

Satan's Subtle Strategy That Distracts Us

Our enemy is a clever and expert con artist. We must watch vigilantly for Satan's efforts through the discernment of the Holy Spirit and not simply rely on our own common sense.

Jesus describes Satan as "a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). If we stay on guard for only the obvious attacks, Satan will sneak in the back door with subtle lies. He can lure us into unethical business decisions, vices or unhealthy relationships—one small step at a time. Satan thrives on conflict—particularly among Christians.

As part of his divide-and-conquer tactic, he will develop small seeds of dissention capable of destroying our relationships, our families and our churches. Be on guard against the "socially acceptable" sins that can lead to disaster: a critical spirit, an unforgiving heart, a love for gossip, escalating ambition or even spiritual pride.

As we study the evil attributes of our enemy, our attention is drawn to God's divine qualities. Where Satan is full of envy, greed and hatred, God is holy, just and righteous. Praise God today for His perfect and loving nature.

Prayer: God, I recognize that there have been times when I have fallen for Satan's lies. Forgive me for those times and help me to always be on guard. Lord, I thank You that I can trust You and that You are perfect and loving. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"[Love] rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth" (1 Cor. 13:6). {eo}

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