

Satan's Tactics

(Part I)

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (1Peter 5:8-9)

God created a beautiful, holy and powerful angel that is Lucifer; he was one of the most beautiful, loved, and honored beings in heaven. He was exalted to one of the most prominent and influential positions of all the great society of heavenly beings. But as he disobeyed God and wanted to be above God, the Lord thrown him to the earth as we can read here: ***“How have you fallen, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!” (Isaiah 14: 12)*** Lucifer or Satan said in his heart, ***“I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the most heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.” (Isaiah 14: 13-15)*** Five times said in his heart, ***‘I will,’*** because he has ego, pride and boasting about himself. Therefore God thrown him down to the earth.

Pride is the most important foothold that Satan can use to enter our lives and destroy us. Man's pride causes him to puff up, boast and brag. It is opposite to the humility and humbleness that God wants to see in our lives as it is written, ***“But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4: 6)*** God's grace would be with us as long as we are humble, and carry no pride in our hearts. Ego and pride in our personality and attitude will invite devil to enter and destroy our lives. When Satan, the devil, thrown to the earth, he enticed man to sin against God. He enticed Eve and Adam to eat from the tree that God forbid and from there it was the beginning of the story of man's fall as we read; ***“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3: 1)*** Satan said to the woman, ***‘Did God really say!’*** The way that Satan deceives is to try to underrate and undermine the truthfulness of the word of God so that you would be made susceptible to fall into temptation and sin against God. The woman answered Satan, ***“We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” (Genesis 3: 2-3)*** But let us read what Satan answered. ***“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3: 4-5)*** By this answer of Satan, the woman's trust in God and in His Word was shaken. God had spoken to them clearly His Word, ***“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2: 16-17)***

Adam and Eve they knew the Word of God but what had happened is that the devil came and took away the Word from their hearts: ***“Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the Word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.” (Luke 8: 12)*** Adam and Eve they heard the Word of God but then they did not believe in what God had said; they disobey God and they loss their salvation. One important point we need to emphasis here, the responsibility of sinning against God was the responsibility of Adam and Eve not the responsibility of Satan. They chose by their free will to sin against God. No one had forced them to sin. Let us read what they had done, ***“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made***

coverings for themselves.” (Genesis 3:6-7) We can see clearly that they had the free will to choose not to sin against God, but their pride to be like God made them susceptible to the deceit and temptation of Satan.

God was not the one responsible of their sin or God was the one who tempted them. ***“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” (James 1: 13-15)*** As consequences of their sin against God, their relationship with God and the fellowship with Him were broken. In addition to that there were curses upon them due to that disobedient act as we can read below:

1- To the woman God said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." (Genesis 3: 16)

2- To Adam God said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3: 17-19)

God cursed the serpent and he put enmity between the woman and the serpent, between the women's offspring and the serpent's offspring as we can read here: ***“So the Lord said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3: 14-15)*** God promised that one of the woman offspring will crush the head of the serpent, the devil. Truly that fulfilled when God sent His Son Jesus to be born from Virgin Mary. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He paid the price of all mankind sin. Through Adam's sin death entered the world, but through Jesus Christ life eternal brought back to mankind. Jesus defeated devil on the cross, ***“Having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and the authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2:14-15)*** Jesus after His death on the cross, He was buried but rose from the death to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives.

My Dear and Beloved: Be self-controlled and alert. Satan is subtle, malignant, wants to destroy you. Have full trust in God and His Word. Carefully obey all the commands of God. Don't break any law and don't be trapped by any temptation from the devil. Therefore, ***“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4: 7)*** As you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord give me wisdom, alertness and self-control to resist devil and its schemes. Take away any evil desire and cleans my life and make it pleasant to you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*