

A Journey Into the Spirit World
Six Things the Enemy Does Not Want You to Know!
August 24, 2016

In the last lesson, we learned Satan is the second most powerful being in the universe. Unlike God, he is not omniscient, omnipresent, nor omnipotent. However, like God, Satan is immutable--he never changes. Therefore, in the Word of God, we can discover many things about him that he doesn't want us to know. Why? Because knowing these things can prevent him from leading us into sin. Let's look at six things Satan doesn't want us to know.

I. He Comes in _____

Because Satan is immutable, his tactics haven't changed since the original temptation. When he is first mentioned as coming in the disguise of a serpent, what word is used to describe him (Genesis 3:1a)?

Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

That means he is "clever" and "deceptive." The first temptation occurred before the curse, before the serpent was a frightening creature. Originally there was nothing about the serpent to alarm Eve. Satan never comes to us as a frightening snake. He never comes and says, "I'm here to tempt you and destroy your life."

Satan always disguises his plan to destroy us. Satan wants us to believe obeying the Bible will stop us from being liberated and really enjoying life. He doesn't want us to know what truth about God found in Psalm 84:11c?

Psalms 84:11 - For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Satan tries to deceive us into believing he will improve our lives, when in reality he wants to destroy us by first coming in disguise.

II. He Comes to _____

When Satan approaches us, he tries to distort the Word of God. When he first comes to Eve, what does he ask (Genesis 3:1c)?

Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

In other words, "Eve, you have the wrong interpretation of what God said." Satan knows he will never succeed in getting us to believe God's Word isn't true; therefore, he wants us to distort it. He doesn't deny God inspired it; he just wants us to reconsider how we interpret it. His strategy is brilliant.

As with Eve, by simply raising the question of interpretation, he avoids a direct attack on God's Word, which God's people would quickly reject. Satan tries to distort what God says about sin, using new names that make it seem more legitimate.

Because the world is under the influence of Satan (1 Jn 5:19b), what God calls *evil thoughts* (Matthew 15:19), the world calls "mature, or adult, entertainment." What God calls *vile affections* (Romans 1:26), the world calls an "alternate," lifestyle. What God calls *adulteries* (Mark 15:19), the world calls "affairs." However, regardless of what names the world uses for sin, what eternal principle does Moses declare in Numbers 32:23c?

Numbers 32:23 - But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.

This means there are always consequences for sin. Satan wants to distort not only God's Word but also the truth about sin's consequences.

Satan always comes in disguise, to distort, and...

III. He Comes to _____

Satan gets Eve to focus on one tree out of all the thousands in the garden. He wants to divert her attention from all of God's wonderful provisions to the one thing He has prohibited. In the same way, Satan wants us to focus on one forbidden thing until it becomes such an obsession, we will sacrifice anything to get it. Therefore, he diverts our attention from what truth about God found in the last phrase of 1 Timothy 6:17?

1 Timothy 6:17 - Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Satan knows he can only lead us into sin when he diverts our thoughts from how good God has been to us.

Satan always comes in disguise, to distort, to divert, and...

IV. He Comes to _____

Satan denies God's punishment. One day, after God tells Eve if she eats of the forbidden tree she will surely die, what does Satan tell her (Gen. 3:4b)?

Genesis 3:4 - And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Satan wants us to believe God is "soft" on sin and is just bluffing about the punishment for sin. He will try to convince us a God of love can't be that harsh on sin. However, even though God is love (1 John 4:8), He is also a God of holiness and justice. What would you think of a judge who continually let criminals go unpunished? You would think such a person was a bad judge and maybe even evil.

If God let one unconfessed sin go unpunished, He would cease to be the holy and just God. Law without punishment is only a suggestion. Since there are serious consequences for sin, God gives us ample warnings in the Bible. For example, Jesus said whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:36a). Then, what does He declare in the rest of that verse (3:36b-c)?

John 3:36 - He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

If we really believe that truth, we will do everything we can to lead our relatives, associates, and neighbors to Christ. A great way to do that is to invite them to a Bible study and worship service where they can hear God's Word and the Holy Spirit can draw them to Christ (John 6:44).

Satan always comes in disguise, to distort, to divert, to deny, and ...

V. He Comes to _____

Satan comes to discredit God's Word. Therefore, what does the tempter tell Eve will happen if she eats of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:5b-c)?

Genesis 3:5 - For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan wants to discredit God and His commands so we will believe God is holding out on us. He wants to discredit God's integrity by implying He wants to spoil our fun and rob us of pleasure and enjoyment.

Satan tells Eve she would be as gods [ELOHIM]. However, she is already like God, having been created in His image (Genesis 1:27; 2:21-22). Yet, when she ate the forbidden fruit, she became less like God because she was no longer free from sin, but was a sinner.

Satan doesn't want us to know he always comes in disguise, to distort, to divert, to deny, and to discredit. However, there is one other thing he doesn't want us to know...

VI. His Greatest _____

Satan dreads that we will believe and revere the Word of God, which reveals how to defeat him. He doesn't want us to believe what the Bible says about sin and how to avoid it. To Satan, some of the most terrifying words we will ever say are found in Psalm 119:11.

Psalms 119:11 - Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

We should memorize God's Word because there is a perfectly matched scripture for every temptation we will ever face. After His baptism, Jesus was tempted three times by the devil and each time our Lord refused him by quoting a scripture (Matthew 4:1-11).

God's Word doesn't do us any good if it remains on the printed page; it must be etched into our hearts. When tempted by Satan, we, like Jesus, must be ready to cut the temptation to pieces with the sharp, two-edged sword of the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). God says the Word that comes out of His mouth and came to be written down in our Bibles will not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11b). What does God declare in the rest of that verse (55:11c-d)?

Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

One reason God gave us the Bible is so we can resist the devil. If we use God's Word properly, it will always achieve that purpose.

Satan wants to destroy you and God's plan for your life. Therefore, Satan doesn't want you to know he always comes in disguise, to distort, to divert, to deny, and to discredit. Also, Satan doesn't want you to know his greatest dread.