

# THE DEVIL'S DEVICES

We must know the devil's devices and fight them aggressively.

## KEY POINTS

- ❖ As we put our love "on trial" this year, we must be on guard against the schemes and devices the devil uses against the people of God.
- ❖ We are not unaware of them (2 Corinthians 2:11). We must stay alert to the devil's intentions and tactics to divide and destroy God's people.
- ❖ "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses" (2 Cor. 10:4).
- ❖ Satan isn't able to destroy the church, but he can and does destroy a lot of individuals with his devilish devices.
- ❖ And the most favoured device or strategy of the enemy is to have the people of God destroy each other.
- ❖ Divide and conquer. Sow seeds of discord (Proverbs 6:19). A house divided against itself will fall (Matthew 12:25). A man's enemies will be those of his own household (Matt. 10:36).
- ❖ These tactics aren't original to Satan, though; he is just copying a tactical Master. Whether it be the Midianites destroying each other as they fled from Gideon (Judges 7:22); the Philistines after Jonathan's attack (1 Samuel 14:16); or the kings of Ammon, Moab and Mt. Seir as they fled from Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:23), the enemy of God and our souls has seen God at work.
- ❖ He's now employing exactly the same strategy against God's own people and it's working very well!
- ❖ Here are some schemes and devices the enemy uses to accomplish division and/or self-destruction:
  - Lies (John 8:44; 2 Cor. 11:3; Revelation 12:9)
  - Rebellion (Hebrews 3:14-16; Psalm 106:5-7, 32-33).
  - Self-centredness (lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, pride of life); the "world" (1 John 2:16).
  - Trying to achieve "the crown" without "the cross" (Matthew 10:38; Luke 9:23; Philippians 3:10).
  - Lack of discipline (1 Corinthians 9:27).
- ❖ Can you truly say the following?
  - I willingly chose not to intentionally injure my brother or sister at any time, for any reason, even when they have wronged me (1 Cor. 13:4-5).
  - I will communicate directly with my brother and sister to resolve issues; my words and actions won't be based on false information, speculation or hearsay (see Matt. 5:21-24; if necessary, use Matt. 18:15-17).

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** 2 Corinthians 2:11; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-20

- I will always attempt to be a peace maker and maintainer (Matt. 5:9; Heb. 12:14)
- I will do what is right, regardless of the actions of others (James 4:17; Heb. 12:14).
- I will aggressively fight against the enemy of my soul who constantly incites me against my human family and my spiritual family (Ephesians 6:12; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7).
- ❖ Let's make this practical. Make a list:
- ❖ Who don't you like? Who doesn't like you (as far as you know)? Beside each name, write the last time you've had a personal conversation with that person. What is your opinion of them based on? Do you actually understand where they're coming from – their background, experiences, challenges, strengths, weaknesses, fears, doubts, insecurities, desires, motivators, etc.?
- ❖ Which person on your list will you approach this week with the goal of making peace, of working to heal that relationship?
- ❖ 'Oh,' you say, 'that's really tough. It will take a lot of time.' But have you considered:
  - What is your marriage worth to you?
  - What are your brothers and sisters in Christ worth to you?
  - What is your own soul worth to you?
- ❖ Can you at least adopt a personal policy to "do no harm"?
- ❖ Jesus gave Peter the "keys to the kingdom" and James was the overseer of the early church, so surely we can trust their words.
- ❖ "Resist the devil. He will flee" (Jam. 4:7). Yes, resist, "steadfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:9).

## DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Discuss reasons people get/stay out of fellowship with each other, openly or secretly. (Is it ever only one person's "fault"?)
2. What makes people reluctant, even resistant, to seek peace or reconcile with others?
3. Review and share scriptural principles for living in peace with each other (and ourselves).
4. What are you willing to do on an ongoing basis, in general or in specific situations, to live in peace with others? With whom do you need to reconcile? Consider, and share if comfortable.

## Prayer Time

*\*Share requests and pray for one another.\**

# WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

## NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    🧠 (Think about)
- 🗣️ (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↔️ (Must share)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Go deeper with your Life Group family.*  
**CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD**  
*Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*

Start-up: "United we stand; divided we fall." Identify and share situations in which this adage is most relevant/obvious. (Have you ever disproved it?)