

**THE DEVIL'S DEVICES**  
**1 PETER 5:8-9**

**Introduction**

If you have been in Church for any length of time, you probably know of people who made a profession of faith that you thought was genuine and then shortly afterwards they have fallen away from the things of the Lord and you don't see them any more.

Or maybe you knew someone who was serving the Lord for years, then all of a sudden they just quit on God. You look at their life and they are living like a lost person.

It is sad to say, but I have even known several preachers who have preached the Word of God faithfully for years and been a beacon for God and had a great work for God going. Then all of a sudden they not only were out of the ministry, but also out of Church entirely.

One thing I know for sure is that we can't know the heart of someone. While some people such as those I've just described might have never been saved to begin with, I believe that many of these folks truly know the Lord, but have just succumbed to the attacks of Satan.

I want you to think about enemies for just a moment. If we have an enemy who is after us and knows what he is doing, he may try many different things in order to defeat us. If one thing doesn't work, he uses something else. If that doesn't work he just keeps hammering away doing something different until he is either successful in his conquest or else we have defeated him.

Satan is that kind of enemy and has many devices that he uses to try to defeat the Child of God.

*Ephesians 6:10-11*—“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against **the wiles of the devil.**”

Paul says this about Satan in *2 Corinthians 2:11*, “. . . for we are not ignorant of **his devices.**”

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What Paul said was true of both Paul and of the Corinthian Christians at this point. They were not ignorant of his devices. That was because Paul had rebuked them in his first letter.

At one time they had allowed Satan to get a foothold in the Church. But, by the time Paul wrote the second book to them, I believe they had become aware of how they had allowed Satan to work.

In observing folks in Churches today, it can be observed that many professing Christians appear to be ignorant of Satan's devices.

Satan is wreaking havoc among believers today! There are so many Christians who are being blind-sided by the Devil. They are ignorant of Satan's devices and they don't even see it coming. Many of them don't even understand what has happened even after it has happened.

Satan has many devices at his disposal. That is why the Bible says we are to be sober and vigilant.

What are some of these devices that Satan uses? I want us to look at some of Satan's favorite devices, tools or wiles that he uses to try to defeat folks.

**I. SATAN USES DISBELIEF AND DOUBT TO DEFEAT!**

Satan will do whatever he can to attack our faith in God!

*Hebrews 3:12*—“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”

**A. Satan Wants To Get Folks To Doubt God's Word!**

(Example—Eve in the Garden of Eden!)

**1. He Will Try To Keep Us Out Of The Word Of God And Out Of Church!**

*Romans 10:17*—“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

**2. He Will Magnify The Failures Of Those Who Handle The Word Of God!**

“Look at what that preacher did...or said...”

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He uses this attack not only on believers, but also on unbelievers! **2 Corinthians 4:1-4**

**3. He Will Magnify The Failures Of Those Who Claim To Know The Lord!**

*"If that is the way Christians act, then. . ."*

**4. He Will Get Us Listening To The Critics Of The Word Of God.**

Critics will say, *"The Bible is not the Word of God..."*

And if a child of God is not a student of the Word, he or she is more likely to fall for it! (**2 Timothy 2:15**)

*Satan Wants To Get Folks To Doubt God's Word!*

**B. Satan Wants To Get Folks To Doubt God's Goodness!**

I'll speak more about this in a minute, but this can come because of:

**1. Personal Tragedies.**

(Exp.– It could be the death of a loved one; a disability or disease) *"If God is so good, why did he let this happen to me"*

**2. World Conditions.**

*"If God is so good, why does he allow so much pain, suffering and evil"*

**C. Satan Wants To Get Folks To Doubt God's Power!**

This can happen when folks fail to see God answer prayer in the way they think it should be answered.

When that happens, they leave off praying and begin doubting.

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**II. SATAN USES DISCORD AND DIVISIONS TO DEFEAT!**

I would venture to say that more *"Bible-believing"* Churches have probably been split over **disposition** than have been split over **position**.

Most Church splits usually occur over **conflict in personalities rather than in doctrine**.

In **Proverbs 6:16-19** we find a list of things that God hates. In this list is **the person that sows discord among the brethren**.

Listen to what James, Jesus' half-brother, wrote about that: *James 3:14-16–"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."*

**A. Discord Is Of The Devil!**

**B. Discord Causes Confusion!**

We know that God is not the author of confusion.  
*1 Corinthians 14:33*

**C. Discord Causes Separation!**

*1 Corinthians 1:10–"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."*

**D. Discord Is A Sign of Carnality!**

*1 Corinthians 3:1-3*

*SATAN USES DISCORD AND DIVISIONS, . . .*

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**III. SATAN USES DISOBEDIENCE AND DEFILEMENT TO DEFEAT!**

Satan will get his tentacles of sin deep in the lives of unbelievers so that they think there is no hope in their lives!

(It might be drugs, alcohol, pornography, other things—give exp.)

Satan will also tempt believers to fall into sin! Then after we've fallen into sin he'll try to get us to stay in it and wallow in it!

Sometimes he'll get us living in denial that we even have a sin problem because of pride (which is also a sin)! Or because of pride, he'll keep us from getting things right!

After we finally come to God and get forgiveness and cleansing, he'll even throw it back in our face to keep us pushed down and in a constant state of defeat. *"Oh, so you think you are going to serve God after what you did and what you've been?"*

**IV. SATAN USES DULLNESS AND DEADNESS TO DEFEAT!**

When we get saved we have a tender heart toward God and we have a hunger for the things of God in our lives!

But, as we learn about what God wants us to do after we are saved, Satan will get us try to get us to say "No" to God! He'll get us to say "no" to God until, before we know it, we have a heart that is hardened to the Word of God.

1 Timothy 4:3 talks about, ". . .having the conscience seared. . ."

*Acts 28:27—"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."*

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The phrase "*waxed gross*" means calloused. Callouses have no feeling in them because the senses have been dulled or deadened.

*SATAN USES DULLNESS AND DEADNESS...*

**V. SATAN USES DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS TO DEFEAT!**

*James 1:8—"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."*

*James 4:8—"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*

What is "*double-mindedness*?" It is trying to live for Christ and for the pleasures of this world at the same time.

It is not having a pure heart for God. It is having an admixture of the world and the flesh in our life.

It is having one foot firmly planted in the World and then straddling the fence trying to touch the ground on the side of Christ.

Satan will say, *"Just don't sell out to God. You can still be a "good" Christian."*

But the Jesus said, *Matthew 6:24—"No man can serve two masters..."*

*Luke 9:23—"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

Satan doesn't want folks to become believers in the first place. But if he lost that battle and you are now saved, then He just wants you to quit on the Lord and become a "**do nothing**" believer or a "**nominal believer**", or a "**worldly believer**"!

*SATAN USES DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS...*

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**VI. SATAN USES DISTRACTION AND DELAY TO DEFEAT!**  
Some folks might get saved if they weren't so **distracted with other things!** Satan will get you **distracted by the pleasures of sin!** But the Bible says that *the pleasures of sin are only for a season.* (*Hebrews 11:25*)

Satan doesn't mind you **thinking about getting saved one day**, just not today! He'll have you **delay it or put it off until tomorrow.** Then one day **you run out of tomorrows and he's won!**

Many Christians I know have thought about serving the Lord—they know it is something that they should do and something that is right to do, but they **too have been distracted by the things of this world.**

Other things take priority over the things of the Lord right now. **Distractions—it can be a job, it a hobby or some kind of recreation, it could be something else!**

It doesn't really matter what Satan uses to distract us. **A distraction is a distraction and he'll use any distraction he can to get our eyes off of Jesus and get us off track.**

Many believers intend to serve God one day—when it is more convenient, but that convenient day rarely comes. **Delay!**

**Satan Says You Can Serve God When You're Older.**

The problem with that is this—because you have not cultivated a heart that wants to serve the Lord, you will more often than not find that you won't serve Him when you're older!

**Satan Says You Can Serve God:**

1. When I quit this job or when I retire.
2. When the kids grow up.
3. When things get better.
4. When. . .whatever (You fill in the blank)

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**Satan Says, "You Can't Serve God Today—Just Look At Your Schedule."**  
But the problem is that we only have today! We only have right now!

*Proverbs 27:1—"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."*

*SATAN USES DISTRACTION AND DELAY. . .*

**VII. SATAN USES DISCOURAGEMENT AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO DEFEAT!**

This can be over any number of things.

- A. God Doesn't Do Things In Our Life On Our Time Table.**  
We get tired of waiting on the Lord.
- B. Bad Things Happen To Us While We Watch Those Living In Sin Flourish.**  
When this happens, we say, "Well, what is the use in serving God."
- C. Things Don't Happen The Way We Expect Them To.**  
We get to where we just can't trust God any more because of life's circumstances.

**Conclusion**

Have you fallen prey to the Devil's Devices? What can we do if we have? Turn to **Hebrews 12:1-3.**

Get Right. (*Lay aside the weights and sins.*)

Get Refocused. (On Jesus and His will for your life. That is what "Looking unto Jesus" means.)

Get Rolling. (*Run with patience. Get back on track for Jesus.*)

*1 Peter 5:6-7—"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."*