

# How The Devil Works

**Intro:** The enemy of man is Satan. Satan is the enemy of all that is good and right. Notice some of the names given him by the Scriptures.

1. Rev. 20:2 “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,”
  - a. Dragon: shows his power, that he is strong and ferocious; cf. 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”
  - b. Serpent: shows that he is cunning and a deceiver; cf. Rev. 20:10 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”
  - c. Devil: means accuser or slanderer,
  - d. Satan: means Adversary; because he is the enemy or adversary of God and man.
2. Through a study of the Scriptures we can know how he works; 2 Cor. 2:11 “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
3. In this lesson let us notice some of the ways Satan works.

## I. TELLING LIES.

**A. John 8:44** “Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

**B. Notice some of Satan’s lies.**

1. Eve.
  - a. You shall not die; Gen. 3:4 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”
  - b. Ye shall be as gods; Gen. 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.”
2. Jesus; Mat. 4:8-9 “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; <sup>9</sup> And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

**C. Some examples of Satan’s lies today.**

1. Concerning salvation.
  - a. Salvation by grace only.
  - b. Salvation by faith only.
  - c. That baptism has nothing to do with salvation.
2. Concerning the church.
  - a. “One church is as good as another.”
  - b. “Join the church of your choice.”
  - c. “The church is not important.”
3. Concerning morality
  - a. Homosexuality is just an alternate life style.
  - b. Everyone is engaging in premarital and extramarital affairs.
  - c. Cheating and lying are alright.
  - d. To get the most out of life you must be an alcoholic and womanizer.

## II. PERVERTING THE SCRIPTURES.

**A. Mat. 4:5-6** “Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give

**his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”**

1. Satan quoted Psa. 91:11-12 “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.  
<sup>12</sup>They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”
2. This was a misapplication of what the Psalmist wrote.
  - a. The psalm teaches that God will protect those who walk in His ways.
  - b. To do what Satan suggest would be to tempt God.
  - c. One would no longer be in all God’s ways if he did what Satan suggest.
3. Jesus shows the misapplication; Mat. 4:7 “Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

**B. Satan still twist and perverts the Scriptures.**

1. Teaching the “for” in Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” means “because of.”
2. Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:” One added the word only to the word faith.
3. Convincing men that the great commission only applies to those who are preachers and elders.

### III. ORGANIZING HIS CHURCHES.

**A. Not all religious groups are approved of God.**

1. Mat. 15:13 “But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”
2. Rev. 3:9 “Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.”
3. During the time of Christ, the sects (Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, etc.) were never approved of God.

**B. There is only one church approved of God.**

1. Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
2. Eph. 4:4 “*There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”
  - a. That body is the church.
  - b. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,<sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
3. That church is aptly called the church of Christ; Rom. 16:16 “Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”

**C. No other religious organization has God’s approval.**

1. Any religious organization that does not have God’s approval, leads people away from God; cf. Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
2. Thus, all religious groups that are not approved of God are the works of Satan.

### IV. THWARTING GOD’S PURPOSES.

- A. 1 The. 2:18 “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.”**

**B. God has a purpose for each person.**

1. Eph. 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
2. Mat. 25:18, 25-27 “But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money....<sup>25</sup> And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine.<sup>26</sup> His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:<sup>27</sup> Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.”

**C. Satan thwarts God’s purposes by getting us not to do those things that we are suppose to do. This hinders the cause of Christ.****V. APPEARING AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.****A. 2 Cor. 11:14 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”****B. Those who are Satan’s ministers also appear as angels of light.**

1. 2 Cor. 11:13-15 “For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.<sup>14</sup> And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.<sup>15</sup> Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”
2. As such they give smooth and fair speeches to deceive.
  - a. Rom. 16:17-18 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.<sup>18</sup> For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”
  - b. 1 Tim. 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;<sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”

**C. By this they destroy men.**

1. 2 Pet. 2:1-3 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.<sup>2</sup> And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.<sup>3</sup> And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”
2. 2 Pet. 3:16 “As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”
3. 2 Tim. 4:2-4 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;<sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

**Conclusion:** We must learn the devices of Satan, so that we can resist him and draw near to God. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.<sup>8</sup> Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.” (James 4:7-8).