

CHRISTIAN'S STRUGGLE IN CORRUPT SOCIETY

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A person's struggles in today's society, come from Satan constantly trying to have us be interested in something; or some entertainment; or some activity that would be spiritually harmful to a person. The spiritual war began in Genesis, when the serpent convinced Eve that she would not die if she rejected the Word of God, and she accepted the lie the devil told her.

The serpent told her that she would not die if she disobeyed God, and that she would know as much as God. There has been a struggle with Satan from that day to this, and it will not stop until Jesus returns. When we are tempted to think or decide in a way that would be against the Word of God, we need to know where that came from, and with God's help be ready to resist. (Ephes.6:12 we are told) "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

The Christian's life is constantly "striving against sin" (Heb.12:4 informs us), and it is an on-going battle with the enemy of our soul (Satan), who will not stop deceiving, until he is thrown into the Pit and sealed. (Rev.20:2) An angel "laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years."

Satan does not approach us in a way that we recognize him, but he is always disguised as something else. To the apostle Paul he was "a thorn in the flesh; a messenger of Satan to buffet me." (2 Cor.12:7)

An 'agent of Satan' could be anything; any person; any activity or interest; it can be some religious teaching that takes us away from faith in God. The apostle said that the trials came, "lest he should be exalted above measure."

The average religious person will talk about God's love, His mercy, and His grace, which are encouraging aspects and parts of His character, but there is also a deadly fight with the devil that rages, and it is called 'spiritual forces of evil'. We all need to address this matter, and we must be aware of our deadly enemy, Satan, who comes against us, and wanting to corrupt and destroy our good principles and corrupt our conscience (to take us to be part of a corrupt culture).

Scripture warns us that the devil is someone to be dealt with. He is portrayed as a wicked deceiver, or like a wild animal prowling to attack. If we under-estimate the devil's deceitfulness, it can allow him to take us down and out of God's plan and the Christian race. We cannot win if we are not alert. The apostle was aware, and he warned us (2 Cor.2:11) "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

We must stand strong in the power of Jesus' Christ, "lest we fail and lose the struggle against sin," which is the worst thing that could happen, since there is no reversing the outcome once that takes place. But God offers hope via a victorious 'life in Christ' by the power of His Spirit.

However, God's Word tell us that we can win this war that Satan wages against us (1 John 4:4) "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Jesus also prayed to the Father for us (John 17:15) "**that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.**"

Satan is more active today than ever, and he is out to deceive, defeat, and destroy anyone who has let down their guard. With time running out, he is clever and always changing the many forms of his disguise. The key, however, is knowing God's Word; following Christ in faith, and so then having the Holy Spirit to help us resist, and to remove wrong attitudes, wrong activities, and wrong entertainment from our life, (or anything else outside the will of God) if we will listen.

Although that spiritual struggle continues, (Romans 5:3-4 instructs everyone, that "We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope." That living hope we have is, what our living Savior promised (1st John 4:4) "**greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**"

Satan will often use discouragement or depression, and he wants us to seek our own way out of our situation, in a way that would be outside 'the will of God'. Whatever we do, or however we decide, it must be decided and done according to the Word of God. (Eve's mistake and defeat that followed, should teach us that lesson.)

When we give our life to God the battle from the devil gets stronger, for Satan is not pleased when we accept, believe, and follow the doctrine Gospel of Jesus Christ, [because the devil knows that it can lead us to Eternal Life instead