

## A Defeated Foe (Part 1)

I Peter 5:6-11, Deuteronomy 33:26-29

July 12, 2015

1. The devil is \_\_\_\_\_.

II Corinthians 11:14 ***And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.***

Mark 1:34 ***And Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.***

2. The devil seeks to \_\_\_\_\_.

I Peter 5:8 ***Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.***

John 10:10 ***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

Mark 4:15 ***Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.***

Ephesians 6:16 ***In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.***

I Thessalonians 3:5 ***For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.*** (Cf. Matthew 4:3)

Matthew 6:13 ***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.***

Revelation 12:10 ***Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.***

John 8:44 ***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.***

Luke 13:16 ***Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"***

3. The devil commands \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 25:41 ***"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"***

Revelation 12:9 ***The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.***

4. The devil is a \_\_\_\_\_ foe.

Deuteronomy 33:27 ***The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!'***

Colossians 2:15 ***And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

5. We can \_\_\_\_\_ the devil.

I Peter 5:9 ***Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.***

Romans 16:20 ***The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.***

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Kid 1: “Do you believe in the devil?”

Kid 2: “No, he’s like Santa Claus. It’s really your dad.”

### 1. The devil is real.

■ Western World view doubts or denies the devil’s existence.

II Corinthians 11:14 ***And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.***

- “It is a form of protological thinking which cannot ascribe physical or psychic disorders to proper secondary causes that makes ancient writers attribute them to beings of an intermediate spirit-world” (Joseph Fitzmyer SJ *The Gospel According to Luke I-IX. The Anchor Bible vol. 28 C.* 1981 Doubleday & Company Inc.)
- “But why do so many people today rule out the influence of the demonic world as a possible explanation for strange behavior and speech? The main reason for our skepticism is that scientific rationalism, the predominant world view of the so called Enlightenment of 200 years ago, has now become the dominant worldview of Western Christians. If something cannot be seen, measured or proven through reason, it simply does not exist – or at least should be doubted.  
... “The question is, which worldview is the true one – the worldview of Jesus or our own contemporary worldview? (Francis MacNutt *Deliverance from Evil Spirits* p. 49 Chosen Books c. 1995 Francis MacNutt)
- My testimony: When I graduated from Seminary, the same year Fitzmyer published his commentary, I tended to agree with him. I was dubious regarding the “ontological status of evil.” That is, I doubted that the devil existed.
- Joke: Conservative presbytery about a young candidate for ordination: “Let him become the pastor of Northminster Church and in three months he will believe in a personal devil.”
- I read Donald G Miller’s Commentary on Luke.
- “It is clear, too, that Jesus accepted the reality of demons. ... Either Jesus was accommodating himself to the superstitions of his day at this point, or was mistaken, or demons are real. The first is wholly unlikely. Jesus was quick to dispel superstition with regard to the cause of blindness. (John 9:1-3) ... [He] insisted that he had really cast out demons and used this as evidence of his relation to God. It is hardly possible, then, to attribute Jesus’ view of demons to accommodation. ...

- “Was he then mistaken? ... [I]n the realm of the spirit, where the deepest things of God and man, and evil are concerned, was he thus limited? We have not found him wrong about God or man. May it be that he was right, too, about demons? (Donald G. Miller *The Gospel According to Luke* Layman’s Bible Commentary vol. 18 John Knox Press. c. C.D. Deans 1958 p. 62
- Jesus didn’t tell us about penicillin or E=MC<sup>2</sup>, but if there were no devil, that’s exactly the kind of thing we would have expected him to have revealed!
- Eddie Gibbs “Don’t kid yourselves. There’s an intelligence behind pornography.”
- Came to see them at work in my own life and the lives of others.
- Noticed that Jesus and the Bible writers did know the difference between physical or mental sickness and demonic activity. Fitzmyer was wrong.

Mark 1:34 ***And Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.***

- Several writers I read on this subject quoted C.S. Lewis, “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” (C.S. Lewis *The Screwtape Letters* p.9 c.MCMXC by Barbour and Company, Inc.)

## 2. The devil seeks to harm us.

I Peter 5:8 ***Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.***

- When you came to life in Christ, Satan didn’t curl up his tail and pull in his fangs. He is committed to foul up your life through his deception to “prove” that Christianity doesn’t work, that God’s Word isn’t true, and that nothing really happened when you were born again. (Neil Anderson *Daily in Christ* July 8 c.1993 Harvest House Publishers.)

John 10:10 ***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

- Satan wants to rob your joy, your hope, your faith.
- He can’t rob you of your salvation, but he can discourage you and even make you believe you’re not saved. (McNeil says this several times but I can’t find a reference!)

Mark 4:15 ***Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.***

Ephesians 6:16 ***In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.***

- These flaming missiles from Satan are nothing more than smoldering lies, burning accusations, and fiery temptations bombarding our minds. (Neil Anderson *Daily in Christ* November 27 c.1993 Harvest House Publishers.)

I Thessalonians 3:5 ***For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.*** (Cf. Matthew 4:3)

Matthew 6:13 ***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.***

- The devil tempts us to sin.
- Note: Being tempted is not a sin. Jesus was tempted. So don't give up just because you're tempted.

Revelation 12:10 ***Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.***

- After we fall to his temptations, the devil accuses us.
- He heaps on guilt (for what we've done) and shame (for who we are).

John 8:44 ***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.***

- The devil will seek to discourage you from following Jesus in any way he can.
- Lies, deception and half-truths are his stock and trade.
- "God is a God of truth, and most of a person's battle with the Enemy is in one way or another a battle over truth versus deceit" (Charles Kraft *Deep Wounds Deep Healing* p.260 Chosen Books c. 1993, 2010 Charles Kraft.)

Luke 13:16 ***Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"***

- Sometimes sickness is caused by evil spirits.

### 3. The devil commands evil angels.

Matthew 25:41 ***"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"***

Revelation 12:9 ***The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.***

- Origen [ca 230] wrote: “In regard to the devil and his angels and opposing powers, the ecclesiastical teaching maintains that the beings do indeed exist; but what they are or how they exist is not explained with sufficient clarity. This opinion, however, is held by most: that the devil was an angel; and having apostatized, he persuaded as many angels as possible to fall away with himself; and these, even to the present time, are called his angels.” (Neil Anderson *Daily in Christ* September 23 c.1993 Harvest House Publishers.)
- Evil spirits are kind of like germs. They’re out there. We may be more or less susceptible to them depending on our spiritual health.
- But there is not necessarily any more shame in being attacked by an evil spirit than in being attacked by a flu bug.

4. The devil is a defeated foe.

Deuteronomy 33:27 ***The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!'***

Colossians 2:15 ***And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

- Gospel

5. We can resist the devil.

I Peter 5:9 ***Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.***

- Next Sunday we will talk more about *how* we resist the devil, how we win victory. I hope you will be here.
- For now it is important that our eyes be open to the possibility that personal and social problems may be caused or influenced by the devil and his angels.
- Diagnosis is important. Changing the oil on your car won’t help if the problem is you’re low on transmission fluid. Likewise, no pill in the world will solve a problem caused by an evil spirit. You need prayer and discipline and other things we will discuss next week. (Conversely, if the problem is chemical, you may need pills.)
- “If more people, moreover especially political leaders could be freed from demonic influence – leaders like Adolph Hitler – our world would be vastly improved in the larger areas of war and poverty.” (Francis MacNutt *Deliverance from Evil Spirits* p. 50 Chosen Books c. 1995 Francis MacNutt)
- So be self-controlled and alert.
- **Cling to Jesus Christ and the victory is yours.**
- Satan is a defeated foe.

Romans 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*