

## SATAN'S OPPORTUNITY

Text: Ephesians 4:25-32

INTRO: God is a Spirit, JN 4:24. We cannot see Him, but we see all around us the effects of His influence. Satan also is a spiritual being. we cannot see him, but we can see the effects of his influence in ourselves, our friends, and in others. Eph. 2:2

Satan is vividly described in Scripture. He is a murderer, a liar, & the founding father of both these sins. He is our adversary. He seeks an opportunity to devour or destroy us. Giving him that oppor-tunity is a tragic and often fatal mistake.

### I. SATAN SEEKS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER YOUR LIFE.

- A. He seeks to take advantage of us by his devices. 2 Cor 2:11.
- B. As a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, 1 Pet 5:8.
- C. He desired to have Peter, LK 22:31-32. Desires us too.
- D. He is cunning, crafty, wily. 2 Cor 11:3; Eph 6:11
- E. Given an opportunity, he will destroy us.

### II. SATAN CANNOT UNDULY HARM US UNLESS WE GIVE HIM THAT OPPORTUNITY.

- A. He cannot enter your heart by force & make you sin.
  - 1. There was a time when unwilling souls could be brought under his power by demon possession.
  - 2. But Jesus, during His earthly ministry, was in the process of binding Satan. Simultaneously with the completion of the prophetic ministry in N.T. times, the unclean spirit passed out of the land. Zech 13:2.
- B. You have the power & the responsibility to resist Satan.  
READ I PETER 5:8-9
- C. There is no temptation cannot be resisted, 1 Cor 10:13.  
Earliest resistance is the easiest resistance.

### III. IF YOU GIVE SATAN THE OPPORTUNITY HE SEEKS, HIS

## INFLUENCE WILL GROW.

### A. Sin begets sin.

1. David & Bathsheba, 2 Sam 11. (lust, covet, steal, adultery, lying, murder)
2. Sin involves an attitude as well as an act. It weakens our resistance to the next sin.

### B. Because sin blinds us & hardens us, it perpetuates itself.

1. Heb 3:13, hardened by deceitfulness of sin
2. 2 Cor 4:4, god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving.

## IV. IF GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY, SATAN DISTRACTS OUR MINDS FROM NOBLER THINGS.

### A. Diverts our attention from things above to things on earth Col 3:2, distracts us from the simplicity that is in Christ, 2 Cor 11:3.

### B. Like the seed sown in thorny soil, our spiritual life is choked out by worries, riches & pleasures of this life, Luke 8:16.

## V. IF GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY, SATAN WILL DESTROY YOU.

### A. Do not give him that opportunity, Eph 4:27

### B. To give Satan an opening in your life, to serve him in sin, is to share in his fate, Matt 25:41.

**CONCLUSION:** If you are not a Christian, you are in the devil's kingdom--the power of darkness. Christ invites you to come out of darkness into His marvelous kingdom of light. If you are a child of God, but have fallen prey to Satan's devices, Christ beacons you to return to Him before it is everlastingly too late.

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Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 13, 2000