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## Why the “Very Elect” Will Not Be Deceived!

(Extracted from *Set Apart By Truth* – pages 153-155)

by Robert Ardis

You may consider yourself one of the “very elect” and sincerely believe that these New Truths must be WRONG because, if they are TRUE, you would have been deceived in your former beliefs. You probably believe the *very elect* cannot be deceived. Many believe this, but believing such a thought is a sure PROOF that you ARE deceived! Many sincere brethren trust in Matthew 24:24, believing they are the *very elect* and assume it is a guarantee that they cannot be deceived. But look around at the 300+ different splits and splinters of the synagogue of Satan! Someone is certainly deceived! They CAN'T ALL BE RIGHT!

Matthew 24:24 declares: **“For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the VERY ELECT.”**

Please understand this important fact (New Truth #75): the reason WHY it will be IMPOSSIBLE to deceive the *very elect* is because the *very elect* will NOT be there to be EXPOSED to the DECEIT of those *false Christs* and *false prophets* performing those *great signs and wonders*. Verses 21-24 very clearly show that powerful deception happens during the Great Tribulation. The *VERY ELECT* will be in the Place of Safety, away from the *false Christs*, *false prophets*, and “*the face of the serpent*”—Satan the devil (Rev. 12:14). And, be aware that, as of right now, you, the reader, must be extremely cautious and dedicated to *proving all things* by the Word of God—or even as one of the *very elect* you will be deceived. Satan is the great deceiver.

Please understand; any dear, deceived brethren, who are not counted worthy to escape, will know of a certainty that they have been deceived when they find themselves in the throes of the Great Tribulation! Then, their only hope is Revelation 12:11: **“And they**

**overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”**

Make sure you will be one of the *VERY ELECT* when Matthew 24:24 is a reality! Study every New Truth presented in this book. Be like the noble Bereans of Acts 17:10-11. You must be *CONTINUALLY* growing **“in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...”** (II Peter 3:18).

Remember, GROWTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST IS NEW TRUTH, GIVEN BY THE GRACE OF GOD! You MUST prove all things—God’s way! Have you PROVEN all that is written in this book?

God’s True Church IS *Set Apart By Truth!*

God will POWERFULLY place His endorsement upon us, for EVERYONE to recognize us as the TRUE CHURCH, when the time is right according to His Plan! The *Midnight Cry*, followed by miracles, signs, and wonders, will attract great attention. However, unless New Truth accompanies the *signs, miracles, and wonders*, be extremely cautious—they will NOT be of God (Matt. 7:21-23). Many of Satan’s counterfeit “churches” and the great *false prophet* will perform awesome “false miracles” in an attempt to confuse and deceive those seeking the True Church.

**GOD’S TRUE CHURCH WILL ALWAYS BE SET APART BY TRUTH!**

In John 17:15-17, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made a last request as he fervently prayed to God:

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## Greetings brethren!

As I write, it has already been over a week since we joyfully celebrated the glorious Day of Pentecost – Feast of Firstfruits, on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

In the May issue of the *Philadelphia Witness*, we had looked at the law and justification question that many adherents of so-called “Christianity” so grossly misunderstand.

In the spirit of being “ready always to give an answer to every man who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15), this month we will examine another scripture: **John 10:30**. Some of those who God brings to us from “the streets and lanes of the city”, or from “the highways and the hedges” (Luke 14:21-23) may not always fully understand what Christ meant when He stated that *He and His Father are one*. Some may have been taught that there is only one God, or perhaps even that Jesus was a created being.

What Jesus was in fact revealing in John 10:30 is that there is **ONE Godhead**, or **ONE God Family** – now composed of two Individuals, God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ – who are of *one mind and purpose*. This is clearly stated in John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” The “Word” was the One who later became Jesus Christ (v. 14).

In his epistle to the Hebrews, the apostle Paul shows conclusively that *Jesus Christ was and is now God*: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. 1:1-3). In verse 6, we may also read that all the angels of God worship Christ; and of course, we understand that only a member of the God Family is worthy of worship.

Through the gospel message, which Jesus Christ brought to us from His Father – depicted by the wonderful, deep meaning of God’s Holy Days – we also understand that Man has the opportunity to be

born into the God Family – beginning with the Firstfruits, then the Israelites, followed by all who have ever lived.

In John 1:12, we read that “as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God”. Once begotten through God’s Spirit, we become children of God and joint-heirs with Christ, thus also destined to be crowned with glory and honour (Rom. 8:16-17; Heb. 2:7-10).

Jesus stated that once we express our love to Him by keeping His words, His Father will love us and *They will come unto us and make Their abode with us* (John 14:23). Jesus also prayed that we may be **ONE** as the Father and Him are **ONE**, that we may also be **ONE** in Them (John 17:21) – yes, **ONE God Family sharing complete love and harmony**.

With much love, in Christ’s service



Daniel Frendo

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**I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

Time is very short! We ARE in the Day of the Lord! Christ has returned to His Temple and is giving YOU an opportunity to respond and to be **set apart—by truth**. May God help you understand!

## How to Overcome

by Daniel Frendo

Last month we saw that our Husband allows us to go through tests and trials to confirm how much we have really made ourselves ready to be His wife; and we looked at four specific reasons why we must face tests and trials.

In this article we shall look at four ways how to overcome – or, at how to resist sin.

Through His messages to the seven Churches, Jesus Christ leaves us in no doubt as to the absolutely necessity to overcome. “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name... To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Rev. 3:12, 21).

1) To resist sin, we must **recognise sin**. We must know our enemy. Let us go to. The apostle Paul tells us how he knew the enemy called sin: “...I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet” (Rom 7:7).

So, clearly, Paul would not have known or understood what sin is unless the law revealed what it was. Any who may suppose that they have no sin are very likely to be self-righteous! Like David, we should be asking God to show us how to look to Him: “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day” (Ps. 25:4-5).

2) We must **hate sin**. “Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good...” (Amos 5:14-15). Our carnal nature – our human mind – loves sin, but we must hate it.

Lusts are usually pleasant and appealing. Eph 2:2-3 describes how we all used to be: “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and

were by nature the children of wrath, even as others”. The human mind loves its lusts; our carnal nature hates God’s ways and it hates to give up its lusts. That is why we need to be asking God, on a daily basis, to give us more of His Spirit so that His mind will slowly but surely replace our carnality. As this happens, *we will love what God loves* and also hate what God hates. Prov. 6:16-19 spells out what God hates: “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren”. God hates sin and so must we!

Another aid that assists us in hating sin is meditation. We could meditate on the results of sin. We could even meditate on the sufferings and failures of men and women who sinned; the Old Testament contains several examples of such persons.

3) In an attitude of continuous repentance, we must **draw close to God**. Prayer and fasting are vitally important tools in resisting sin and its author. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up (Jas. 4:7-10). I Pet. 5:6-10 is a parallel scripture of which we should take note.

“I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one” (1 John 2:12-14). It is imperative that we grow in the knowledge of God and of His Word – that we continue to grow in truth. Studying God’s Word to the point that it becomes part of us is vitally important to overcome sin – to resist Satan, the wicked one. Before His titanic battle with Satan (Matt. 4), Jesus was closer than ever to His Father – and He overcame! Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights before

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confronting Satan. Then He quoted and obeyed scripture three times in resisting him.

4) We must also learn to *fill our minds with whatever is positive – with all that is Godly*. “...Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8)

In a *Good News* article from June/July 1983, Herbert W. Armstrong had given a very simple and most practical method on how to overcome sin. He had given the example of parents who strive very hard to shush up a crying baby. Mr. Armstrong had written that he learned the trick of quieting a baby by getting its mind on something else. Applying this method to us means that we discipline ourselves to set our mind on spiritual things when we are tempted to sin.

“When you think about the thing that tempts you – let your mind dwell on it – turn it over in your mind – whether it be a desire to go someplace, to do something or to have something you know is wrong – that thinking about it finally conceives – leads to action and breeds sin. You finally do the thing you kept thinking about, wanting to do. If you keep thinking about it. After a while you will be unable to resist it. That is why you have lost so many of your struggles against sin. The way to prevent sin is to let God’s Spirit fill the mind. ‘Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth’ (Col. 3:2) The way to put a thing out of the mind is to put an opposite thing in the mind” – *Good News Personal*, June/July 1983.

Throughout the first chapter of his epistle, James makes it very clear that the temptation to sin is in the mind. “Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” – verses 14-15.

As the days, weeks and years during the Day of the Lord continue to go by, it is evident that we must *resolve to continue to put on Christ* as we also continue to overcome. Let us take to heart Paul’s exhortation: “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth... Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence,

and covetousness, which is idolatry... now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him... Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...” (Col. 3:1-2, 5, 8-10, 12-16).

Like the apostle Paul, let us resolve to continue, with renewed zeal and determination to truly press toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in God through Christ Jesus.

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## Appreciation: A Source of Tremendous Encouragement

*by Frank Borg*

How can we inspire ourselves, and others, to greater spiritual growth? There is one Godly trait that we could all develop and use more effectively in our efforts to inspire ourselves and those with whom we come into contact.

In today's fast paced world, people selfishly omit to convey appreciation towards others, and even towards God! 2 Timothy 3:1-3 tells us "that in the last days... men shall be lovers of their own selves...unthankful... without natural affection". Could we be too wrapped up in our own selfish interests? Are we perhaps insensitive or uncaring to the welfare of those around us? Timothy tells us that in the 'last days' – or in this end time - when material possessions and the obsession to acquire wealth is unparalleled and unprecedented, selfishness would abound and, as a result, people would be unthankful and would lose their natural affection toward others. These terms refer to those who *think* they have a right to be served and waited upon, yet feel no obligation to return the favor and, worse still, do not express gratitude for what is done. Could we relate to this? Do we selfishly think we have a right to services from our spouses, our children, employees, colleagues or from anyone else that we may have an affiliation with or with whom we come into contact, without demonstrating our appreciation for what is done for us?

On the term 'without natural affection' (verse 3), Clarke's Commentary indicates that people have lost or are losing 'that affection which parents [should] bear to their young, and which the young [should] bear to their parents'. The type of affection being described in this verse is 'an affection which is common to every class of animals; consequently, men without it are worse than brutes'. If we do not show affection, or are unappreciative of others, we are here compared to being worse than animals! Verse 5 tells us that if we fall into this selfish attitude, although we have a 'form of Godliness', we would be 'denying the power thereof'. This same verse concludes by telling us: 'from such turn away'!!

There is great power in expressing appreciation, and in experiencing it when it is intended towards you. It can

truly encourage and motivate people when we express sincere gratitude. Importantly, it also uplifts the person expressing it!

Hebrews 10:24 states: "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works". We must regard the wellbeing and happiness of others so that we can make an effort to excite them, edify them and help them to persist in their life and in their calling. When we show appreciation, we rouse and 'provoke' that person to perform better in any given task, even in their spiritual growth! When we demonstrate appreciation we excite others to further good works.

It is important to be aware of and acknowledge the effort and successes of all those around us. There is true power in expressing appreciation for each other. Even Philippians 4:8 admonishes us to meditate on the things which are praiseworthy. If there is anything worthy of praise, we ought to praise!

We are to give thanks in everything! "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess.5:18). Every good thing that we experience is something for which we should express appreciation and gratitude. We should also be appreciative of our trials (1 Peter 1:6), because it is from these that we can learn, grow and build Godly character.

Showing appreciation to those around us, and most importantly to God for all that He has done and given us, also promotes a positive, uplifting attitude within us. This type of attitude radiates joy and a multitude of other right kind of fruits (Gal 5)! These are the type of fruits which people that we come into contact with can positively feed off! How powerful is the trait of showing appreciation to others!

Let us give thanks always for all things (Ephesians 5:20). Give thanks to God, to those dear to us and those we come into contact with. Once this admonition is applied diligently, fantastic rewards will be reaped by those showing appreciation as well as by those receiving it! Let's inspire ourselves and others to greater spiritual growth by showing appreciation!

## Beware of Satan's Devices

by John Durrad

During the history of God's True Church many have dropped out. All the way from Ephesus to Laodicea the many, not the few, have relinquished their crown and continued in their own human way. Now in the transition from the Philadelphia era to the Laodicean era we have seen the great falling away!

This is very sad. People became sour, caught up with their problems. Many of us today in God's CGF know of former close friends who have left the Church. We are shocked, disheartened, and hardly able to believe it has happened, but why has it happened we surely have asked? As we try to reason why someone would leave the protective Body of Christ, let us realise one important fact. It could happen to you!

We must be sure we are deeply rooted in God's True Church. No matter how converted we are, it is possible to become preoccupied with the cares of the world.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

We only have two choices. We serve God or we serve Satan.

"For 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" (Eph. 6:12).

The more we lean to the world and its ways the more we become easy prey for Satan's devices. He will attack our weakest points. We need to set our priorities. The more deeply involved in God's Work, aims and activities, the less likely Satan will be able to get at us. Our focus must be to build up God's Church and the individual members in it. Work toward unity and avoid division.

What other masters could we be serving? Your ego, your vanity, your ambitions, even your job. A vital key to always bear in mind is not to turn away from God's Church when you have problems. God's Church will give us protection from the wiles and devices of Satan.

We need to know how Satan works. He is a master broadcaster and works inside the minds of people. He is described as the prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2. In our modern age we can understand this as radio sounds and even TV pictures are transmitted through the air. All you need is a receiver tuned in to whatever channel you desire.

The human mind is a receiver that is easily tuned in to Satan's ways. God's Ways are not naturally man's ways but Satan's ways are! Satan broadcasts, not in words, sounds or pictures, but in attitudes, mood and impulses.

We must note that God works in a similar way. Ezra 1:1 states that, "the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus King of Persia," God put the suggestion into King Cyrus's mind to build the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple. But how are we influenced? Are we tuned to God's or Satan's?

Most people are willingly ignorant of God. Many unconverted minds are not actively, intentionally, maliciously hostile to God. No, most humans are just passively hostile against God. They simply do not normally think about God. Spiritual things are a mystery to them. Notice that the first man, Adam, was not deceived.

"For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 Tim. 2:13-14).

Adam sinned deliberately. This opened his mind to Satan. He willingly made himself ignorant of God's Ways. Satan had spiritually kidnapped Adam.

Herbert W Armstrong explained this in his book, *Mystery of the Ages*:

"Adam took to himself the knowledge of good as well as evil. But it was only human good, no higher than the carnal human level of the human spirit within him. He rejected reliance on God and relied on himself for knowledge, ability and power - all limited to the fleshy human plane, deceived and led by the perverted Satan.....

Thus the first created human disbelieved God, disobeyed God, chose to go HIS OWN WAY, do his own thing. Adam did it willingly, but not apparently wilfully or with malicious intent.

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Willingly, Adam was led into captivity by Satan. He had willingly gone along with Satan, the arch-kidnapper of all time...

All humanity came out of Adam and Eve. The present world was FOUNDED in them. The WORLD had ever since been held CAPTIVE! The world had thus chosen THE WAY of the kidnapper, rather than of the potential parent!" (MOA, pages 140-141).

Not many people today would say they serve Satan. We certainly wouldn't. But we do need to know just how he operates. Satan operates on our minds, our attitudes, our moods. If he detects just a slight bad feeling between two brethren he will try to capitalise on that. If we are not constantly on our guard he will soon cause a poor attitude to grow into something bigger.

But God's Spirit is in control, if we let it work in us. Let us look at three areas where Satan can so easily get to us – and even cause some to lose out on Salvation. Knowing this is possible we must be very aware of Satan's devices.

### **The Spirit of Rebellion**

Stan turned against God, fought and lost! He wants us to do the same. Rebellion!

"For thou has said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: (the angels) I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (where God's throne is) I will be like the most high" (Isa. 14:13-14)..

He will try anything to make us rebel against authority, especially God's Government. There is only one way to true freedom, peace, joy and happiness – God's Way

Satan is well aware that the carnal mind is against God and not subject to His Law and so will make use of this as he tries to corrupt us, Rom. 8:7-8.

What is your mind set on? Physical things, or spiritual things? As pillar members of God's Church our spiritual duties must come first. We cannot be weak pillars. We need to be strong and supporting.

We do need to take care of our physical needs and those of others, but what Christ meant in Matthew 6:24 was that we cannot be slaves to both God and to

the ways of this world. This is difficult because Satan is the god of this world, 2 Cor. 4:4.

In this world where Satan is ruling we don't need too much encouragement to allow our minds to drift to rebellion. Satan can see when we are drifting this way and is ever ready to give us a push! A classic example of rebellion is the story of Korah.

Korah and his men, 250 strong, rose up against Moses in protest. "What makes you better than us Moses?" they said. At this Moses quickly prayed to God, and then told them what to do. All 250 rebels were told to meet again the next day with incense and a censer filled with hot coals. Aaron and his sons would do the same, and God would choose.

But look what happened the next day. God was so angry with them he wanted to destroy the whole congregation. However, Moses pleads for the congregation and God agrees to spare them, but tells Moses to get the people away from the houses of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, the rebellious leaders. What happened next was that the three leaders died in an earthquake sent by God. The spirit of rebellion caused death! The 250 followers didn't escape either as a fire consumed them, Num. 16:1-35.

What a powerful lesson to us not to allow a spirit of rebellion to take hold of us. It would be so easy for Satan to stir us up if he sees just a minute attitude of rebellion in us. "Why should I obey that order? I don't agree with it" we may say. Could we be certain we are not in a spirit of rebellion?

In a society based on Satan's principals of selfishness and vanity, obedience doesn't always seem easy. Satan is hard at work in the world, we see rebellion everywhere. However he mostly wants to topple the pillars in God's Spiritual Temple. How can we resist?

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 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).

Submitting ourselves to God will keep us free of Satan's devices. Hunger and thirst for God's Word, strive to obey, put God first and you will not be serving two masters, and the spirit of rebellion will be kept out of your life.

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**The Danger of Pride**

Pride is a big problem because it is difficult to recognize in oneself. Satan doesn't see his own sins, he loves pride, and he likes to see it, and promote it in us?

“But he giveth more grace. (grow in grace and knowledge) Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6).

Pride will make us Satan's friend, but will separate us from God. God loves the humble person. There is an Old Testament warning that applies to us today.

“Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments...Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly house, and dwelt therein...Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God...And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth” (Deut. 8:11, 12, 14, 17).

Remember that pride comes before a fall, and it is only by the grace of God that we have whatever we possess.

The disciples were asking Christ of whom would be the greatest in the Kingdom. No doubt each one esteeming himself better than the other. Christ quickly put them in their place by bringing forth a little child and quelling their pride showing that what is required most is humility.

We need this attitude of always wanting to learn more of God's Ways in a childlike attitude of humility. Pride and the proud will not be in the Kingdom of God.

The more we know God and study His Word the more we will realise just how small we are. That is the opposite of PRIDE – We will become humble.

“Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:10).

God will do the lifting. Thinking that we are better than we actually are causes pride to well up. Understanding the dangers of pride and striving to make God our partner will help us to remain humble and push out one of Satan's devices – PRIDE!

**Covetousness**

To covet means to desire that which is another's and to which we are not entitled. Humanly speaking covetousness appeals to our nature because our nature wants to GET rather than to GIVE. Christ warned His followers and us today about this sin.

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15).

There is a danger in much wealth, just as there is danger in much poverty. In both cases Satan can use either wealth or poverty to tempt us to break this 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

“Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me” (Prov. 30:8).

We should ask God for our NEEDS, not all our Wants. If we have an abundance, we may think we don't need God – Yet if we have too little we may allow Satan to lead us to covet what others have.

Another Old Testament example is the story of Achan. Achan had taken spoils from the defeat of Jericho, against God's orders. He coveted some beautiful garments, and silver and gold and he took them and hid them in his tent. When confronted, he confessed, but the sentence was death! Job 7:1-25.

Physical, carnal, unconverted Israel could not keep the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment. It was against their nature, but the sentence was severe, because Achan knew it was wrong in what he did. Without God's Holy Spirit this 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment against coveting is impossible to keep. Even with God's Holy Spirit it is difficult.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment forbids adultery. The 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment forbids stealing. But the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment forbids even desiring to do these things. It is very easy for Satan to tempt us with riches. We all like nice things. But we should not make obtaining things our major priority.

“Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; (they don't last) they fly away as an eagle toward heaven” (Prov. 23:4-5).



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Don't underestimate the persuasive power of Satan the devil – NEVER! Remember he took on Almighty God for the rulership of the universe – He is so powerful he thought he could win! He tried a second time with Jesus Christ when Christ had fasted for forty days and forty nights. Satan thought he could overcome a physically weak Christ. But Christ, close to death physically, was as strong as could be spiritually, and He commanded Satan to leave after it was all over, and Satan obeyed showing that Christ was Master over him.

But Satan hasn't given up. He battles against God's Church still today – and he finds us an easier target. But we have a tremendous promise from God. If we let God fight our battles, and resist evil with His Spirit, we will never have to fear Satan's devices.

“Let your conversation (conduct) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5).

What a promise that is. Even so, many let themselves fall victim to these three major devices of Satan.

Rebellion: They rebel against God's Authority.

Pride: They are too proud to admit they are wrong.

Covetousness, Lust: They covet power, material possessions, or personal glory.

Brethren! We need to know and understand how Satan works. He is the spirit of the power of the air. He broadcasts with attitudes. His rule though is almost over. Revelation 19 describes the most glorious event in all earth's history - The return of Jesus Christ in supreme glory to marry His Bride. But another event will have to take place before there can be peace and joy on earth. Satan will be bound and restrained for one thousand years no longer being able to broadcast his evil way for that period.

This is of course yet future. Right now we still are in mortal battle with this being. He has many subtle ways to get to us. We have looked at three main categories.

It is necessary, especially now as pillars in the Temple of God, that we gain victory over these three devices of Satan – These attitudes he can stir up in us. If we find ourselves in contention with the Church or another member over some matter – Ask yourself:

Am I being just a little bit rebellious?

Is pride getting in the way of solving the problem?  
Am I lusting after personal power or glory?

If any of these attitudes are present, ask yourself, where do they come from?

Are we submitting ourselves to Satan?

If such is the case, remember James 4:7:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he WILL flee from you.”