

Lies Of The Devil

Introduction. The devil has always used every crafty, deceptive means to overthrow the faith and soundness of the people of God, especially those who have true faith in Jesus Christ.

The devil first presented himself to Eve in the garden of Eden in the form of a snake or serpent (Genesis 3:1-5). The fact that Satan was in the form of a snake implies a great deal about the character and tactics of Satan himself. The scriptures say that he is "cunning" (Genesis 3:1). His questions and comments to Eve were at first designed to cause doubt in her heart (Genesis 3:1). Once doubt was sufficiently established, his final comments were nothing but lies by which he engulfed Eve and led her to spiritual death (Genesis 3:4-5).

Today, the devil has not changed his tactics one bit; the chief of these tactics being lies and deceit which continue to provide him with great success, even within the family of God. Sometimes he strikes like a viper; but, mostly he charms his victims with false hopes and promises of joy and pleasure, until he lulls them to sleep so that he might coil himself around them and slowly strangle all their spiritual inclinations. Even the Lord himself called the devil a liar, the father of all deception and Paul warned the Corinthians of his deceptive powers (John 8:44 ;2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

So today, the majority of the world continues to "eye" the devil's "bait" and willingly swallows it only to find the carefully concealed "hook" just beneath the surface that finds its place in the depths of the soul. It would certainly benefit us to look at some of the lies told by the devil in hopes of warning us beforehand that we might be aware of his devices and avoid them through the help of God's grace.

I. **"One Time Will Not Hurt"**

- A. So many people become slaves of the desires of Satan every day because they believed this lie.
 1. Think of how many lives have been snuffed out prematurely only to face the wrath of God in judgment because they believed their first drink, first puff, first pill, etc., would not "hurt."
 2. Think of how many have lost their mate and their families because they believed that this one time of giving in to lust would not hurt.
 3. The devil simply will not tell you the truth about the end result of your deeds, about the harmful effects of just one sin (James 2:10; 2 Peter 2:20-21)!
- B. What is dangerous about this lie is that it tends to make us believe that we can actually control sin and the devil once we allow him into our lives.

1. However, Jesus said we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).
2. Of course, we tend to accept this lie and believe that somehow we are not seeking to serve the devil by choosing to do his will this one time, especially when we look at the whole of our lives and see that primarily, we are doing what is right.
 - a) We, however, are slaves to whomever we present ourselves slaves to obey (John 8:34; Romans 6:12-16).
 - b) What is so deceptive about the devil's ways is that to knowingly give in to temptation is to say that we are choosing to be the devil's slave "just this one time," and that makes it so much easier to give in the next time.
3. Never forget, however, that you do not have to give in to the devil any more. Through God we have the power to overcome and present our bodies to His service (Romans 6:5-11).

II. **"No One Will Know"**

- A. The secrecy of one's own home or room, the darkness of night or the seclusion of some back road or alley, has always been a deceptive means by which the devil fools people into believing that "no one will know."
 1. What the lie does not reveal is that although it is possible that no other person here on earth will know, you will know!
 - a) You will wake up at 2 a.m. some morning and you will remember and will be terrified; your conscience will scream "Guilty!"
 - b) It may be that in the middle of a sermon a point will be made that touches your heart and you will know you are guilty! Why? Because the word is designed by God to pierce and divide (Hebrews 4:12).
 2. If you ignore it and do not change, that guilt will eat at your soul, destroying the very fiber of your being and character.
- B. Sometimes private sins can become publicly known and one can plainly see the consequences of these actions.
 1. Ananias and Sapphira his wife thought that they were safe, that no one would know, when they lied to their brethren about how much of the price of the land they sold they gave to God; but, they not only lied to man, they lied to God and it cost them their life (Acts 5:1-11).
 2. Judah probably believed that he could go back on his promise to Tamar, his daughter-in-law and that "no one will know;" and he probably thought that "no one would know" when he committed fornication in Timnath with a woman disguised as a harlot; but, it turned out to be his own daughter-in-law and both sins were known (Genesis 38:11-26).

- C. Yet, the most serious aspect of this lie is that it tries to make you forget that there is an all-seeing Judge in heaven who knows exactly what you are doing.
1. P. T. Barnum said, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time; but, you can't fool all of the people all of the time" (cf. Numbers 32:23).
 2. There is nothing that is hidden from God (Luke 12:1-3; Hebrews 4:13). The fact that we must "give account" refers to the reality of the judgment where we will answer for our "deeds" (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

III. **"You Can Repent Later"**

- A. There are at least two basic premises that are false in this statement, the first of which is the arrogant supposition that there will be a "later."
1. "This day" has always been the day that Lord has given us for salvation; tomorrow has never been an acceptable time (Joshua 24:15; 2 Corinthians 6:2).
 2. Our life is sure, in only the strictest sense of the word, for this very moment.
 - a) Our lives are like vapor, it comes and quickly goes (James 4:14).
 - b) Even if you were guaranteed freedom from physical harm and were the healthiest person you could possibly be, that would not erase the fact that the Lord is coming as a "thief in the night" some day (2 Peter 3:9-12).
 3. Therefore, it is dangerous and futile to assume that God will allow us to sin today and repent tomorrow.
- B. The second false premise is that even if you are given a long and lengthy life, how can you be sure that you will be inclined to repent?
1. Any sin, no matter how large or small, when allowed into our lives, affects our ability to resist future temptation and sin.
 - a) When we allow sin in our life and it appears to only affect us a "little" the first time, we have opened the door for more and more sin.
 - b) We have took the bait and are not realizing that the hook is beginning to be set.
 2. Those who have driven a car or ridden a bike knows that the more speed you have, the more difficult it is to make a turn.
 - a) Along these same lines, the more and more you allow your mind and heart to grow accustomed to sin, the more and more difficult it becomes to have a change of heart that produces real conversion (Acts 3:19)!

- b) The Bible calls this process a "searing of the conscience" that makes us no longer able to perceive the pain of guilt and regret (1 Timothy 4:2).
- c) So, if you choose to begin this path toward the world and sin, you can rest assured that the road back is far more difficult and will take every bit as long, and possibly longer, than it took you to go into the world.

IV. **"You Deserve It"**

- A. A great deal of sin and death has surrounded this popular lie of Satan.
 - 1. Everything from cars to hamburgers have been sold to the unsuspecting using this line; but, many have met their spiritual doom because they believed that they "deserved" some type of pleasure that sin could provide.
 - a) The real "hook" that grabs many people is that this lie implies that somehow God is keeping you back from something that you ought to have.
 - b) This is the very point of one of the lies that the devil told to Eve in the garden (Genesis 3:4-5).
 - 2. Theft, gambling, disobedience to parents, fornication, feminism, pornography, drugs and alcohol use, etc., are all based upon this idea that one deserves something that God is not providing!
- B. However, do you really "deserve" sin in your life?
 - 1. If you do, you are saying that you deserve the guilty conscience, the possible destruction of your health and the deterioration of your very being that will always follow prolonged exposure to sin!
 - 2. Finally, you will have chosen to receive the condemnation of your soul to an eternity in hell (Romans 6:23).

Conclusion. The timelessness of the Bible is amazing; truths penned 2000 years ago find relevant, fertile soil in our hearts. Yet, this fact also tells us that we have not learned very much about the wages of sin over the past 2,000 years, for there is truly "nothing new under the sun!"

Satan is no more clever today than he has ever been; he has simply convinced us that we are more clever and can avoid the consequences that men have never been able to avoid! Do not listen to Satan no matter how good it sounds (James 4:7).

A lot of people's consciences are seared because of sin, but you would not be here today if your conscience is seared. Therefore, your heart may still have room in it for the cleansing power of God's word. If you are tired of being tricked by the devil and tired of the constant feelings of guilt because you know you should be holy, then come forward to day and cleanse yourself of all past sins by having them washed away in baptism.