

# Recognizing The Devil's Words

**Introduction.** Jesus describes Satan as a murderer and a liar in John 8:44. Satan is an effective liar; he has and continues to deceive people. The question is do we recognize when the Devil is lying to us?

We cannot recognize the Devil by his physical appearance; we do not know what he looks like. His voice has no distinctive sound that alerts us that it is the Devil that is speaking.

In 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 we are warned that he transforms himself into an “angel of light” and has ministers who transform themselves into “ministers of righteousness.” So we have to recognize the Devil by recognizing the purpose and content of his words.

It may surprise you, but the Devil does not speak that many times in scripture, so we'll look at some recorded conversations of the Devil, for they can help us recognize his lies.

## ***I. The Devil's Conversation With Eve***

- A. In Genesis 3:1-6, Satan challenged the words of God. God said Adam and Eve should not eat of the tree of life; Satan said it wouldn't matter. In fact, he even said it would be good for them!
- B. In this conversation, Satan denied the punishment pronounced by God. God said they would die; Satan said they would not die. Satan also impugned the goodness of God. Satan suggests God did not want mankind to be like Him.
- C. Today, God's word is still being challenged:
  - 1. We evolved from simple organisms (cp. Genesis 1:1).
  - 2. Young people should sow their wild oats (cp. Ecclesiastes 12:1).
  - 3. One church is as good as another (cp. Matthew 16:18).
  - 4. One doesn't have to be baptized (cp. Mark 16:16).
  - 5. God will not send anyone to hell (cp. Revelation 20:11-15).
- D. Any time someone says something different than God, it is Satan, his ministers, or perhaps someone “innocently” doing the bidding and work of Satan.
- E. Any time words are spoken that differ from what God says, denies God will do what He said He will do, or maligns the character of God, they are the words and lies of Satan.

## ***II. The Devil's Conversation With God***

- A. In two places in Job (1:6-12 and 2:1-7), God and Satan have a conversation about Job's ability to withstand testing and trial.
- B. God is not deceived by Satan and is not in danger of succumbing to any of the Devil's plots. God is all-wise, all-knowing, and completely holy; He cannot sin.
- C. So why does God allow Satan to “touch” Job, putting him through so much pain and torment?
  - 1. Today, some suggest that if God were good then He would not allow you to suffer, be tempted, and endure hardship. But in Job's case, God showed His confidence in Job. How? Through suffering.

2. Job is good to begin with, but even better after the testing and trial (James 1:1-5). Job learned to trust and appreciate the wisdom of God even more.
  3. This entire account is for our benefit. Maybe in this book we gain our greatest insight into suffering and what it means to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- D. More of Satan's lies and tactics are revealed.
1. Satan wants us to believe that when we suffer, God has abandoned us, treating us unfairly, etc.
  2. Satan wants us to mimic Job's wife's attitude of "Curse God and die" (Job 2:9). In short, he wants us to give up. He knows the benefits of suffering!
  3. Satan wants us to accept the position of Job's friends: If you suffer it must be God punishing you. Job teaches this is not so.
    - a) One cannot tell his relationship with God by just the normal occurrences of life alone. One has to consider the word of the Lord to determine his position with God.
    - b) If one does serve the Lord in good times but forsakes Him in bad times, one is guilty of the false charge Satan made against Job.

### **III. The Devil's Conversation With Jesus**

- A. In Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13, Satan tempted Jesus, giving us the final, direct insight into his fiendish tactics.
- B. "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."
1. The real temptation is learned by noting Jesus' answer and noting the meaning when first spoken to Israel in Deuteronomy 8:3.
  2. This is not just a matter of considering all God says on every subject ("every word"), but it's an exhortation to trust and obey God.
  3. Any words aimed at discouraging us from trust and obedience should be recognized as the Devil's words — and rejected.
- C. "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."
1. Jesus' answer shows Satan is "tempting" God. Perhaps in hopes of eventually causing us to doubt — can you eat of any tree ...?
  2. Notice also that Satan quotes scripture, but misapplies the meaning. Don't forget all of the lies in connection with Genesis 3. Often scripture will be quoted, but they will be misapplied.
- D. "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."
1. Satan is trying to get Jesus to shortcut God's plan for victory and gaining the kingdom through disobedience. He wanted the crown without the cross!
  2. Words that lead us from true worship, or that suggest there is a better way of gaining victory, or the "ends justify the means" are the words of Satan.

**Conclusion.** Satan may speak to you when you think you are in a place he would dare not be found; i.e. Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. Satan is not intimidated by your relationship with God; he approached the Son of God. He is a roaring lion seeking to devour who he can (1 Peter 5:8). Be sober and vigilant.

Learn to identify his words through the intent (purpose) for which they are spoken and the content. If they are designed to lead you from God and if they are contrary to God's words, they are the words of Satan no matter who is speaking them.

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