

Giving Satan the Advantage

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Introduction

Satan is a subtle enemy, using various strategies to deceive us; accordingly, we should not be ignorant of his devices. He is also a watchful adversary, always ready to take advantage; we should be cautious lest we give him any occasion to do so (2 Cor. 2:10; 1 Pet. 5:8-9).

Ignorance

Over several generations, we have witnessed the “dumbing down” of the secular education curriculum. Even more tragic is the spiritual ignorance that pervades this land. Those who are ignorant of the lessons of history are doomed to repeat it. Satan exploits such ignorance to gain the upper hand (Isa. 5:13-14; Hos. 4:1, 6; Mal. 2:7-9).

Indifference

When a garden is neglected, weeds take over and choke out the vegetables. What happens when you neglect your soul? Weeds take over and choke out the word (Mark 4:18-19). The devil will always exploit indifference. Bad habits and vices, if left unchecked, tend to multiply (Luke 11:24-28). Let us avoid the dangers of drifting and neglect (Heb. 2:1-3).

Over-Confidence

Pride and arrogance are the precursors of disaster (Prov. 16:18). Peter was over-confident regarding his faith and commitment to Christ in time of trial (Matt. 26:31-35). In like manner, we must also avoid thinking too highly of ourselves (1 Cor. 10:6-12).

Flirtation

Many people want to see how close they can get to sin. They push the limits of modesty and decorum. They are thoughtless in their entertainment choices. They use euphemisms in the place of curse words. They get as close to the edge as possible. Unless Christians maintain their distinctiveness, Satan will get the upper hand (Luke 16:13; James 4:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17).

Excuse-Making

Many people make excuses for not obeying the gospel (Luke 9:59-62; 14:16-24; Acts 24:24-27). However, excuses will not suffice. It's like the man whose neighbor always borrowed tools, but did not return them. One day the thoughtless neighbor said, “Can I borrow your ax?” “No,” the man answered, “My cow just died.” The neighbor scratched his head a moment, looked up with a puzzled expression on his face and said, “What connection is there between your cow dying and my wanting to borrow your ax?” “None!” answered the man. “I just don't want to loan you my ax, so one excuse is as good as another!”

Conclusion

Christians need to wake up (Rom. 13:11-14). In order to deal with Satan's tricks, we must put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17). Lest there be any doubt of the folly of siding with the devil, remember his ultimate destiny (Rev. 20:10-15).