

The 3 Stages of Satan's Last Days Strategy Against Us

Shortly after an encounter with intense spiritual warfare, the Lord revealed to me that, long before we were born, Satan devised a series of progressive stages intended to destroy our generation.

"It's a setup," God said. And He instructed me to expose this design so that we might not be outwitted by Satan (2 Cor. 2:11).

Satan's Setup

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul writes that the last days will be distressing times filled with lovers of money, slanderers, unholy and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Certainly, those of us in the \church have heard this passage preached plenty of times.

But then God showed me verse 6 in a fresh way. They will be burdened with sins and led away with various desires," Paul warned.

With this verse, the Lord revealed to me the three stages of Satan's strategy against us, which later became the premise of my book, *Silence Satan*.

Stage 1: Overwhelm the culture with junk. To be overwhelmed means to be bombarded to the point of defeat. And this is precisely how Satan uses sin to destroy us today. He inundates our world with so much filth and perversion so that it's almost impossible to escape it. You can't browse the Internet, drive down the road, or wait in the checkout line at the store without some image or headline that tries to take your mind in the wrong direction. With this, he moves us into stage two.

Stage 2: Sway by desires. The culture of sin is designed to keep our minds in this place at all times, which is crucial to Satan's strategy. He knows that where the mind goes, the man follows. Before long we're consumed with the pleasures of the flesh and swayed from one regretful experience to the next.

Stage 3: Torment with accusations. By definition, a setup is a scheme or a trick intended to incriminate someone. And that's final stage of Satan's strategy. He overwhelms with sin, leads from one regretful experience to the next, then he heaps on shame and condemnation all to cause you to feel distant from God. He'll tell you that you've messed up too much and are therefore too far beyond God's love or God's use. If Satan can get you to genuinely believe this, then like Adam and Eve, you'll want to hide from God out of fear that He's mad, rather than be in close relationship with Him.

A Prevailing Strategy

Thankfully, God provides a prevailing strategy to escape Satan's wiles. And a key component is Proverbs 23:19: " ... Guide your heart in the way" (MEV). To overcome the attacks in these distressing times, it's crucial to replace evil and negative thoughts with pure and positive ones. Do this by consistently running God's Word through your mind and your mouth.

Be assured: A habit of meditating upon and speaking Scripture aloud keeps your mindset on godliness and helps you stand strong in a culture saturated with sin and shame. {eoa}

Kyle Winkler equips people to live in victory. His mobile app, *Shut Up, Devil!*, is the #1 spiritual warfare app; and his recent book, *Silence Satan*, has helped thousands shut down the enemy's attacks, threats, lies and accusations. Kyle holds a Master of Divinity in biblical studies from Regent University. Get daily encouragement from Kyle on Facebook and Twitter.