

# The Snares of Satan

## Part 2 “The Pride of Life” (Bitterness)

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> AM*

Although Satan seeks to “mask” his true nature and purposes, God’s word reveals him as a: Deceiver (2 Jn 1:7), Destroyer (John 10:10; 1 Cor. 10:10), Tempter (Mt 4:3), Serpent (Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor 11:3), Roaring Lion (1 Peter 5:8), Prince of this World (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4), Thief (Jn 10:10), Murderer (Jn 8:44), Accuser (Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10, Job 1), Angel of Light (2 Cor. 11:14), etc. Last week we learned that Satan’s Snares are:

- **Seductive:** He usually uses something we desire to “lure us” into his trap.
- **Subtle:** We “rationalize” our “compromises”.
- **Strong:** They will “trap” us and lead us away from God, His House, and His Protection.

Although Satan has an almost limitless “bait shop” with which to tempt or lure us into his snares, (2 Tim. 2:19-26) they all fall into either the: *“the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, The pride of life.”* (1 Jn 2:15)

It appears that Gideon was “snared” with the last of these which involved a subtle “bitterness”.

### Why is “bitterness” such an effective snare? (Heb. 12:15)

#### 1. It usually involves some “wound”. (Offense)

A. “Wounds” are ***inevitable!*** Luke 17:11 *“It is impossible but that offences will come”*

- 1) Bitter (pikri’a: from pikros) to pierce or cut! (Someone will eventually “cut” you. “offences” (skandalon) literally means: “to set a ***snare!***”

B. Wounds are “memorable”. (Leave ***scars***) “Bitter”(pikria) comes from pikros: pierce.

- 1) Pikros comes from pēg’numi: to set a peg (so as to pitch a tent) so it won’t move!
  - a) Emotion (*pain, fear, anger*) acts as a “hammer” to drive the memory deep in our mind.

C. Wounds are “vulnerable”. (Prone to ***infection***)

- 1) “Pikros” not only means to pierce, but also to ***poison!*** (acid, caustic)  
Bacteria kills more people than bullets!
  - a) This poison of bitterness spreads! *“thereby many be defiled”* (contaminated) Heb. 12:15
- 2) The longer the “wound” stays open, the greater the chance of infection!
  - a) We’re in a “dirty” environment. (1 Jn 5:19)
  - b) If the wound “closes” without being completely “cleansed”, the infection goes deeper.

### How does Satan use Bitterness to snare us?

1. Bitterness is a byproduct of Pride Pr 13:10 *“Only by pride cometh contention”*

A. Pride is what turned Lucifer into Satan! Isaiah 14:12-15

#### 2. Bitterness is at the heart of rebellion.

A. “Rebellion” (מְרִי : merî) comes from מָרָא : mārâ Mara means ***Bitterness!***

- 1) How we respond to hurt/disappointment determines if we get better or bitter!
- 2) Bitterness is the “bacteria” from which Rebellion is born!

## B. Rebellion exposes us to Satan's Influence.

- 1) 1 Sam. 15:23a *"Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft"*
  - a) Webster's defines witchcraft as: *The use of sorcery or magic; Communication with the devil; An irresistible influence or fascination*
  - b) In 1 Cor. 10:20 God describes witchcraft as *"fellowship (partnership) with devils"*
- 2) 1 Sam. 15:23b *"stubbornness is iniquity & idolatry"*
  - a) Stubbornness: (pāsar) to press, urge, insist.
  - b) Iniquity: (āwen) to exert in vain. Self Will (See Is. 53:6 and Ezek. 28:15)
  - c) Idolatry: (terāpīm) Family idol. Exactly what Gideon's "ephod" became!
- 3) Under Satan's "influence" we:
  - a) Make destructive decisions. *"oppose themselves"* 2 Tim. 2:25
  - b) Get *"caught in the snare of the devil"* v 26
  - c) Are *"taken captive by him at his will"* 26

## Illustrate this process with King Saul

- 1) Began full of hope, humility and promise. 1 Sam 9:2
  - 2) Eventually started to show signs of Pride. 1 Sam. 13-15
    - a) Presumed to act as Priest 13:8-14
    - b) Made rash and arrogant vow (14:24) that almost ended his son's life.
  - 3) Disobeyed God's direct command. 1 Sam. 15  
*Didn't "recognize it" (13); Rationalized it when confronted (15) Redirected the blame. (15,21)*
  - 4) When God confronted his Rebellion. (1 Sam. 15:23) he responded with incomplete repentance. (vs 30)
  - 5) Saul became depressed. Ch. 16:14 (David's faith and devotion helped him. (Vs 16-23)
  - 6) Became resentful of David's success. Ch.17
  - 7) Tries to destroy David (Repeatedly) Ch. 18:10,11
  - 8) Murders the Priests and their families. (1 Samuel 22:18-19)
  - 9) Forces David's Wife Michal to marry another man. (1 Sam. 25:44)
  - 10) Repeatedly lies and Ruthlessly hunts David. 1 Sam. 23-26
  - 11) Consults a witch. 1 Sam 27
  - 12) In despair, he takes his own life. (1 Sam 31)
- Saul had many opportunities to Repent, but his pride kept him caught in Satan's snare!

## How do we get out of Satan's Snares? (Reverse the Curse!)

- Recognize your responsibility. James 4:1-4 (Confess: 1 Jn 1:9)
- Respond to God. Jms 4:7 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God."* (Cooperate. Pr. 3:5,6)
- Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (v 7) (Contest Satan's claims Eph. 6:10-18)
- Reconnect with God! Vs 8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."  
(Commit to God. Ro. 12:1,2; Mt. 11:18,29)
- Repent! Vs. 8-10 "Cleanse your hands..." (Clean heart Ps. 51) 2 Tim. 2:19-26  
*"The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; that they might recover themselves out of the snare of the devil.  
Who are taken captive by him at his will" Vs. 24-26*