

The Strategy of Satan Pt 2

2 Cor 2:11 *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: (pleonekte’ō: covet, overreach) for we are not ignorant of his devices.”* (no’ēma: mind, purpose, disposition)

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 21st

Reflection: In 2 Cor. 4:4 calls Satan *“the god of this world”*. Jesus referred to him as: *“The Prince (archon: chief ruler) of this world”* (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)

If God originally gave this power to Adam (Gen. 1:28) *How did Satan end up with it?*

- *When Adam sinned, he surrendered this authority to Satan! Gen. 3; Ro. 5:12a*
- *Eden’s fall has been played out in every life...(Ro. 12:12b; 6:16) Except one!*

Lk 4:6-8 *“All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; (paradidomi: surrendered, betrayed) and to whomsoever I will I give it.”*

This is why Jesus was the only perfect substitution for our sin. (2 Cor 5:21; Ro 6:23; 5:8)

He uses this power to gain more influence and power to accomplish his “agenda”.

(2 Cor 2:11) The more we sin (surrender to him) The more influence he gains in our lives, and the further he advances his Agenda.

Direction: Satan uses Personal Covetousness as well as Politically Corrupt (1 Jn 5:19)

Policies to pressure us in an attempt to financially

“Bind (deō: Restrain, remove) the strong man so he can spoil his house” Mt. 12:29

This Economic Pressure produces:

2. Relational Pressure: He binds us with:

A. Busy-ness with “our” business (Priorities). Sins curse affects us differently. Gen. 3

1) Women’s cursed related to:

- a) Child/family related frustrations. 16 *“greatly multiply thy sorrow”* (iṣṣābôn’: worry, grief, pain)
- b) Control issues *“thy desire (t’sûqâ: reaching after {to control} Gen. 4:7) shall be to (el: toward or against) thy husband, but he shall rule over thee”*

2) Men: Work related frustrations. 17-19 *“Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, ... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow (‘iṣṣābôn’: worrisome toil) shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee”*

B. Dual income often needed to “survive”.

1) Whose raising the kids? Titus 2:5 *“Keepers (oikourgos’: guardians) at home”*

Guardians of who? Guardians from who/what?

2) Deception of dual incomes. (from National Database of Childcare prices 2018) adjusted to 22

- a) Ave annual US childcare costs: Infant....\$15,000 Toddler....\$12,500 Preschool \$11,200 School age care: \$9,300 (That’s \$48000 with 4 kids!)

This doesn’t include the increase expenses of “fast food”, clothing, exhaustion, etc

3) The Pressure of balancing:

- a) Roles and Responsibilities *Housework, meals, chores, kid time, homework, etc.*
- b) Expectations: “I thought...believe...want...need”
- c) Compensation: “Me time and/or toys” (hobbies, toys, TV, relaxation, rewards)

C. The Pressure of trying to navigate/balance these factors produce Conflict!

- 1) Women tend to pursue to resolve conflict. (“We need to talk...”)
- 2) Men tend to withdraw to reduce/avoid conflict *that they don't think they can solve.*
This sets in motion the “pursuer-distancer relationship.”

Satan uses these in order to:

3. To bind us Spiritually: He uses:

A. Society “The world” (1 John 2:15-17)

- Ro 12:2 *“Be not conformed to this world...”* 1 Jn 5:19 *“...the whole world lieth in wickedness.”*
- Mk 4:19 *“the Cares of this world...choke the word...”* (2 Tim. 4:10)

B. Selfishness “The flesh” (Phil. 2:4,5)

- 1) It's natural to feel you “deserve” ... Appreciation, Affirmation (Respect), Affection...
But what happens if/when you don't get them?

Society and selfishness tag team to distract (Phi. 3:18-20; Col 3:1-5) leaving us vulnerable for:
This leaves us vulnerable for

C. Satan to deceive and defeat us. Our real battle is *“...against principalities...powers...spiritual wickedness in high places...”* (Eph. 6:12) What's his ultimate agenda?

Mk 4:19 *“the Cares of this world...deceitfulness of riches...lusts of other things...choke the word...”*

Conclusion: 2 Timothy 2 opens with a challenge to be a *“a good soldier of Jesus”* (vs 1-5)

Vs 15-19 relates the importance of honest study of commitment to truth.

Vs 20-23 compare our lives to a house that needs cleaning.

Vs 24-26 instruct us on how to *“recover ourselves out of the snare of the devil”*

Application:

Ps. 12:1 *“Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; the faithful fail from men.”*

Instead of surrendering to Satan's snares, making you a fearful/frustrated man,

Will you to surrender to God and become a faithful “Strong man”? (James 4:4-10)

What does a “faithful” man do? 1 Pt 5:8,9 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (bind) Whom resist steadfast in the faith...”*

This Battle is real and relentless. This world a battleground, not a playground!

Our Enemy is determined, deceitful, and destructive. (Jn 10:10a) Is. 59:19 *“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.”* Will you rally to God's cause?

Ez 22:30 *“I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”*

Will God find such a man in you?