

(Demonism-part 3)

7. All Satan needs to do to destroy the spiritual life of the believer (e.g., reversionism) is to keep the believer away from the Word of God, Bible doctrine. There are four types of individuals with reference to the Word of God.

Matthew 13:1 On that day Jesus went out of the house, and was sitting by the sea. 2 And great multitudes gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole multitude was standing on the beach. 3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 "And others fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 "And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8 "And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. 9 "He who has ears, let him hear." . . . 18 "Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. 20 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

- a. Category one—the Word of God is pictured as never entering the soil, the soul of the person (verses 3-4, 19). Note how Satan, the Evil One, snatches away the Word of God from this person who really does not understand it. He knows if the person understands the gospel, there will be regeneration, so he is quick to remove it by getting the person distracted by thinking of other things.

- b. Category two—the Word of God is depicted as landing on rocky places. This person does not have rich soil in which to accept God’s Word (5, 20-21). This is the person who is all excited about God’s Word in the beginning but soon fades. This is the emotional person. They often confuse their emotionality with spirituality. They never last. The same emotions that pumped them up for Bible doctrine is the same emotions that will cause them to attack Bible doctrine and/or the pastor-teacher. Shallowness is very dangerous. With shallowness a believer becomes very myopic in his view of the Christian life. Nothing more dangerous or sad than a believer with a zeal that is not according to knowledge, all the while he thinks he has the knowledge that everyone else does not appreciate.
- c. Category three—the Word of God is depicted as landing on thorns. This is the cosmic believer. While they may listen to the Word, their life is filled with anxiety because their real focus is on this world. No person who is focused on God lives in anxiety or would ever think of putting the world before God. It is not like the Bible does not warn believers.
- 1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.
- 1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.
- d. Category four—the Word of God is depicted as landing in rich soil and therefore bringing forth much production in the life of the believer. The only difference between this believer and the others is that this believer “hears and understands” the Word of God and is not distracted by the temporal issues of life. He is a thriving believer. The Word of God is alive and powerful and is his lifeline in his fellowship with God (Heb. 4:12-13).
- e. Satan destroys the spiritual life of any believer who does not make Bible doctrine top priority. All he has to do is come between the believer and the Word of God. Satan’s gains tactical victory when the believer is out of fellowship; he gains strategic victory when the believer stops learning and growing in His Word.

- 8. We must live in true humility before God to be protected from Satan. If Satan can get the believer in arrogance, then the believer becomes irrational and unable to use the Word of God regardless of how much he listens to it. We must make His Word a priority in our lives for spiritual victory. There is no other way!**

1 Peter 5:6-9 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

- 9. Satan's is a master deceiver. Consider how he deceived Eve who was the greatest female genius of all time—and with no old sin nature!**

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

- 10. Satan masquerades as an angel of light. As an angel of light, he is always using human good and religion. The cultists always think they are servants of righteousness. The liberal politicians also have a messiah complex.**

2 Cor. 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

11. Satan is our adversary—this means that he opposes you. He is the enemy of God and all believers. We are mandated to be on the alert. Are you alert about his intent to destroy your spiritual life? He is depicted as a vicious lion ready to devour you. His intent is to keep believers from the supergrace life. He certainly succeeded with the Exodus generation, which is said to be an example for us.

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. 6 Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved. 7 And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play." 8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.