

# CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

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SATAN'S DEVICES

34

SERIES



In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on living a victorious life over sin and recognizing Satan's tactics against the born-again believer.

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# City of <sup>the</sup> Living God



*“For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:9-11).*

The born-again believer recognizes quickly that his decision to live for God is in complete opposition of the dark forces of this world. Temptations and trials eventually will make their way through the plans of the enemy and God allows them. They are what can make us stronger, or they can make us weaker depending on how we react to them.

Understanding the strategies of Satan can be very helpful in being prepared so that we make the best decisions in life. God certainly has such trust in us that we will overcome temptation.

# SATAN THE FALLEN ANGEL

The devil and his angels hate mankind. They hate us for many reasons, but predominantly because a) we can be forgiven and b) we have taken over their dominion on earth.

The Scriptures speak about the devil have dominion in this world. When God cast him out of heaven and he hit the earth, this became his area of authority. At the Temptation in the wilderness, Satan tries to tempt the Lord by offering the authority over the earth.

## Isaiah 14:12-15

*“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”*

## Luke 4:6-7

*“And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.”*

To counter that authority, God created man and women and gave them dominion over all the earth.

## Genesis 1:28

*“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

This was a direct threat to Satan, and he wanted to stop it right away. Man and woman were supposed to have complete dominion over all the physical and spiritual world in which they lived. While he did thwart their purpose, it was only temporarily stopped. The serpent deceived Eve and tempted them with the forbidden fruit and they both ate of it and became spiritually dead.

The baptism of the Spirit is the experience that restores the dead spirit of man and woman and gives them the dominion that they need in the Spirit.

### **Luke 10:19**

*“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

It’s through the Spirit of God, that our image of dominion is completely restored.

### **Colossians 3:9-10**

*“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”*

With this knowledge it helps us understand why the devil hates us. We have taken over the earth not only in the natural, but also in the supernatural by the power of the Spirit of God. The devil’s ultimate goal concerning man is to steal, kill, and destroy us.

### **John 10: 10**

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

# UNDERSTANDING HIS TACTICS

Understanding how the devil tries to bring us down is crucial so that we are prepared to avoid his tactics. He has many different tactics, but some of his main ways of targeting man are consistently the same. So if we can understand his ways and resist them, then according to the Bible, “he will flee” (Jas. 4:7).

The most common tactic that the devil uses to destroy people is through the sting of offense. He has different baits to lure people to his snare. One of his most deceiving and devious baits is something that every Christian has encountered: offense. In fact, the word, “offense,” comes from the Greek word, skándalon, which literally means the trigger on a trap. So, it is no coincidence that this is the devil’s favorite device.

## **Luke 17:1**

*“Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!”*

Offense is a characteristic of the end times. In other words, the devil will use this bait as his favorite to lure the believer to his trap.

## **Matthew 24:10**

*“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”*

As believers, it is crucial that we see offense for what it is and how it can imprison us and destroy our lives and the lives of our loved ones. While we have no control on how others react to offense, we can learn to avoid the trap of offense.

When we are offended, we are inclined to avoid that person. To protect ourselves, we harden our heart to guard us from the hurt. It can make us unreasonable and stubborn, unwilling to listen. If the offense is bad enough, it can turn into anger, resentment, unforgiveness, and bitterness. Our pride has a lot to do with leading us into the trap of offense. We are

too proud and stubborn to reconcile. Maybe that is part of the reason why pride is an abomination to God.

### **Proverbs 16:5**

*“Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.”*

How do we avoid the sin of pride that produces the offense? The Bible gives us specific Scriptures to avoid it. Don't avoid the person causing you offense. Meet them to reconcile with humility instead of pride.

### **Matthew 18:15**

*“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”*

Is it interesting that the Apostle Paul connects Satan's devices with unforgiveness? If you are harboring unforgiveness in your heart towards someone, then you are falling to Satan's devices.

### **2 Corinthians 2:9-11**

*“For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”*

It's obvious that our unforgiveness has everything to do with allowing Satan to take advantage over us with his tactics and will not only affect us, but others that we love. So, how do we defend ourselves and family? The answer is not to harbor anger and bitterness towards others. The apostle says to not let anger last longer than a day, so that it does not turn into bitterness. Notice that he says harboring anger past a day is giving the devil a stronghold in your life.

### **Ephesians 4:26-27**

*“Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”*



# PORTRAYING SIN AS ATTRACTIVE

Satan has a way of making sin look attractive. He does not want you to think about the dreadful consequences of that sin. He wants you to look at the here and now that is very temporal. There is a saying that is so true. “Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” Your present actions can cost you a lifetime. What you do right now matters. Your decisions can have a far-reaching impact on your life and those that you love the most. But the devil tries to show you the temporary pleasures without the complete picture. His ultimate purpose is to destroy you.

## **1 Peter 5: 8**

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

## **Hebrews 12:24-26**

*“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”*

# RECOGNIZING THE BAIT

The creation of mankind is without a doubt the most intellectual of all of God’s creation on earth. Our superiority over all the animal world is obvious. However, sometimes humans can be dumber than animals. Not all humans, but some humans.

When trappers place bait for animals, it can be very easy to capture a wild animal such as a raccoon. The trap is set with the bulk of the bait

at the back of the cage trap. There is just a little amount on the trigger plate, and a sprinkle going outside the trap. It can be irresistible for the creature once it eats the first bites outside the trap. It will hesitate and finally eat every bit by bit feeling more confidence at each pace. Finally, it reaches the back of the trap and while it goes after the bulk of the bait at the back of the trap, the trigger plate is activated and down comes the door with a crash. The raccoon is caught. The dumb raccoon had no idea. But the raccoon if let go, will almost never fall to that scheme again. It is too wise to take the bait again. Some humans are dumber than raccoons and will take the bait again knowing that it is a trap and not thinking of the consequences. Then after taking the bait, the devil begins to steal, kill, and destroy.

### **Romans 8:23**

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

We have to be wise and look to the future. How will our present decisions affect our future? How will it affect our loved one's future? Just look around us for examples. The world is littered with the skeletons of people that have fallen to the bait of sin. Make up your mind to not be one of those casualties. How do we do this? There are many things that can be done, but here are a few on the list:

1. Don't hang out with people that follow after the temporary pleasures of sin.
2. Don't go to places where there are past temptations.
3. Clean out your house from any sin such as alcohol, drugs, pornography, cigarettes, etc.
4. Clean your phone and computers from any apps including social media or clips that are full of the filth of perversions of sexually illicit media.
5. Don't watch the crud of Hollywood that promotes sexual perversions such as homosexuality and illicit lifestyles.

**For more Information**  
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