alert to discern and avoid devil schemes. I ask you to give me your heavenly wisdom. This is all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*