

THE STRATEGIES OF SATAN

2 Corinthians 2:11; Luke 22:31-34, 39-46

In 2 Cor. 2:11 the Apostle Paul assures us that “we are not ignorant of [Satan’s] devices”—his _____

- I. SATAN HAD TO OBTAIN GOD’S _____ TO SIFT PETER AS WHEAT
 - A. Satan _____; his existence is an integral part of a Biblical Worldview
 - B. Satan = “the adversary”; Satan opposes _____ and anyone who knows God, loves God, serves God
 - C. Satan must have God’s permission to attack us; Satan is always on God’s _____
 - D. Satan desired to _____ Peter like wheat—a process that separates edible wheat from the chaff
 - 1) This process is _____
 - 2) This process purifies: Satan’s attacks can serve _____ purposes

- II. SATAN’S ATTACK FOCUSED ON THE _____ IN SIMON’S CHARACTER
 - A. Jesus twice called Peter by his old name; Satan would attack him through his _____
 - B. Satan attacked Peter by means of his _____; his over-confidence led to a nearly fatal crash
 - C. Our greatest strengths can be our greatest _____; Satan often turns our strengths against us

- III. SATAN SOUGHT TO OVERTHROW PETER’S _____
 - A. Satan attacked Peter’s faith because it was vital to his spiritual life: we are saved by grace thru _____
 - 1) Our spiritual armor includes the _____ of faith: if Satan can wrestle it from us, we are defenseless
 - 2) Heb.11 repeatedly teaches that we find _____ over adversity by faith, but if Satan can destroy it?
 - B. Satan attacked the _____ of Peter’s faith, his relationship with Jesus—what he thought of Jesus
 - 1) In Matthew 16:16 Peter confessed of Jesus, “You are the _____ the Son of the living God.”
 - 2) In Mark 14:27 Jesus predicted: “All of you will be made to stumble because of _____ this night”
 - 3) The 11 still expected Jesus as Messiah to set up an earthly kingdom; when Jesus was arrested, mocked, tried and crucified, it put the _____ to much of what they had believed about Jesus
 - 4) Today a new inverted _____ portrays Jesus as worthy of rejection because He does not comply

- IV. SATAN’S STRATEGIES SUCCEEDED BECAUSE PETER SURRENDERED THE WEAPON OF _____
 - A. In the Garden, Jesus encouraged the 11 to _____ in order to counter the coming attack of Satan
 - B. Jesus also set the _____ of prayer in the face of temptation; His agony prepared Him for the cross
 - C. When we sense the attack of Satan, we must literally pray that we will not enter into _____
We must learn to obey Jesus and regularly pray the final request in the _____ Prayer: “Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from the Evil One.” Such prayer is powerful for 2 reasons:
 - 1) We know that we pray according to God’s _____ and therefore have confidence that God will hear
 - 2) We appeal to the one Person in the universe who has _____ on a leash; our God is merciful!
 - D. The apostles were “sleeping from _____” rather than praying: often sleep is more natural than prayer
 - 1) Emotional lows often leave us drained and sleepy, but they are the very times when Satan _____
 - 2) Jesus was also intensely sorrowful in the garden, but He prayed rather than surrendered to _____

CONC: How did Satan last attack you? _____

How should you have responded? _____