

THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

By Keith Greer

For a few moments, let us consider some the devil's "**wiles**." A wile is "A stratagem or trick intended to deceive or ensnare."

Do not be ignorant of his devices. "Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." {2 Corinthians 2:11} Men need not underestimate the adversary. The devil has many devices that he uses as he seeks to enslave men in sin. Satan is a master of deception and seeks to hide his true purpose – destruction of our soul!

Avoid his snare. "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." {1 Timothy 3:7} Satan is always placing snares before men to encourage them to return to the slavery of sin. One way we can protect ourselves is by always remembering he cares nothing about us. I've been asked on a number of occasions, "is sin fun?" Sure, but the "fun" comes with terrible consequences. Satan sets many snares and masks the danger that is waiting for those who are ignorant and naïve.

Resist his approaches. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." {James 4:7} No man can successfully resist the devil until he first submits his will to God. The devil will flee when we say "No." Just remember-he won't stay away forever; just until he finds another opportunity to deceive. Too many times the first mistake we make with the devil is putting ourselves in a position that he can easily lead us into committing sin. Why do you think we are told to avoid even the appearance of evil?

Watch for his subtlety. "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." {2 Corinthians 11:3} The devil is good at what he does. From the beginning of time he has lied to man. And there is no truth in him. {John 8:44}. God has told us his methods, purposes, character, and the end result of falling prey to his advances. Let us determine that we will be smarter and defeat him at every turn.***