

## SATANOLOGY (33)

**Way #8** - Satan will attempt to devour a believer through accusations. Rev. 12:10

Satan loves to accuse a believer of any sin. Since all believers have sinned, he has a good arsenal at his disposal. Satan particularly tried to get the believer to remember his or her past sins in an attempt to discourage him/her into thinking that he is worth nothing to God and that he/she cannot accomplish anything for God. Oft times Satan will use people to make these accusations by reminding believers of past sins or failures which are already under the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. When those attacks come, the believer needs to realize the sins are gone. This type of theological resistance will eventually prompt Satan to flee.

**Way #9** - Satan will attempt to devour a believer through laziness. I Tim. 5:13-15

When it comes to this theme of laziness, Satan tries to devour believers by prompting the man to refuse to go out of the home to work and by prompting the woman to not stay in her home to work. Undoubtedly, in today's society Satan is winning in many instances.

Satan loves to devour believers and he can specifically do this by luring a woman to be "idle" and instead of staying in her home, caring for her house and family, she goes from place to place visiting with people and spreading all kinds of gossip. This kind of action is the pure work of Satan. In our modern day, there are women who do not take good care of their homes and families and spend their time on the telephone, in front of a television or on the internet.

This principle of laziness, however, is not only applied to women, but also may be applied to men. If a man refuses to go out and work and provide for his family, he is worse than an unbeliever (I Tim. 5:8).

**Way #10** - Satan will attempt to devour a believer through gossip. I Tim. 5:13-15

Gossip is a terrible satanic attack. The word "gossip" means loose talker. A gossip is one who will babble out any information loosely without even investigating or knowing the facts. A prime target for attack in this area is women, but also it can be men. One who is given to gossip is right where Satan wants him/her to be.

**Way #11** - Satan will attempt to devour a believer through murder. Rev. 2:13

There is no question that Satan desires to murder a believer, either physically or verbally. He may single out one specific target in this attack, but he is after all who are faithful. People that Satan uses in this area are typically not people of prayer (James 4:1-3).

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**Way #12** - Satan will attempt to devour a believer through finances. Rev. 3:8-9

Satan loves to attack God's people by flaunting the fact that those who are not faithful to God seem to have everything and those who are faithful to God seem to have very little.

Dr. Chafer made an interesting observation concerning satanic attack in this area when he wrote: "...the opposing power of Satan may be seen in the matter of Christian giving. Millions are given without solicitation for education, culture, and humanity's physical comfort, but real world wide evangelization must ever drag on with its shameful limitations and debts" (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2, p. 103).

Often those who are most faithful and most consistent in their giving to the work of God are those who seem to make the least; whereas, in some instances, those who make the most often give the least. Satan loves to work through finances in an attempt to devour a believer. We must always remember that wealth is not an automatic guarantee of spiritual prosperity and it can in fact be a sign of spiritual bankruptcy in a life and in a church (Rev. 3:8, 17).

**Way #13** - Satan will attempt to devour a believer through prayerlessness. Eph. 6:11, 18

Satan does not want a believer praying because he knows that one of the main keys to his power is to keep God's people from God's power that may only come through prayer. As Dr. Chafer said: "This (prayer life) being his (believer's) place of greatest usefulness and power, is subject to the severest conflict. In this connection, it may be stated safely that there is comparatively little prevailing prayer today..." (*Ibid.*, p. 103).

Satan will do whatever he can to keep a believer from praying and he will also do what he can to destroy those who do pray. It is no mere coincidence that prayer meetings are never attended as well as a movie, concert, play or meal. Satan knows there is tremendous power in prayer and his goal is to stop God's people and God's church from praying.

These are thirteen biblically revealed ways that Satan will attempt to devour a believer. A key question to ask is how do we defend ourselves against these attacks? How can we expect to be victorious in the face of satanic assault? The New Testament clearly reveals some critical steps we may take to help give us victory:

**(Victory Step #1)** - Be sober. I Pet. 5:8a

This is a command which indicates that this is an extremely important defense mechanism against Satan. The word "sober" means to be calm and under control in one's thinking. The word means to have a sober, calm, circumspect mind (Smith, pp. 302-303). A sober person is in control and he will not allow emotions or anything else to determine his judgment. Satan knows an out of control believer is likely to do and say irrational and emotional things. We need to be calm people in our minds and we need to think clearly and spiritually. This is a critical key to victory in any satanic attack.

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**(Victory Step #2)** - Be alert . I Pet. 5:8b

This is a command given by Peter which indicates this is a very important defense mechanism against Satan. The meaning of this word is that we are to be alive, awake, watchful and alert to Satan's tactics. This word is just the opposite of being asleep (Smith, p. 96). Satan knows if he can lure a believer to sleep in some critical area, he can get some control and victory. The believer who continually disciplines himself in God's Word and work is a very wise believer. Satan loves it when believers are lax, mediocre in their commitment to God and His Word. God wants us alive, active and awake to Him and His Word at all times.

**(Victory Step #3)** - Resist him. James 4:7; Eph. 6:13

The command here is for urgent action. The meaning of the word "resist" is to "stand against." When a believer finds himself opposed or lured by satanic opposition, he is commanded to stand against it. The believer should not yield to the devilish assault or run from it; rather the believer should stand firmly against it and ultimately the devil and his forces flee.

There are a couple of things to point out in this resistance:

- 1) The preposition "from" (*απο*) (James 4:7), is one that means Satan is not within the believer or inside the believer, but beside the believer. No believer may be demon-possessed. To state this another way, no demon can enter inside a believer. Satan may oppress a believer or attack from without, but he cannot ever possess God's property, as this preposition reveals.
- 2) In Ephesians 6:13, the emphasis is on resisting in the evil day, which is the day we come under attack. The final days of the Church Age will be evil, but there will be special satanic attacks that will come against the believer and he needs to be prepared and armed.
- 3) When a demonic attack comes, stand against it. Typically, Satan will attack using people to try to pull you away from what is right, sound and true according to God's Word. This is the moment we need to take a firm stand against them. Do not give in to their nonsense and the nonsense will go away.

For example, if a Mormon or Jehovah's Witness comes to your door, the mandate is to resist them and stand against them not listen to them. If a Pharisaical legalist tries to sway you from grace truth, the mandate is stand against them right to their face. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.