

THE ENEMY'S SCHEMES

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The devil has been working to prevent and frustrate the plans of God from the very beginning. From when he first lied and tempted Adam and Eve in the garden, which they gave in to, he caused judgement to fall on them and all those that followed. A separation from God was a new reality for Adam and Eve. They had to leave the garden and enclosure God had provided and begin a new reality and exposure to the enemy. God, however, was equipped with a recovery plan to restore His people back to Him.

Key Scriptures

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

'Devoured' (*Katapothé*): Swallowed up, overwhelmed, drowned

1. THE ENEMY'S GOALS

1. Steal, kill, destroy (John 10:10)
2. Convince you to distance from God (John 8:44)
3. Disrupting the purpose of His church (Rom. 16:17-18)

Exploiting relationships

- The Whisperer (Psalm 41:7-8, 41:6-8)
- The Gossiper (Proverbs 20:19)
- The Slanderer (Job 42:7)
- The Meddler (1 Peter 4:14-15)

Questions to help you defend against bad reports — they can be contagious...

1. What was your reason for telling me?
2. Where did you get the information from?
3. Have you spoken directly to those involved?
4. Have you personally checked out all the facts?
5. Can I quote you if I check this out?

2. WHAT SCHEMES DOES THE ENEMY USE?

High-level deception (macro) (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

- Our mind (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
- Our weaknesses (Luke 4:1-3a)
- Our hurt (Ephesians 4:31-32)
- Our pride (1 John 2:16)

The enemy is looking for our weak points and how to exploit them:

- Alone (Isaiah 41:10)
- Not enough (1 Peter 2:9)
- Comparison (Ephesians 1:4-6)
- Physically (Hebrews 6:10-12)
- Better things to do (Mark 4:19; Matthew 4:4)
- Discouraged from growth (Galatians 6:7-10)

'Do not give the devil a foothold.' (Ephesians 4:27)

The enemy knows that language is powerful in a war:

- Human trafficking and exploitation vs 'adult entertainment'
- Adultery vs 'open marriages'
- Fornication vs 'intimacy'
- Lust vs 'love'
- Battle for good and evil vs 'political'

The enemy uses false alternatives to God's real blessings:

- Love — abuse / pornography framed as intimacy
- Joy — evil framed as fun
- Peace — revenge framed as justice
- Faithfulness — reframed as divisive, unless it includes all faiths
- Identity — reframed as 'confusion is normal'
- Purpose — reframed as 'not free to live how you want'

These falsehoods lead to burnout, depression, identity crises, lack of purpose and a loss of hope.



3. OUR READINESS AND RESPONSE TO THE ENEMY'S SCHEMES

Our response to the enemy's schemes and attacks:

- Proximity to God (John 14:23)
- Faith in God (2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 John 5:4)
- Love for God (1 John 4:16)

Weapons of our warfare: practically accessing the full armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)

- Communicate with God in prayer
– from the frontline (v18)
- Stand your ground in God (v14)
- Allow the truth to be part of who you are (v14)
- Accept the Lord's strength and help
in our everyday living (v14)
- Trust in the Gospel message (v15)
- Know God has your best interests at hand;
that He will hear from Heaven (v10)
- A life built on Christ;
a rock to steady you in storms (v10)
- Growth, strength and support that is
only found in church (v18)
- Special Move: Access to a living,
active weapon (Hebrews 4:12)
- Rest (Exodus 33:14)

*And he said, "My presence will go with you,
and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14)*

Commitment is key to victory

*So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!'
when you don't do what I say? (Luke 6:46)*

Choose today whom you will serve. (Joshua 24:15)

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil,
and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)*

CONCLUSION

Without Christ, God's children were exposed to the enemy's schemes as they lived under a sin-based system because they fell for one of the enemy's schemes. To remain aligned with God, over time His people needed to obey and uphold 613 laws. This meant you were a sinner if you failed one: Fail one, fail them all.

This was not God the Father's choosing, but our own in selecting to sin over following God's instructions for our lives back in the garden.

Christ's death and resurrection is the cornerstone moment where Jesus fulfilled all 613 laws, fulfilling over 300 prophecies and living a sin-free life. By selecting Him as our Lord we too have been made right with God, and now have access to His presence.

The enemy has nothing on Christ. Remain in Christ and prevent the enemy from having anything on you.