

A Handbook of Enemy Strategies

Teaching Notes

[February 12, 1984](#) / by [John Piper](#) / Topic: [Spiritual Warfare](#)

A wartime mindset must include shrewd knowledge of enemy tactics: Ephesians 5:11, "Take no part in unfruitful works of darkness, but instead *expose them*."

Christianity stands or falls with the reality of Satan and demons. Why? Because Jesus spent his whole ministry fighting them. If they are not real he is reduced to a comic figure.

What is Satan's aim and his strategies?

1. He is the *Father of lies* . John 8:44
His *nature* is falsehood! He only speaks the truth in order to deceive.
2. Therefore, his chief enemy is truth - *he opposes God's word*. Genesis 3:1-5
3. He *casts doubt on God's goodness*. Genesis 3:1-5
He destroys the obedience of faith.
4. He *hinders missions strategy*. 1 Thess. 2:18
He opposes the truth reaching and converting people.
5. He *distorts and prevents effective Gospel ministry* . Acts 13:8-9
6. He *avoids inner need by removing external trouble* . 1 John 3:12
7. He *uses the fear of death to hold men in bondage* . Hebrews 2:15
The fear of death doesn't lead them to God because it leads them to get as many kicks here as possible.
8. He *causes people to stumble over bad Christian attitudes*. 2 Tim. 2:24-26
9. He *blinds the minds of unbelievers* . 2 Cor. 4:4
10. He *exploits a lack of understanding* . Mt. 13:19
11. He *suggests ways that don't involve suffering* . Mt. 16:23; Mt. 4:1-11
12. He *imitates religious roles*. 2 Cor. 11:14-15; Mt.13:28,30; Rev. 2:9
13. He *misuses Scripture*. Mt. 4:6
14. He *imitates signs and wonders*. 2 Thess. 2:9; Mk. 13:22
15. He *offers exotic occult alternatives*. Rev. 2:19-24
16. He *attacks faith*. 1 Thess. 3:5; 2 Cor. 11:3
17. He *brings persecution*. Rev. 2:9; 1 Pt. 5:8; Lk. 22:31
18. He *brings sickness*. Job 1:11; 2:5; Lk. 13:16.
19. He *causes dissension over doctrine and causes rifts* . Rom. 16:17-20
20. He *tempts saints with sexual allurements*. 1 Cor. 7:5; 1 Tim. 5:15
21. He *takes advantage of unresolved anger* . 2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 4:27
22. He *promotes pride*. 1 Tim. 3:6

We began with *liar* and end with *pride*. Connection: the *truth* is that God is God and we are not. It is humbling. The only way to rebel against the lowliness of creaturehood is to be a liar. Therefore humility under God is the great devil resistance (James 4:6-7).

©2013 Desiring God Foundation. Used by Permission.

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in its

entirety or in unaltered excerpts, as long as you do not charge a fee. For Internet posting, please use only unaltered excerpts (not the content in its entirety) and provide a hyperlink to this page. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by Desiring God.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By John Piper. ©2013 Desiring God Foundation. Website: desiringGod.org

Related Resources

- [Ambushing Satan with Song](#) (Sermons)
- [Angels and Prayer](#) (Sermons)
- [Hagar and Slavery Vs. Sarah and Freedom](#) (Sermons)
- [Jesus Vs. the Occult](#) (Sermons)
- [Don't Go Back from Sonship to Slavery](#) (Sermons)