

THEME: The devil is weaker than your faith!

OPENING REMARKS: Some Christians fall into temptation, but a great many of us make plans for disaster ahead of time.

"Son," ordered a father, "Don't swim in that river."

"OK, Dad," he answered. But he came home carrying a wet bathing suit that evening.

"Where have you been?" demanded the father.

"Swimming in the river," answered the boy.

"Didn't I tell you not to swim there?" asked the father.

"Yes, Sir," answered the boy.

"Why did you?" he asked.

"Well, Dad," he explained, "I had my bathing suit with me and I couldn't resist the temptation."

"Why did you take your bathing suit with you?" he questioned.

"So I'd be prepared to swim, in case I was tempted," he replied.

Too many of us not only expect to sin but, if the truth be known, we even plan to sin.

- (Romans 13:14) "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts."

In late September 1864 Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest was leading his troops north from Decatur, Alabama, toward Nashville. But to make it to Nashville, Forrest would have to defeat the Union army at Athens, Alabama. When the Union commander, Colonel Wallace Campbell, refused to surrender, Forrest asked for a personal meeting, and took Campbell on an inspection of his troops. But each time they left a detachment, the Confederate soldiers simply packed up and moved to another position, artillery and all. Forrest and Campbell would then arrive at the new encampment and continue to tally up the impressive number of Confederate soldiers and weaponry. By the time they returned to the fort, Campbell was convinced he couldn't win and surrendered unconditionally!

- Satan likes to deceive Christians into thinking he must be a slave to sin. Once he has done that the Christian often surrenders unconditionally.

(1 Peter 5:8-11) "Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen."

MAIN POINTS:

- I. Our Prowling Enemy - (v.8)
- II. Our Potent Faith - (v.9)
- III. Our Powerful Reward - (v.10 -11)

I. OUR PROWLING ENEMY - (v.8)

8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- A. (v.8) - "**Be of sober spirit**" - (sober = *nepho*)
- Ordering and balancing life's important issues; requiring discipline of mind and body that avoids intoxicating allurements of the world.
- B. (v.8) - "**be on the alert**" - imperative command; "be watchful" or "stay awake"
- **(MATTHEW 26:41) "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

ILLUSTRATION: *In 1896, Norman McCoy was the welterweight boxing champion. In one of his fights, he learned that his opponent was deaf. McCoy finally discovered this; and as they were nearing the end of the third round, McCoy stepped back and pointed to his opponent's corner indicating that the bell had rung. When his opponent turned his head, McCoy unloaded a powerful blow and knocked him out. It wasn't fair, but it was very effective.*

Satan does not play fair and temptation never delivers what it promises. Temptation will knock you out if you don't stay alert.

- C. (v.8) - "**Your adversary**" - technical term meaning "legal opponent"; hostile enemy
- D. (v.8) - "**the devil**" - (*diabolos*) - malicious enemy who slanders and attacks
- Jesus refers to him as the ruler of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
 - **Names/Titles:** Abaddon, Accuser of the brethren, Adversary, Angel of the bottomless pit, Angel of light, Anointed Cherub, Apollyon, Beelzebub, Belial, Crooked serpent, Day-Star, Devil, Dragon, Enemy, Evil one, Evil spirit, Fallen star, Father of lies, God of this age, Great red dragon, Lawless one, Leviathan, Liar, Lucifer, Lying spirit, Murderer, Power of darkness, Prince of this world, Prince of the devils, Prince of the power of the air, Ruler of the darkness of this world, Ruler of demons, Satan, Serpent, Son of the morning, Spirit that works in the children of disobedience, Tempter, Thief, The god of this world, Unclean spirit, Wicked One.

- E. (v.8) - "**prowls around**" - to roam around stealthily; in order to steal and destroy.
- Demons never sleep. Untiringly, a predator who hunts to kill.
 - **(JOB 1:7) "The Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."**
 - (JOB 2:2) "The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."
- F. (v.8) - "**like a roaring lion**" - the devil roars; you should hear him coming for you!
- (2 Corinthians 2:11) "for we are not ignorant of his schemes"
- G. (v.8) - "**seeking someone to devour**" -
- means "to gulp down" - referring the destroy, not wound.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

- (MATTHEW 2:16) "*Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.*"
- (JOHN 13:26-27) "*So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."*
- (LUKE 22:31-32) "***Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.***"

II. OUR POTENT FAITH - (v.9)

9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

- H. (v.9) - "**But resist him**" - to take a stand against
- (JAMES 4:7) "*Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*"

ILLUSTRATION: Rowland Hill, a prominent preacher from years past, related this incident in one of his sermons: "The other day I was going down the street, and I saw a drove of pigs following a man. This excited my curiosity so much that I determined to follow. I did so; and to my great surprise, I saw the pigs follow him into the slaughterhouse. I was anxious to know how this was brought about; and I said to the man, "My friend, how did you manage to induce these pigs to follow you here?" "Oh, did you not see?" said the man. "I had a basket of beans under my arm; and I dropped a few as I came along and so they followed me." "Yes," said the preacher, and I thought so it is, the devil has his basket of beans under his arm; and he drops them as he goes along; and what multitudes he induces to follow him to an everlasting slaughterhouse.

- I. (v.9) - "**firm in your faith**"
- "**firm**" is the Greek word "**stereos**" - we get the English word "**stereo**"
 - **The word means SOLID or BALANCED AT BOTH ENDS.**
 - (JUDE 3) "*Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*"
- J. (v.9) - "**knowing**" - speaks of intentional thought, not mere emotion
- K. (v.9) - "**that the same experiences of suffering**" - nothing new under the sun.
- L. (v.9) - "**are being accomplished by your brethren**"
- Every segment of the Christian community has experienced or will experience attack from the enemy.
- M. (v.9) - "**who are in the world**" - the devil is the ruler of this world.

III. OUR POWERFUL REWARD - (v.10-11)

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. **11** To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- N. (v.10) - "**After you have suffered for a little while**" -
- (REVELATION 2:10 - Smyrna) "*Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*"
- O. (v.10) - "**the God of all grace**" - (2 CORINTHIANS 1:3) "*God of all comfort*"
- P. (v.10) - "**who called you to His eternal glory in Christ**" -
- "called" refers to the effectual calling of salvation; when you believed.
- Q. (v.10) - "**will Himself**" - God will personally do this, even while the devil attacks!
- R. (v.10) - "**perfect**" - to bring to wholeness
- (PHILIPPIANS 1:6) "*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*"
 - (JAMES 1:4) "*And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*"
- S. (v.10) - "**confirm**" - to set fast; unmovable
- (1 CORINTHIANS 1:7-8) "*awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"
- T. (v.10) - "**strengthen**" - to make sturdy; not shaky
- (LUKE 22:32) "*but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*"

- U. (v.10) - "**and establish you**" - to lay as a foundation
 - (ISAIAH 9:7) *"There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this."*

- V. (v.11) - "**To Him**" - all the glory goes to God alone

- W. (v.11) - "**be dominion**" - signifies strength, of God's ability to dominate.

- X. (v.11) - "**forever and ever**" - the timeframe of God's domination

- Y. (v.11) - "**Amen**" - So be it; let it be so!

THEME: **The devil is weaker than your faith!**

CONCLUSION:

How to Defeat the Devil:

1. **Be of Sober spirit**
2. **Be on the alert**
3. **Resist him**
4. **Firm in faith**
5. **Knowing (suffering of others)**
6. **Temporary personal suffering**
7. **God's Grace**

8. ***** JESUS CHRIST ALREADY WON THE VICTORY ON THE CROSS *****

(JOHN 19:30) *Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"*
 "Tetelestai" - "PAID IN FULL"

The devil is a defeated enemy, so don't give him even one inch of real estate in your life:

A certain man who lived in Haiti wanted to sell his house for \$2,000. Another man wanted very badly to buy it, but because he was poor, he couldn't afford the full price. After much bargaining, the owner agreed to sell the house for half the original price with just one stipulation: He would retain ownership and full control of one small nail protruding from just over the front door.

After several years, the original owner wanted the house back, but the new owner was unwilling to sell. So the first owner went out, found the rotting carcass of a dead dog, and hung it from the single nail he still owned. Soon the house became unlivable, and the family was forced to sell the house to the owner of the nail.

MORAL OF STORY: "If you leave the Devil with even one small nail in our life, he will soon return to hang his rotting garbage all over your life. Don't let that happen to you!

(GALATIANS 5:9) "... *A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.*"

Don't fear the devil.

Instead, pray to God for His divine protection!

Matthew 6:8-11

8 ...your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

11 'Give us this day our daily bread.

12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 'And **do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'