

GRACE BIBLE MISSION

Hdqts. Oke-Onitii, P.O. Box, 362

Osogbo

Time: 5.00pm
Every Monday

06/07/2020

STUDIES ON AMOUR OF GOD

STUDY THREE – BEWARE OF THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

Ephesians 6:10-11

“Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Verse 11

We must be aware that the devil seeks opportunities to defeat those who belong to Christ and we must be ready at all times to stand against him. **Satan uses bait to trap people** – 1 Corinthians 11:3. Eve was beguiled by the clever words of the devil. She was deceived by the words '*you shall be like God*'. The bait Satan uses is the 'exaltation of self' and he does this through the influence of friends, close personal relationships or through false teaching. A hunter will set a trap in such a way that the animal is unaware that there is any danger. Everything needs to look as normal as possible and the trap must be well hidden. The animal will then not be ready for the danger and will have no opportunity of preventing itself from being caught. Satan traps people in the same way. He works in the dark so that his traps are well hidden and then he seeks to kill, steal and destroy. He uses camouflage to disguise himself and through deception he seeks to entrap people. Satan traps people by anaesthetising the mind. Many Christians have been deceived by the clever wiles (schemes) of the devil because they were unaware of the danger.

1. **What do you understand by the word “wiles”? Can you itemize and recollect some of the wiles of the devil listed in part three (3) of the introductory party of our study?**

The word 'wiles' is the Greek word 'methodeia' (Ephesians 6:11). It refers to the devil's clever methods in the art of cunningness, deceitfulness, craftiness, and trickery, and we must be aware of his schemes. The way to overcome Satan's schemes is by knowing his methods and being 'strong in the Lord and in the power of His might' by putting on the whole armour of God. We must be able to discern Satan's wiles (methods of deception).

2. **How does Satan disguise himself to deceive the church?**

- **He masquerades as an angel of light** – 2 Corinthians 11:13-14. Spiritual warfare concerns the building up of the Church. When the Church is being built up, spiritual warfare will take place, but the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church – Matthew 16:18.
- **The devil's ministers come to deceive the body of Christ as the ministers of righteousness** – 2 Corinthians 11:15. Those who follow the ministers of Satan will be led astray. We must not accept everything that is said in the name of Christ, but we must discern truth from error – Ephesians 4:14.
- **True ministry will bring freedom.** The ministries in the body of Christ are for building up the body of Christ in the truth of the scriptures – Ephesians 4:11-12. False teachers and leaders seek to bring the people into bondage to themselves.

NOTE: When the devil comes to deceive as an angel of light; the armour of the belt of truth will protect us.

3. Why the Devil does roar? What does he want to achieve? 1 Peter 5:8-9.

He roars 'who do you think you are?' He produces the fear of inadequacy.

- **Satan seeks to silence the Church through fear.** The body of Christ must be careful and watchful because the devil comes 'as a roaring lion' to produce fear, despair and discouragement. We are in a spiritual warfare, the devil roars to make us afraid of the fight. He wants to make us afraid of living for God in holiness then we will become an easy prey for the enemy.
- **He seeks to make the church afraid to preach the gospel.** Fear will stop us from being witnesses to Christ. He brings fear into our heart that 'the message of the cross is foolishness to the world'. If we are ashamed of the gospel then we will replace it with a more acceptable message - modernism and liberalism.
- **He seeks to make the Christian afraid of serving Christ.** He aims to produce despair, and the feeling of utter hopelessness in the child of God. This can come in the form of thoughts in the mind, or through circumstances that service to God is useless and unprofitable.
- **We can only overcome by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ** – 1 Peter 5:9. We need to stand firm upon God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit – 1 John 5:4.

NOTE: When the devil comes as a roaring lion to silence the body of Christ through fear; the armour of the shield of faith will keep us from fear.

4. Another "wiles" of the devil is lie. Why does he lie or why did Jesus call him liar? John 8:44.

- **He lies to bring the body of Christ into bondage.** The body of Christ must know the word of God because the devil is a liar perverting the truth. We must learn to be able to discern truth from error. At times the devil appears to be a friend, but he is always a liar because this is his nature. If he tells the truth it is for the purpose of deceit. He wears different masks, but his aim is the same: to steal, to kill, and to destroy (John 10:10).
- **He lies to enslave people** – Genesis 3:4. Jesus said the devil was by nature a liar and the father of lies – John 8:44. Lying is the devil's nature. In contrast to the nature of the devil, Jesus is the truth and he sets free – John 14:6; 8:32. The lie enslaves; the truth sets people free.

NOTE: When the devil lies to bring us into bondage; the sword of the Spirit is our means of defence.

Satan through his wiles comes as a friend to lead us astray. The devil tries to cast doubt on God's word by approaching us in a friendly manner and offering an easier path. The devil comes as a friend to offer a different subtle option than the way of the cross – Jesus discerned the devil was speaking through Peter when he was trying to be nice to Him – Matthew 16:22-23. He comes as a friend to rob us of the friendship of the Holy Spirit – John 14:16. The devil seeks to rob us of our eternal inheritance. In this respect the devil is also working with eternity in mind. Devil is not only working to stop people getting saved, he is seeking to stop Christians from receiving an eternal reward that will glorify the Lord Jesus Christ – 2 Peter 1:10-11. We must be wise by knowing the scriptures; we must be watching at all times for ourselves and one another by being prayerful; and we must be ready by applying the armour of God in our daily lives.

The devil comes as a friend to steal our inheritance in Christ. The whole armour of God enables to us stand against him.