

DON'T GIVE SATAN THE ADVANTAGE

By Keith Greer

“Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” {2 Corinthians 2:11} How can we avoid allowing our adversary, the devil, to have an advantage over us? Satan may gain such advantage because we are:

Ignorant. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” {Hosea 4:6} Sadly, many people give Satan the advantage by remaining ignorant of God’s word and Satan’s devices. Some folks think what they don’t know can’t hurt them. This is wrong. Ignorance can kill you spiritually. On Judgment Day, God will not accept ignorance as an excuse for disobedience. “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” {Acts 17:30} Those who do not know God’s word are vulnerable to the enemy.

Indifferent. “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” {Revelation 3:15,16} Some wish to remain neutral. God’s Son said, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” {Matthew 12:30} We cannot be indifferent toward the devil; if we are, he will use that indifference to weaken our faith and commitment to God. Sadly, many think they can just rest on the sidelines, allow others to do the real work, then ride the workers’ coattails into heaven. Those who feel this way play into the hands of our adversary and prepare to be with him throughout eternity!

Overconfident. “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” {1 Corinthians 10:12} The world’s pull is real and very strong. Every day, we must guard against Satan’s trickery and cunning craftiness. We know that when we stand with God, no one can resist us. {Hebrews 13:5,6; Romans 8:28} Still, God warns against the danger of forgetting that we and Satan are engaged in a spiritual fight and that our souls are the prize over which we are fighting. Many Christians have placed themselves in harm’s way, thinking they had the strength to withstand the enemy’s allurements. God tells us to avoid and flee the appearance of sin – not to see how close we can get to it without succumbing to its trap and the hold it can exert over us.

Careless. “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.” {Hebrews 12:3} Only God has the real answer to the sin problem. At times, this life becomes difficult, and we lose sight of our reason for battling and struggling. Satan waits nearby to use the difficult and trying times in our lives to allure us away from God. He accomplishes this by allowing us to become careless about how we approach sin. Be watchful!

Flirtatious. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” {James 4:7} Many Christians will lose their souls because they allowed themselves to get too close to sin,

and it destroyed them. Sin is dangerous – it cost the life of God’s son; it has brought pain and every kind of misery upon mankind. No matter how the devil packages his product it’s still ugly and deadly.

Life is full of decisions. We make choices every day we live on earth. Knowing the enemy, his motives, his tactics, and his desire to destroy us should keep us from doing anything to make his job easier. Will you choose to serve God or Satan? ***