

Discussion Guide: Our Adversary the Devil - Part 5

Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 (NIV)

June 1, 2003: "Our Adversary the Devil - Part 5" by Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor College Park Church. Pastor continued his series on Our Adversary the Devil with two of three strategies of the Devil: #1 creating doubt and #2 causing dissatisfaction.

Pastor began the sermon by playing the opening sound track of Mick Jager's "I Don't Get No Satisfaction" to illustrate Satan's second strategy of creating within you an overwhelming feeling of dissatisfaction, discontent and unhappiness.

Preaching from Genesis 3:1-7, Pastor Kauffman reviewed how Satan loves to get us alone and create doubt in our lives. Doubt about God and His goodness, doubt about God and His Word, and doubt about God and His character. In the end this doubt creeps into our lives, and we begin complaining and grumbling and become very dissatisfied.

- Satan attacks God's word. "Did God really say..."
- Satan denies and contradicts God's word. "You will not surely die..."
- Satan encourages dissatisfaction. God is hiding knowledge from you. If you disobey you will gain wisdom and be like God. (Genesis 3:5-6)

Pastor also pointed out how Satan attacked the children of Israel after they passed through the Red Sea. After the celebration and a few hardships arose, the people began to complain and grumble and become very dissatisfied. He also pointed out a similar situation when Satan attacked David. After all that God promised was fulfilled, David became dissatisfied and coveted another man's wife. Both situations led to loss of blessings and discipline of the Lord. The downward spiral of the consequences of yielding to Satan's attacks and becoming disobedient are graphically described in Romans 1: 18-32.

To ward off the schemes of the Devil to create dissatisfaction within you, Pastor encourages us to, "know the word of God well, and keep track of those things in which we are satisfied. Dwell on those things for which there is praise. Keep track of the blessings God has bestowed upon you, etc." (xRef Philippians 4:4-9).

Discussion Questions

1. Open your Bibles and memorize 2 Corinthians 2:11 as a Flock Group.
2. Discuss how being alone allows the devil opportunity to create doubt versus when you are with others, especially Christians. What scriptures bring insight to this topic?
3. How has the Devil created dissatisfaction in your own life during the last few days, weeks, or months? Remember he is crafty and won't want you to share what is going on in your life with other believers. Don't let pride stop you from being vulnerable.
4. What can you do during the next week to gain victory over Satan and his schemes? Please be specific.

Background Information

Today, Pastor Kimber pointed out from 2 Kings 6:15-17, that there is, in fact, an ever present unseen invisible world around us. As we gather together in worship and the hearing of God's word from the preached word, there is an invisible dimension of reality around us as we enter into the presence of God as a body of believers.

Pastor exhorted us to be diligent and watchful of the Devil's schemes in this regard. Just as Elisha could see the spiritual army on his side (2 Kings 6), we need to be putting on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6) and taking our stand against evil forces. Pastor warned that in order for us to be successful in deflecting the attacks of Satan, "We've got to know the word of God well." He also encouraged us to affirm that "God is good, always good and perfect in His goodness."

Remember, in Genesis 3:1-13 in his encounter with Eve, Satan [in the form of a serpent] spoke to her when she was alone in the garden and **cast doubt**, "Did God really say..." He then suggested she would be better off if she disobeyed, "Your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Eve then followed Satan's logic rather than God's direction and not only disobeyed herself but encouraged Adam to follow suit and do the same. When God called Adam to account for his actions, he passed the blame to the woman you put here with me. When God called Eve to account for her actions, she passed the blame to the serpent who, "deceived me." As a result of their disobedience, sin and death came into the world and the battle for the allegiance of man raged on and will continue throughout history until Satan's final defeat. (Revelation 20:7-10).

As witness to this battle, we read in Job 1:6 - 2:13 how Satan accused Job before God and was allowed to afflict him, but Job remained true to God even during his tragic loss of blessings and the personal time of agony in which he was left alone except for his wife, and three friends who continued to **cast doubt** and give him negative input. But through it all, Job persevered, and the Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. (Job 42:12).

The third account in which we find the words of Satan in the Bible is at the beginning of Jesus' ministry when he was led out into the desert by the Holy Spirit to prepare himself for the task before him. And during that time when he was alone in the desert, Satan began his attacks by **casting doubt** upon God's word and attempting to get Jesus to align with him instead of following the will of his Father in heaven. But Jesus countered each attack by quoting the word of God and remained true to his Father in heaven. (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-13).

In the letters of Paul to the church in Corinth we read how Paul encouraged them to forgive, comfort and reaffirm their love for an immoral brother who underwent church discipline and repented from his actions, in order to defeat the schemes of Satan...who loves to work on and defeat those who are cut-off from godly influences and encouragement of fellow believers. (1Cor 5:1-5 and 2 Cor 2:5-11). We need to restore and reaffirm our love when faced with similar circumstances.

Remember: Pray for Pastor and his family, and those you hold dear, to be protected and delivered from the schemes of the devil (Matthew. 6:13).