

Lesson 2

THE TACTICS OF THE ENEMY

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour
(1 Peter 5:8).

Satan's goal is to destroy you. By knowing this, you will be better equipped to stand up against his attacks.

SATAN'S THREE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- To destroy a believer's relationship with God.
- To prevent believers from sharing Jesus with others who are unsaved.
- To confuse the unsaved about the things of God.

SATAN'S TACTICS TO DESTROY RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.

1. Why are believers to be vigilant? Write 1 Peter 5:8.

Satan is described as walking around like a roaring lion. His tactic is to pounce when least expected and attempts to completely devour those whom he attacks. We must be sober and vigilant. To be sober means to be self-disciplined and to think rationally, and not to be under the influence of any mind-altering substance. To be vigilant means to be alert to the spiritual pitfalls of life and to take appropriate steps to make certain that we do not stumble.

2. How are we to resist Satan? Write 1 Peter 5:9.

SATAN'S TACTICS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

In trying to prevent us from sharing Jesus with others, the Devil uses three basic tactics, and all three play on our emotions: doubt, guilt, and unforgiveness.

DOUBT

The Devil knows that if he can cause you to (1) doubt God's Word, (2) doubt your salvation, (3) doubt God's work in your life, and (4) doubt God's eternal plan, he can put you on the defensive. The Devil knows that if you doubt in any of these four areas, it is unlikely that you will share Jesus with anyone. Satan has used this tactic since the beginning.

3. What did the serpent (Satan) say to Eve? Write Genesis 3:1b.

Not only is this the first question we find in the Bible, but Satan's question also challenges what God said to Adam. This question caused both Eve and Adam to doubt God's Word as truth that led to their sin. The word *serpent* here does not mean "snake." It is translated as "the shining one." Satan transforms himself as an angel of light to deceive.

4. Write 2 Corinthians 11:14.

5. Write Proverbs 3:5-8.

GUILT

Satan is a false accuser. He will tell you that God hasn't really forgiven you and cause you to dwell on your past sins. Satan knows that if you are dwelling on your weaknesses, rather than the power of God's Spirit in your life, you will feel too guilty to share Jesus with anyone.

6. Write 2 Timothy 1:7-8.

UNFORGIVENESS

Satan knows that if he can create a spirit of unforgiveness toward others, you will become hardhearted and an ineffective witness. The less you can forgive others, the less you will see yourself needing forgiveness from Jesus. Unforgiveness will create self-righteousness and legalism in your life, and will turn unsaved people away from Jesus.

7. Write Ephesians 4:32.

SATAN WANTS TO CONFUSE THE UNSAVED

Satan has been in the business of confusing people for a long time. These are his weapons: pride, drugs and alcohol, false religions, cults, humanistic psychology, philosophy, and occults. Quite an array, isn't it? The believer only needs two weapons to fight these lies: the Word of God and prayer.

8. Write 1 John 4:1.

9. Write 1 John 4:2-3.

10. Write 1 John 4:4.

11. Write 1 John 3:10.

Stop right now and take a moment to think. First, realize that Jesus has already won the victory. Secondly, ask the Lord to show you how the enemy may be trying to use some of these tactics on you and your unsaved family and friends. As you do this, the Lord will surely open your eyes and show you how to pray.