

Defeating The Adversary

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy [luo, to dismantle, to disassemble, to break down by component parts] the works of the devil.”
I John 3:8b

In the Old Testament, basically the enemy’s realm was concealed. God was able to unveil it to Jesus Christ so that he could teach his followers and expose the snare of the adversary. It certainly is God’s will that the enemy’s kingdom is exposed. It has always been God’s will for His people to defeat the adversary. It is God’s will for us to individually and collectively stand against the wiles in order to destroy the works of the devil.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”
Hebrews 2:14, 15

Once Jesus Christ accomplished what he had to accomplish and God raised him from the dead, he functioned for forty days in his resurrected body, and then God ascended him to His own right hand. Now the stage was set for this tremendous power which makes “greater is he that is in you than he that’s in the world” to be sent forth. Jesus Christ has taken the place of the angelic intercessions of the Old Testament day. In our power of attorney, Jesus Christ is our strength.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith..”
I Peter 5:8, 9

The lion roars in order to freeze its prey. When the prey is intimidated, frozen by fear then the lion can pounce. If you stay sober on the Word, if you are vigilant and aware, then the roar cannot freeze you. The roar is an “*illusion*.”

The adversary’s objectives (as a thief) is to steal, kill, and destroy. His motives are— to be worshipped like the most high God and to hinder the purposes of God.

Make up your mind never to attribute evil to God. “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
I John 1:5

The adversary is limited: He is not all powerful, or all-knowing; he can’t see the future, he can’t read your mind or put thoughts directly into your mind; he isn’t everywhere present; he can’t create, or corrupt your incorruptible seed; he cannot prevent the return of Christ or violate natural laws of God.

Methods of the adversary:

- The value and delusion of the counterfeit is increased by its nearness to the likeness of the genuine.
- The secret to his success is the secrecy of his moves.
- The adversary always adapts his methods to the times and conditions.
- He is parasitic in nature.

The adversary’s motive is to accuse, blame (like in a court of law), and find fault when you make a mistake. Your character and heart get accused. God forgives and forgets!

The true God is: Omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (everywhere present), omniscient (all knowing), He knows the future, and He bountifully supplies. Do we see that God sees and provides? He gets things ready for us ahead of time.

“Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies.” Psalms 119:98

Fronts that conceal in order to steal, kill, and destroy:

- Yourself – leaning to your own understanding or private interpretation. If you spend too much time out of the light, you develop a hatred for the light; you develop hard-heartedness.
- Other people – at times you have to withdraw yourself from those that don’t walk faithful.
- Environment – weather and cultural prejudices.
- Idols or religion – man made forms of worship.

Your mind is to be subject to the spirit (by putting on God’s Word), and your body is to be subject to your reasoning (mind). That’s called alignment and harmony. The key to life is moderation in every category. Take charge of your thoughts. Only the Word of God can keep you straight on what’s just coming from your soul life and what’s coming truly from the knowledge of God. Emotions & feelings can’t be more important than God’s Word. (Hebrews 4:12)