

Being able to identify Satan’s “fruit” is the first step of being set free from the snares of the enemy

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ~ Isaiah 61:1-3

Satan’s web of deceit at first glance looks fun, exciting, powerful, and quite frankly, is intoxicating. Just like an insect innocently flies into a web not understanding the consequences of becoming entangled, we too can unknowingly have the same fate. At first the insect wonders what happened and how it got itself in this terrible situation. But it is too late! The torture of being trapped and unable to flee becomes immediately apparent as it watches the spider approaching for its final fate—death. It would be different if death was immediate, but unfortunately the insect has ample time to suffer greatly and experience the despair of its fate.

Like the insect in the previous analogy we all make decisions everyday which will determine what path we will pursue. Satan loves to use deception to ensnare believers from choosing the narrow path which leads to life.

Another analogy which comes to mind is the commercial aired on television where children are asked what they want to be when they grow up. Like many of the young children depicted on this commercial no one ever has the intention of growing up and becoming an adulterer, drug addict, child abuser, liar, homosexual, murderer, prostitute, etc. Unfortunately, the road to hell is paved with good intentions and you, like the insect, will be trapped with no

escape from the never ending eternal agony of hell if you fall prey to being deceived.

Evil is real and it exists. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. Evil is associated with darkness to describe what happens when there is no light present.

Our life can be likened to a chess game to explain why we exist and what our role is in the game of life. We exist because God has a purpose for each and every one of us. It is not about us—we are here for God's purpose and glory. But it begins with each of us choosing life not death.

The chess match is between God and Satan. If you read the Bible we all know who ultimately wins the match. Some of us are standing on the white squares (we have God in us), some of us are standing on the black squares (we do not have God in us). God and Satan sees the whole chess board and knows the next move. We can only see our corner of the board and cannot fully understand why God allows some things to happen. This is where our faith and trust plays an important role in our journey. This is why it vital to put your trust in God for He sees the whole chess board and knows the strategies needed to win the match. Which square are you currently standing on? As you can clearly see by this analogy there are no "gray" squares on the chess board. You are either standing with God or against him.

Unfortunately, Satan knows his time is short and as God increases His glory by pouring out more of His Spirit, Satan will intensify unleashing his demonic spirits as well. As we progress further in the tribulation period the spiritual warfare will greatly intensify as well. So now is the time to learn everything you can about the enemy and how to use your spiritual weapons.

When tragic events and unthinkable horrors come to pass many people blame God and ask the question, "Why did God allow this to happen?" The truth is God's heart is broken and He weeps with us when He witnesses the consequences of sin in our fallen world. Place the blame where it really belongs—Satan.

Satan is real! Satan is a liar! Satan's mission is to steal, kill and destroy! Jesus said so, and God does NOT lie!

“He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

Luke 10:18 (NIV)

*“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, **for he is a liar and the father of lies.**”*

John 8:44 (NIV)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

John 10:10 (NIV)

God wants us to know our enemy and to have our eyes wide open. The Bible instructs us to stand against the wiles of the devil and put on the whole armor of God. We are fighting a spiritual battle and the number one ploy Satan uses is deception.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

We do not struggle against flesh and blood. What does this really mean?

As humans we are comprised of a body made up of flesh and blood. We also have a soul which is our mind, will, and emotions. Last, but not least, we have a Spirit.

If we have accepted God's free gift of grace by believing in His son Jesus Christ we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us. All human beings have a body, soul and spirit as illustrated by 1 Thessalonians 5:23, *“May God himself, the God*

*of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

We are free to choose whom we will serve. If we do not walk in the flesh but rather choose to walk in the Spirit we will be kept blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, if we are carnal Christians living by the flesh rather than by the Spirit we will open the door to Satan and his legion of demons. In other words, how much Satan has his tentacles on a believer depends to a large part how much you are living according to your fleshly worldly desires.

Therefore, we may be having a spiritual problem with our self or with someone else. The real battle is with the principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness (the invisible forces) that are within us or others. In other words, people are not our problem. It is Satan and his demons working through people based on our attitudes, beliefs, character, decisions, philosophy, and motivations that are the real issue. Demons do have a doctrine and their purpose is to destroy anything of God. This is referred to as the *spirit of the antichrist*. We are currently witnessing a great apostasy taking place as described in 1 Timothy 4:1-3 below.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” ~ 1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NKJV)

We must look at the spirit operating in the person afflicting them. This is why God’s word tells us to pray for our enemies. We are to hate the sin but love the sinner.

As believers we are not immune to being deceived, being afflicted, and affected by an evil spirit. An example which quickly comes to mind is found in Matthew 16:13-23 when Peter was given a revelation that Jesus is the Messiah only to have Jesus rebuke him a few passages later.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

*From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind me, Satan!** You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."*

As you can see by this illustration, even Christians are affected. The question we need to ask ourselves is not, "Can a Christian have an evil spirit?" The question to be answered is, "How much of a Christian does an evil spirit have?" If Christians have evil demonic spirits afflicting them how much more will non-believers be held captive and ensnared by the ploys of the enemy?

We can suddenly find ourselves on the wrong side by being deceived and have our faith shipwrecked. We can unexpectedly become ensnared by the enemy and get entangled once again by the things of this world. If we are not aware of our transgressions, seek forgiveness, and turn away from the sins that ensnare us, then we risk losing our salvation. This is why it is so important to keep a short account and to ask God to examine your heart and let you know

about any hidden sin you may be blinded to. Also it is imperative to read His Word for ourselves so the Holy Spirit can convict us of any sin in our lives. When, not if, temptation is knocking at your door—run. As indicated in Genesis 4:6-7 below we are to rule over temptation when it comes otherwise it will be too late once you start down that slippery slope.

*So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, **but you should rule over it.**” ~ Genesis 4:6-7 (NKJV)*

Usually it is those of us who believe we have arrived and nothing is wrong with us that are indeed deceived in some area of our life. If God is not currently dealing with you regarding something in your life, I would be very concerned. We all fall short and this is what is meant by the need for us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. The Lord usually does not deliver us from the influence from the enemy all at once. Rather, like an onion has many layers, He begins to heal and deliver us one layer at a time. This process of healing begins by cultivating a personal intimate relationship with God and reading His Word. It is only then can we truly begin the process by yielding to the Holy Spirit do we become totally free from the enemy and more like Jesus. Sanctification is a lifelong process.

Do you have any of these “D’s” of the Devil I have listed on the following pages apparent in your life? If so, it is important you recognize their influence. Recognizing Satan’s fruit is the first step to deliverance. You cannot change what you do not acknowledge and you cannot be delivered and set free unless you make up your mind and are determined to do whatever it takes with the help of the Holy Spirit. We cannot do this on our own and we must yield and work with the Holy Spirit as proclaimed by Philippians 2:12-13 below.

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” ~ Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV).

The first “key” is to learn to recognize the ploys of the enemy. These “fruits” begin your descent into the pit of destruction where we are at the mercy of the tormentor of our souls who is out to totally destroy us. The primary “D” of the Devil always leads to the other fruits associated with the “root” fruit. If these signs are not quickly recognized and dealt with they always lead to total destruction and death. You need to know Satan always seeks to counterfeit everything God represents. These characteristics are opposite of the fruit of the Spirit listed in *Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)*, “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against things there is no law.*”

The “D’s” of the Devil:

Death: (end, termination, destruction, dying, demise, devastation, demolition)

Debate: (arguing with contention unwilling to hear the other’s perspective)

Debt: (broke without money, destitute, impoverished, needy, poor, beholden and accountable to the lender, under an obligation, constrained, embarrassed, bankrupt, insolvent, operating at a loss, delinquent, liability, wickedness, wrong)

Deception: (misleading, being dishonest, betrayal, cheat, cunning, deceit, deceitfulness, deceptiveness, disinformation, duplicity, falsehood, fraud, hypocrisy, insincerity, lying, pretense, treachery, treason, trickery, untruth, cheat, cover-up, decoy, fallacy, gimmick, hoax, illusion, ruse, scam, snare, trap, trick, whitewash)

Decay: (deterioration, decline, dwindling, rot, corrosion)

Decoy: (entice, lure, tempt)

Defeat: (ambush, annihilation, beat, breakdown, collapse, destruction, slaughter, whitewashing)

Demons

Dependency: habits and addictions such as alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, sex, etc.

Discouragement: (dismay, despair, low spirits, melancholy, pessimism, gloominess)

Desolation: (isolation, seclusion, aloneness, aloofness, concealment, detachment, hiding, reclusiveness, remoteness, withdrawal)

Depression: (despair, sadness, misery, hopelessness, melancholy, dejection, gloominess)

Despised: (hate, abhorrence, abomination, animosity, antagonism, aversion, disgust, gripe, hatred, horror, hostility, loathing, pain, repulsion, resentment, revenge, scorn, spite, trouble)

Destruction: (annihilation, devastation, demolition, ruin, damage)

Disaster: (ruin, adversity, catastrophe, calamity, cataclysm, misfortune, calamity)

Disgust: (revolt)

Disguise: (mask, hide, conceal)

Disillusioned: (disappointed, let down)

Disappointment: (sadden, dismay, frustrate)

Discontent: (dissatisfaction, depression, discontentment, displeasure, envy, regret, restlessness, uneasiness, unhappiness)

Discouragement: (disappointment, dismay, despair, depression, low spirits, melancholy, pessimism, gloominess, worry, caution, warning, opposition, deterrence, hindrance, obstacle, restraint)

Disease: (ailment, affliction, attack, breakdown, collapse, disorder, epidemic, feebleness, illness, infirmities, misery, plague, unsoundness)

Disorientated : (inability to focus see things clearly, confusion)

Distort: (falsify, warp, misrepresent, twist, manipulate, pervert)

Distract: (absent-minded as a result of apprehension and worry)

Distraction: (agitation, amusement, bewilderment, commotion, complication, confusion, disorder, disturbance, diversion, entertainment, frenzy, game, interference, interruption, preoccupation, recreation)

Distraught: (very upset, worked-up, agitated, anxious, concerned, confused, crazy, distracted, distressed, flustered, frantic, harassed, hysterical, mad, perturbed, tormented, worried)

Distress: (pain, agony, affliction, anguish, anxiety, dejection, desolation, disappointment, embarrassment, grief, heartache, heartbreak, irritation, misery, sadness, shame, sorrow, suffering, torment, torture, unhappiness, woe, worry, wretchedness)

Disturbed: (bother, upset, afflict, agitate, alarm, annoy, arouse, badger, complicate, confound, confuse, depress, dishearten, disrupt, distract, distress, frighten, grieve, harass, interfere, interrupt, intrude, make uneasy, molest, outrage, pain, perturb, plague, provoke, shake up, unnerve, worry)

Distrust: (lack of faith, disbelief, doubt, skepticism, suspicion, wariness, suspecting someone of dishonesty, lacking confidence in someone leads to mistrust, a projection of a lack of confidence least to distrust)

Division: (separation, splitting up, detachment, rift, disagreement, discord, disharmony)

Double-minded: (undecided, vacillating)

Doubt: (lack of faith, questioning, agnosticism, confusion, apprehension, disbelief, faithlessness, indecision, mistrust, skepticism, suspicion, uncertainty, vacillation, wavering)

