



The Devil's
Toolbox



*“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,”
Ephesians 6:11*

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Introduction

The devil, otherwise known as Satan, Beelzebub, The Evil One, The Thief, The Prince of Darkness, The Serpent and many other names has a, “Toolbox” full of tricks and devices that he uses against human beings and especially the children of God. Most folks are unaware of the “Wiles” of the devil. In fact, over 40% of Americans do not even believe that there is a real devil, only that he is a symbol for evil. (Pew Report)

The Bible tells us about his tricks. His purpose is to snare us with one or more of his tools thereby creating a, “Stronghold” in our lives, from which he can lord over us.

The literal meaning of a “Stronghold” is a fortified armed encampment that can be protected.

A “Snare” is a device or trap that is used to capture a prey. It can be a hunter’s trap for small game or a net that is used to catch fish in the sea.

The purpose of tricks, snares, and other tools in “The Devil’s Toolbox” is to capture you, and dominate your thoughts and actions with the ultimate goal of manifesting his evil character through you. Hear what Jesus said about the thief, as he referred to the devil.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

Whatever you call this, “Evil Being” you have to know, without a shadow of a doubt, that he is real and he is after you to steal your dreams, kill any hope of happiness and destroy everything that is good in your life. He wants you dead but not before he torments you for a lifetime.

News Flash

The good news is that Jesus has defeated the devil and he has no power over you but what you give him. That’s right, he has to get you to use your own “Free Will” to accept his lie. That’s how he takes control. Let’s see what the scriptures say so you know that I am not making this up.

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he (Jesus) made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:5

Jesus spoiled all evil principalities and powers. That is a total defeat. Then He made an open shew...this denotes an old Roman picture of conquest over enemies. The evil king and leaders were tied by a rope to the back of a chariot and led down the middle of the city streets in a procession of conquest so everyone could see and laugh at the defeated foe. This is total victory.

Adam & Eve were not forced to submit to the devil when he was tempting them in the Garden of Eden. They had to engage their free will to do what the devil suggested. Take a read:

There’s Always A Choice

*“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field, which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, **Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.***

*And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:** 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. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Genesis 3:1-5*

The serpent is another name for the devil. He challenged the Word of God and persuaded Adam and Eve that God was a liar, when in fact the liar was the devil. However, it was the free will of Adam and Eve that chose to believe the devil and disobey God.



The Devil's Toolbox

We have already seen one tool that is in the devil's toolbox. It is, "The Lie" Jesus, speaking to some religious leaders of His day, said this...

"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." John 8"44

1. Lies That Kill, Steal & Destroy

How many times have we believed a lie? The politicians promise all kinds of things but never deliver. Are they lying? We believe their lies and then what?

Here are a few lies that the devil uses to cause us to do what he wants.

1. Drugs can't really hurt you. Try some and see for yourself.
2. Smoking is not really addictive.
3. Sex before marriage doesn't really hurt anyone.
4. Living is ok as long as no one is hurt.
5. Taking a pen from work is not really stealing.
6. Drinking alcohol is ok. It's cool.

Now let's look at some other lies that are active in modern societies

2. Idolology That Contradicts Bible Truth

The way you think is the basis for how you act and the way you live your life. There are certain lies that seek to alter your thought processes thereby changing your viewpoint. Here are a few:

There Is Only One True Church.

All the others are false. You must belong to our church in order to be saved. We are the true church of God.

This idolology is so untrue. Salvation does not come as a result of a church membership. Nor does it come from a, "True Religion" It comes from the

finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. He paid the price of sin with His own blood/death. Hear what the scriptures say...

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” Romans 5:9-11

You Don't Have To Believe In Jesus To Attain Eternal Life.

The truth is, you do have to believe in Jesus to be saved and will not see heaven unless you accept Him as Savior and Lord. Hear what was said to the people of Israel.

“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone, which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:10-12

We Are All Children of God

Listen again to the scriptures. They reveal the truth.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ***The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:***” Romans 8:14

If I Try To Be Good, That's Enough, Right?

The Bible tells us that even religious leaders will not see God's kingdom unless they are, “Born Again” We must be, “Born Again” in order to see God's Kingdom. That's what Jesus said. Keep reading for the proof text.

*“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”* John 3:3

There Are Many Ways To Heaven.

The lie is that we’re all climbing the same mountain but by different paths. In other words, *there are many ways to attain eternal life.* This is in direct contrast to what Jesus said. Listen...

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:” Matthew 7:13

The narrow gate is Jesus. He said Himself that...well, read it for yourself...

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**”* John 14:6

3. False Religions That Teaches Heracy

How often have you heard someone say. “It doesn’t matter what religion you follow. You’ll still end up in heaven.” This lie extends to multi culturalism as well. People say it doesn’t matter if you are Hindu, Muslim, Jew, Sikh, Buddhist, Catholic—whatever. It’s not a religion that saves us but rather a relationship with Jesus Christ.

There are many false religions in this world. I call some of them, “Isms.” They teach heracy and lead people astray. They distort the truth, deny the diety of Christ and create a bondage that is very hard to break. Here are a few “Isms” to stay clear of. These are Anti-Christ.

Relativism – Relativism is the idea that there is no such thing as truth. The devil doesn't want you to believe in truth because if there is not truth, then there is also no right and wrong, and if there is no right and wrong, then anything goes. He can tempt you into sin much more easily if he can first get you to believe there is no such thing as sin. Relativism is everywhere in our society. It takes many different forms.

Under Relativism I can do my own thing. I can ignore any truth that does not line up with what I think. I am right all the time because there is no right or wrong, just whatever I want. This makes me my own god. How sad!

Utilitarianism – In Short...universalism is a theological doctrine that all human beings will eventually be saved: the principles and practices of a liberal Christian denomination founded in the 18th century originally to uphold the belief in “universal” salvation is now united with Unitarianism.

Here is the melting pot of all kinds of beliefs. You can believe anything you want and still be a member of this church because there is no standard or rule of practice, only what you think is right. The problem is...what we think is right is often wrong and with the devil lying to us; we can be easily misled unless we know God's truth. Jesus said...

“Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.” Luke 11:35

Jesus knew that much of what was being presented as truth or light was not truth at all. It was actually darkness. We need to stay away from such as this.

Atheism - Atheism is defined as the disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God. Whereas, Theism is the belief in the existence of a God, especially belief in one God as creator of the universe, intervening in it and sustaining a personal relation to his creatures.

This non-religion premise has in modern times become a religion unto itself. It denies God any place in reality and sets man up as his own god. The end of this can only be eternal death.

“There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Proverbs 14:12

Mormonism - The Mormon religion, (Mormonism), whose followers are known as Mormons and Latter Day Saints (LDS), was founded less than two hundred years ago by a man named Joseph Smith. He claimed to have received a personal visit from God the Father and Jesus Christ who told him that all churches and their creeds were an abomination. Joseph Smith then set out to begin a brand-new religion that claims to be the “only true church on earth.

This doctrine is a lie and a distortion of the truth. It is a humanistic approach to religion that denies the deity of Christ, The God Head, The Gifts of The Spirit and many other Bible norms.

Socialism - By the late 19th century, socialism emerged as "the most influential secular movement of the twentieth century, worldwide. It is a political ideology (or world view), a wide and divided political movement" Socialist parties and ideas remain a political force with varying degrees of power and influence on all continents, heading national governments in many countries around the world.

Today, some socialists have also adopted the causes of other social movements, such as environmentalism, feminism and progressivism. They reject religion, faith and are anti-God

Satanism - is a group of ideological and philosophical beliefs based on Satan. Contemporary religious practice of Satanism began with the founding of the Church of Satan in 1966, although a few historical precedents exist.

Prior to the public practice, Satanism existed primarily as an accusation by various Christian groups toward perceived ideological opponents, rather than a self-identity. Satanism, and the concept of Satan, has also been used by artists and entertainers for symbolic expression.

Liberalism - Unlike traditional liberalism, there is a certain element of tyranny within the modern liberal movement. In past centuries, liberalism was used to literally liberate people from the rule of kings and tyrants.

Modern liberalism is now imposing its imoral beliefs onto people who are not interested in focusing their lives around how their state can help them; it is a forced movement that is functioning more like a tyranny than any other

liberal beliefs have ever done. The premise of liberalism is mainly centered in anti-conservitivism which rejects moral laws and respect for tradition.

The devil pushes liberalism more on the young, encouraging imoral behavior or anything that is anti-God.

Leagleism... (or nomism), in Messianic/Christian theology, is the act of putting the Law of Moses above the gospel, which is 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, by establishing requirements for salvation beyond faith (trust) in Jesus Christ, specifically, trust in His finished work - the shedding of His blood for our sins, and reducing the broad, inclusive, and general precepts of the Bible to narrow and rigid moral codes.

It is an over-emphasis of discipline of conduct, or legal ideas, usually implying an allegation of misguided rigour, pride, superficiality, the neglect of mercy, and ignorance of the grace of God or emphasizing the letter of law at the expense of the spirit.

Here are a few non “isms” but equally anti-God:

Witchcraft – This is the practice of magic or sorcery by anyone outside the religious mainstream of a society. This term is used in different ways in different times and places. Witchcraft is part of the Occult that deny God and rejects Jesus as Lord. It is centered in mysticism and preys on uniformed folks that seek spiritual answers.

Jehovah’s Witness - The Jehovah's Witnesses are best known for going door-to-door. You have probably seen them in your area, and more than likely they have knocked on your door. They recently spent over 1.2 billion hours in one year proclaiming the so-called "good news of Jehovah and His Kingdom".

Jehovah’s Witnesses reject the Trinity, believing Jesus to be a created being and the Holy Spirit to essentially be the inanimate power of God. Jehovah’s Witnesses reject the concept of Christ’s substitutionary atonement and instead hold to a ransom theory, that Jesus’ death was a ransom payment for Adam’s sin.

New Age - The **New Age** is a term applied to a range of spiritual or religious beliefs and practices that developed in Western nations during the 1970s. Precise scholarly definitions of the movement differ in their emphasis,

largely as a result of its highly eclectic structure. Although analytically often considered to be religious, those involved in it typically prefer the designation of "spiritual" and rarely use the term "New Age" themselves. Many scholars of the subject refer to it as the **New Age movement**. It is very close to Universalism in that it believes in the spiritual but denied the truth of One God, One Lord and One Spirit, which is the centerpiece of Christianity.

Islam - "The source of the word, (Allah), who is the Islamic god, goes back to pre-Muslim times. Islam calls Allah god, which is not the God of the bible. Allah has about 1.6 billion followers worldwide. In 2010, Muslims made up 23.2% of the global population. According to the Encyclopedia of Religion, Allah corresponded to the Babylonian god Baal, and Arabs knew of him long before Mohammed worshipped him as the supreme god.

Before Islam, the Arabs recognized many gods and goddesses; each tribe had their own deity. There were also nature deities. Allah was the god of the local Quarish tribe, which was Mohammed's tribe before he invented Islam to lead his people out of their polytheism. Allah was then known as the Moon god, who had three daughters who were viewed as intercessors for the people.

Demonic Suggestions

We could go on and on but you get the point, right? There is a suggestion made by the devil to us that is a lie. It is presented as truth. If we believe it, we fall prey to the devil's manipulation and eventual take over. He wants to be the, "Voice In Your Head" that lord's over you. He wants to lead you away from all that is Godly.

All that has been mentioned above deal with lies that if accepted and believed will capture you and lead you from the light of God's glory into darkness.

4. Pitfalls In Personality...The Deeds of The Flesh

Now here are a few inward traps that cause sickness in our bodies and hasten our demise. These character flaws are used by the devil to capture us and take us down the road to destruction. They are a product of our own fallen

nature. The Bible calls them the “Works of The Flesh.” There is a full list in Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21

All the devil has to do is to suggest a plan of action that involves one or more of these character flaws and if you buy it, you’re off into the flesh that cannot please God. If he tells you that your brother’s wife is sexy and you probably could have her and you start thinking of the reality of that encounter, you have committed Adultery. Lust takes over and ego soars and imaginations rule. You don’t have to do the act, just think about it.

The same is true of Pornography. If you are just looking it’s still fornication in your mind and that will distort your sense of morality and steal your Godly values.

“But I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Matthew 5:28

The devil doesn’t make you do it. He only suggests that you do. It is your own will that takes you down the road to hell.

5. Accusations That Destroy Self-Confidence

The Bible says that Satan, (the devil) is the accuser of the brethren. Here is the exact scripture...

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Revelation 12:10-11

The, “They” in Verse 11 is us, The Brethren. We can and do overcome this accuser with The Blood of The Lamb, The Word of Our Testimony and Because We Loved Not Our Lives Unto Death. See?...we can have victory.

You may be wondering what types of accusations are made against us. Here are a few:

1. You are ugly and stupid.
2. You are not worthy of anyone’s love.
3. You cannot be saved because you have done too many bad things.
4. You are a bad person so go ahead and be bad.

Demonic accusations are meant to cause doubt, fear, low self-esteem and worry among other things. However, the scripture (12:11) also says that the accusation is against you but before the throne of God. He accuses you in front of all the host of heaven. All the things you do wrong are brought before the court of God’s Justice. He is constantly telling God what you have done wrong. If we are “Born Again” Jesus, who is seated at the right hand of God, The Father, is interceding on our behalf, saying in effect, “He or she is mine. Their names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. They’ve been washed in my Blood.”

6. Demonic Strategies That Attack Right Thinking

Larry R. Lawrence offers these four demonic strategies that the devil uses to defeat God’s Children. We need to know what they are and look for them in our daily experiences so we can stop them from hurting us.

Temptation... Satan nags us to act on addictive urges and to entertain selfishness and greed. How can we resist this direct temptation? Jesus used a two-step defensive technique: first, He ordered Satan to leave; then He quoted scripture. You have the right to tell Satan to leave when you are confronted with temptation. There is great power in memorizing scripture, as Jesus did. Scripture power not only intimidates Satan, but it also brings the Spirit of God into your heart. Listen again to the scriptures...

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”. *I Corinthians 10:*

Deception... The devil has been called “the great deceiver.” He attempts to counterfeit every true principle the Lord presents. Although Satan will lie to you, you can count on the Spirit of God to tell you the truth. That’s why the gift of the Holy Ghost is so essential.

The devil will try to deceive you at every turn in life. He will try to get you to believe that right is wrong and wrong is right. Immorality is not wrong. It’s just different. Abortion is not wrong. It’s just a women’s health issue. See how it works?

Contention... Satan is the father of contention. He delights in seeing good people argue. When there is contention in your home or workplace, immediately stop whatever you are doing and seek to make peace. It doesn’t matter who started it.

“Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger rests in the bosom of fools.” Ecclesiastes 7:9

We do not want to be counted with the fools of this world. However, the devil wants us there so he and the rest of the inhabitants of planet earth can laugh at us.

Discouragement... Satan effectively uses this tool on the most faithful Saints when all else fails. President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) gave suggestions for fighting discouragement. They include serving others; working hard and avoiding idleness; practicing good health habits; seeking a priesthood blessing; listening to inspiring music; counting your blessings; and setting goals. And above all, as the scriptures teach, we are to pray always so we can conquer Satan.

When we get discouraged, it is usually because we didn’t get our way. Something hindered us from being on top. Instead, we got fired, lost in a card game, watched as our souse left us, or some other bad thing.

There is an easy remedy for discouragement. That is to make Jesus the Lord of your life and trust Him in every circumstance. This takes the burden of responsibility off of you and allows God to work out everything for good.

7. Materialism That Denies The Hereafter

I'm not talking about going to the mall to shop until you drop. That's a minor form of materialism. The deeper problem is the growing conviction that there is no supernatural realm. God, the angels, demons, heaven and hell are just a myth. There's no invisible world.

The church is just an institution of man's making by which he controls the masses. The pastors, priests and church leaders are no more than social workers. Marriage is just a piece of paper, and salvation is not necessary because there is no after-life. That's materialism. Do you recognize it?

It is anti-God in every way because it rejects any future existence after death. The irony is that this type of thinking makes life a total waste. The fact that we exist has no meaning. If we become rich and powerful or just live life normally makes no difference. Whatever we do is without purpose because it really does not matter because there is no after life, judgment or reward. We need to resist this type of reasoning at all cost. It's a lie. God does exist. There is an after life. We will be held accountable for our actions.

8. Situational Ethics That Replaces Absolute Truth

This is another name for moral relativism. The idea is that nothing is right or wrong except for the intentions and circumstances of the moral choice. If you mean well and the circumstances justify it, then what you've chosen to do is okay. Huge numbers of Christians have accepted this premise to justify abortion. If it feels right, it must be ok. However, feeling right is not the same as God's Moral Laws. His Word is absolute, no matter what you or I feel.

The devil will always invoke a situational ethic into the mix so as to divert our thinking away from the absolute truth of God's Word. Here's an example of situational sin...

We all know that it is wrong to steal. It is so said in the 10-Commandments that man shall not steal. However, if I am hungry and have no money and am down on my luck, it's ok to swipe a loaf of bread from a supermarket or a candy bar from a drug store. Right? Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! The situation does not over through God's law. It is always wrong to steal, no matter why we do it.

9. Scientific Facts That Contradict Biblical Revelation

This is the idea that the only kind of truth is scientific truth. It's a powerful lie of Satan because it is one of those things, which is simply assumed in society.

“We all know that science has disproved the Bible right?” Wrong. All truth is God's truth and true science is always the sister of true theology. Scientism is an offshoot of atheism. “There is no God. There are just the laws of science. That's all.” No! No! No!

This Godless doctrine ushered in evolution back in the 18th century. It was the devil's way of offering a believable platform for those who did not want to follow God. As you may know, this theory says we evolved over millions of years into what we are today, with no divine influences. Thus we are our own gods and masters of our own destinies. Hitler used this theory to killed six million Jews in WWII. African Americans were once considered sub-standard beings because of this theory. Hear what the Bible says...

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. ” Hebrews 9:27-28 We should be looking to Jesus, not science.

10. A “Snare” or Trap That Captures The Unaware

The devil will use anything he can to capture us and use us to do his will. It can be hate, jealousy, pride, sex, gluttony, fame, fortune, power and the like. All he has to do is set the trap, dangle the bait in front of us and wait for us to engage our free will to go after it. Christians, “Beware!”



11. False Prophets & Teachers That Lead people Astray

Here's what the Bible says about false prophets and teachers...

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” Matthew 24:11
Mark 13:22 says it this way...”For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if *it were* possible, even the elect.”

It is clear that the goal of these false prophets is to deceive. Their teachings are false. Their efforts are for self-empowerment. Their doctrines are demonic in nature. Have you ever heard of Rev. Jones that took his congregation overseas and killed them all... but only after abusing the females and stealing their wealth?

Let's bring this on the level of the average Christian who can also be a false teacher. Here again what Jesus said to His disciples...

“For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” Matthew 24:5 The term, “Christ” literally means Anointed. What is really being said is that there will be many that claim to be anointed of God, like Jesus was anointed. This is the mark of a Christian but these false Christians are not anointed. They just claim to be. They will be able to talk the talk but do not follow the truth of the gospel message. A good example is the Mormon Church. These days they claim to be the Latter Day Saints and call themselves Christians. However, they believe very differently. Their doctrines are anti-Christ. These false believers are sprinkled throughout all main line denominations.

How many Folks do you know that profess to be a Christian but have no knowledge of what it really means? Some even claim to be anointed when they operate in the flesh and promote a secular gospel than is a kin to Humanism.

12. Sickness & Disease That Kills The Body

The devil will use sickness and disease to steal our strength, destroy our health and kill our healthy cells. However, we are challenged to believe another report. This time it's not the doctor's diagnosis but the Divine Healer's Report.

The question is, ***“Does God Want You To Be Healed”*** or ***Will He Say No To Your Plea?*** I was a Baptist, way back when. Our prayer for healing always started with, ***“If It Be Thy Will”*** We never knew if it was God's will to heal or not. Maybe there was a reason why He didn't want us to be healed. Then I looked into the scriptures and found these declarations:

Healed By His Stripes

- *“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:3-6* “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?” Isaiah 53:1

Note: This suffering servant, spoken of by Isaiah, has borne our grief and carried our sorrows. He was stricken of God. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him.***and With His Stripes We Are Healed.***

The only person that qualifies in all these areas is Jesus. Isaiah clearly said that our healing is in His stripes, which were the beatings and burses and wounds. His blood and subsequent death brought healing to those who believed his report.

Healed By The Prayer of Faith

- "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven." James 5:14-15

Healed Through Worship

- "Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you..." Exodus 23:25

Healed By The Lord, Just Because

- "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the LORD" Jeremiah 30:17

Healed By God, No Strings Attached

- "I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel's mourners, creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them." Isaiah 57:18-19

All Your Needs Met Includes Healing

- "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19 **Healing is a need.**

Healing By God's Divine Will

- "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his stripes (wounds) you were healed." 1 Peter 2:24

Healing By Increasing Strength

- "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." Isaiah 40:29

Healing By The Word of God

- "Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind." Psalms 107:19-21

Healing For The Broken Hearted

- "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalms 147:3

All Were Healed...No One Was Rejected

- "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness." Matthew 9:35

The Devil Uses Sickness & Diseases To Oppress The Children of God

The Bible tells us *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were **oppressed of the devil**; for God was with him."*

*"And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." **And Jesus rebuked the demon,² and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly**" Matthew 17:14-18*

*"Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? **And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?**" Luke 13:10-16*

Is there any question as to God not wanting His children to be healed? There was no time when someone did not get healed. Sometimes it was because they asked to be healed. Other times God just healed them.

We should never say, "If It Be Thy Will." Based upon these scriptures, we should now know that it is and always will be God's will that we be healed.

Why Then, In Our Day, Do Many Not Get Healed?

That is a good question. I have prayed for some and seen them receive their healing. I have also prayed and saw nothing happen. Here's what I have surmised after more than 50 years of following Christ.

Some folks just do not believe that Jesus can or will heal them. Some have more faith in doctors and pills than they do in Jesus. Some secretly like their condition because they get sympathy and attention that they would ordinarily not get if they were well. Some get disability checks and do not have to work and like it that way. Some are reaping what they sowed and have to endure it. Some are weak in faith and lose hope before they are healed.

Still others just do not get healed and do not know why. They pray, they cry, they plead and nothing happens. The woman with the issue of blood was bound for 18 years. The blind man was blind from birth so God's power could be used to glorify the name of Jesus. Sometimes there are reasons why things don't go, as we so desire.

This one thing I do know...It is God's will that all of us be in good health and prosper. Until He tells me otherwise, I will continue to seek Him for my healing and believe that I have what I ask for. In fact, I regularly call forth healing into existence. It is an unseen reality that is and is not but will soon to be.

Sickness can come upon us from several sources. If we smoke and get lung cancer, it is our fault, not the devil's or even God's. If we drink alcohol in excess and become an alcoholic, whose fault is it? If we work ourselves to death and come down with a cold or get sick, is it anyone's fault other than our own?

In a world tainted by sin, sickness and disease, death will always be with us. We are fallen beings, with physical bodies prone to disease and illness. Some sickness is simply a result of the natural course of things in this world. Sickness can also be the result of a demonic attack. However, sickness does not originate with God.

The Bible, again says, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9

If God does not want us to perish, that is a clear indication that He does not afflict us with a sicknesses or a disease that would cause our demise. It's just not logical.

I believe I have made a good case against, "If It Be Thy Will". All these scriptures lead me to one big conclusion...It is God's will that we be healed and stay in good health.

13. Expectations That Discourage “Free Will” Choices

The devil often uses people to do his bidding. It could be a parent, co-worker, teacher or even a friend. Their efforts to impose expectation on you can be very painful. It could be an immoral act, a restrictive influence or even a command that goes against what you feel is right.

This type of expectation puts pressure on you to be or do what they want instead of what you feel is right. It is a form of oppression.

On the other hand, God’s expectations are designed to give you the greatest freedom and blessings. Hear what the psalmist said many years ago, *“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.”* Psalm 62:5

If you feel that what others are expecting of you is not in God’s plan for your life or that you just do not have peace about what is expected of you, reject it, no matter who it is. Your peace is more important than their expectations. That will keep the devil at bay and you free. We should always look for what God would expect of us and reject the expectations of others. By the way, God’s expectations are clearly revealed in the Bible.

14. Illusions & Mind Games That Confuse And Manipulate

The devil will also use illusions to confuse you or cause you to think that he has power over you or cause you to think that he owns the world and even people in it. Listen to how he tried to trick Jesus...

“The devil said to him, (Jesus), "I will give you all the power and glory of these kingdoms. All of it has been given to me, and I give it to anyone I please.” Luke 4:6

The devil did not own the kingdoms of the world. Nor did he have the power and glory of those kingdoms. They belong to God. *“The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.”* Psalm 24:1-2

As the story goes, the devil took Jesus up to the pinnacle of the temple to show Him all the kingdoms of the world. The problem is, you cannot see all the kingdoms of the world from that vantage point.

The devil likes to play with your mind and manipulate your imagination. He will play mind games with you in hopes that you will engage your imagination to mentally see what is being suggested. It all takes place in the mind and it is usually a bold faced lie.

Here's how it works with folks today. A thought enters the mind of a kid from the devil or one of his demons. He is in a store looking at a toy truck. The suggestion is, "Take it, no one is looking. The kid mentally sees himself playing with it and sees all his friends being envious of him because he has the new truck and they do not... so he steals it.

It could be a lonely guy wishing he could find a girl. Suddenly a thought enters his mind. It's of an old girlfriend. Another thought tells him, "Boy I could really ...*you can fill in the rest*. Now he is mentally engaged in a sexual act that is not real...thus, he falls into sin, gets depressed because he realizes he is still alone, hates himself for thinking that way and becomes suicidal.

The devil will always suggest that you picture things that you don't or cannot have. He does this because it is tormenting and he loves to torment us as he takes us down the road to hell. His ultimate goal is to drive you to a place where you will act out your fantasies. Thus comes rape, murder, watching pornography and all the deeds of the flesh listed in Galatians chapter five..

The thing to realize is...*not all of our thoughts are ours*. We get some from the devil, from our own sinful nature and even some from the Holy Spirit. We have to try the spirits to be sure they are from God before we act on them. Hear what the apostle John says...

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." I John 4:1-5

Jesus used the scriptures to defeat the devil. He said, **"IT IS WRITTEN."** He knew the Word of God and used it to put down the lie and dispel the illusion. This means if we want to defeat the devil, we also need to know what is written so we can use it at the appropriate time. I am referring to the written Word of God, the Bible. If we are tempted to steal, we can say, it is written, "*Thou Shalt Not*

Steal” Exodus 20:15 This will dispel the illusion. Then we can tell the devil to take a hike.

Knowing scripture is essential to winning the battle. Here’s what Paul said to the Corinthian church back in the first century, *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”* II Corinthians 10:4-5

If we know the scripture, we can cast down every imagination that is against the knowledge of God. That is what Jesus did. He knew that God said that man was not to steal and He used that truth to overcome the devil.

Conclusion

Remember, what God did in the Old Testament was then. We are now in a New Covenant where God’s grace (Unmerited Favor) rules the day. God does not punish His children with disease or sickness. His loving hand is extended towards all who believe, He wants them all to come to repentance.

I am sure you will find other tools that should be added to the devil’s toolbox. I have shown you enough to open your eyes to the, “Wiles” of the devil in hopes that you search out ways to defend yourself. We are in a fight for our lives that has eternal consequences.

The Apostle Peter gave us a clear and present danger with an assurance of victory. Here’s what he said, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”* I Peter 5:8-9

The Apostle Paul said this about that, *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”* 2 Corinthians 10:4-5:

The Apostle John leaves us with this...*”And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.” I John 2:28*



**The Victory Is Ours. Stand Up
And Fight The Good Fight of Faith**