

# The traps of the enemy: By Erica Jermanus

Many Christians are ignorant of the enemy and his devices. Many do not believe that Satan is real. But the truth of the matter is the enemy, Satan is very real. He does not just come with red horns, a pitchfork and a tail. He comes disguised as everything you have ever wanted. The enemy makes sin look attractive and appealing to the naked eye. He wraps it up and puts a bow on it. The enemy is very deceptive. The Bible says that the devil is a liar and the father of lies and the truth is not in him. John 8:44

There are so many people who are lost and on their way to hell because of the enemy's lies. So many people think they are good and on their way to heaven, but they are still lost in their sins and headed for destruction. Many think that all roads lead to heaven. But the truth is, only Jesus Christ can save and give life. John 14:6 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." The devil makes people believe the lie that all roads lead to heaven. But there is only one road that leads to heaven and that is through Jesus Christ alone. The devil wants people to travel a different way by trusting in something or someone other than Christ.

He makes many religions, false doctrines, false churches, or false gods look true and real. But they will only take you to hell if you continue to go down that path. The path that leads to life is difficult and there are few that find it. Matthew 7:13-14 Many are on the broad path to destruction because they trust in religion or their works to save them. That is why the devil has deceived many people.

The devil wants to deceive people with false doctrine. There are many false doctrines floating out there. Many believe in the once saved always saved doctrine, or a work-based salvation doctrine, or the prosperity gospel. These doctrines are leading many Christians astray and away from God and the true gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why many Christians are on the broad path. Many Christians are following false doctrine by following false teachers and preachers. That is why they are deceived by the enemy. Many believe that what they believe is true. But they need to have a real encounter with God to know that it is not true, real, or right. They need to unlearn the lies that they have believed all their life.

Many Christians are in false churches. They may have trusted in religion to save them. Many believe in Jehovah's Witnesses, or Mormonism, or Islamism, or judaism, or buddhism, etc. These are all false religions that are leading many Christians to hell. That is why the devil has so many Christians deceived. Many Christians are on the wrong path because of these doctrines and religions. These Christians just need to switch to the straight and narrow path and the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Many Christians trust in their pastors to save them, or they trust in a person, such as Allah, Buddha, or Muhammad, to save them. These are false gods and cannot save. These people have died, but Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and is alive both now and forevermore.

Next, the enemy wants to try to tempt as many people as he possibly can. He wants people to be tempted into their own lusts or sins. It is so easy for us to give into temptation. We give into sexual pleasure or temptation,

such as fornication. The devil makes people believe the lie that everyone else is doing it, so it is okay. But it is a sin that is leading many Christians to hell. Many are shacking up with their boyfriends and girlfriends and having sex. That is not okay. That is why many Christians are deceived and blinded spiritually. Christians think it is okay to live with their boyfriends and girlfriends. This leads to the temptation of lust, adultery, and fornication. That is why we need to repent and turn away from these sins.

The enemy wants to tempt us to give into that dessert that looks so appetizing to our flesh. I know I have been there many times before. I have given into my flesh by eating that brownie or that apple pie. In fact, one day the Lord was trying to save me from giving into the flesh and temptation. I went to grab a piece of pie out of the fridge, and it landed right on the floor. But I still ended up eating it because the floor was not that dirty. You know what I gave into my flesh and I let the devil have his way. That is how many of us Christians are today. We have a hard time saying no to temptation or lust. We think it is just a little sin. It should be okay, until later it yields consequences.

So how can we combat temptation? What can we do when we are in the face of temptation? Well, we can do what Jesus Christ did when He was tempted in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. He was fasting and was very hungry. The enemy tempted him by asking him to turn bread into stones. But He combated that temptation with the word of God.

Also, the enemy tried to tempt Jesus Christ by going up to the top of the temple and the devil asked him to throw himself down from the temple and the angels would catch him. But he fought back with the word of God. The enemy also brought Jesus Christ to the top of a mountain to show him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil wanted to give him all the kingdoms of the world if he would bow down and worship him. But Jesus Christ fought back with the word of God this third temptation. Then, the devil left him after the third temptation.

So we can fight back with the word of God whenever we are tempted by the devil to give into sin or temptation. We can use the word of God as our spiritual weapon of defense. The word of God is our protective shield from the enemy's attacks. When we

are aware of the enemy's devices, we won't fall prey to them. We can ask God for strategies on how to protect ourselves from the enemy or how to fight back when the enemy attacks us.

The enemy also attacks God's children because he knows his time is short and that he does not have much time left. He wants to try to get many Christians to give up their faith and to give up on God and their purpose. He does not want us to reach our destiny and to get to where God is taking us. He wants us to give up halfway there. If he can do that, then he knows he has won, but he really has lost the battle. If we give into him and his tactics and schemes, then we are letting him win. But we do not have to. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." That is where real victory comes.

Our real enemy is not men. Many want to seek revenge because of what another man has done to them. They want to return evil for evil. But if we really saw people as spirits or demons behind people, then things would be a whole lot different. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Our real enemy is the demons or spirits behind people. That is who we are up against. When we can see people that way, then we will look at them differently as spirits and not human beings. We will not try to seek revenge on people because it is not the person doing the bad things, it is the demons in people that lead people to sin.

John 10:10 says, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” The enemy is after our souls and lives. He wants to destroy people and take them to hell with him because he knows he does not have much time left. He wants to destroy people's finances, health, marriages, children, families, businesses, ministries, etc. Whatever he can do to try to ruin your life.

You may notice that your marriage is falling apart, or your kids are acting up. Or maybe the devil has separated your family and there is disunity and discord in your family. Or maybe you lost your job or you have sickness in your body. The enemy will try all he can to affect you with something or cause division or



separation in your marriage or family. That is when we need to be praying and covering ourselves and everything that pertains to us with the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ is our protection, and we can also read Psalm 91 and pray it over ourselves and our families.

The next tactic that the devil uses against God's children is distraction. He will try all he can to distract you and take you away from God and your purpose in life. He will send all these noises to disrupt you. Not just noises but people too. Yes, the devil will send people across your path to distract you and keep you busy with things that are not important. The devil does not want you following and seeking after Jesus Christ. The devil wants you to follow the world and man instead of Jesus Christ.

So we need to ask God to help us to discern what is from Him and what is from the enemy. We need to pray against distractions. Pray that the Lord will remove the distractions and help you keep your focus on Him. You may need to turn off the television or put your phone on silent because the enemy will have random people calling your phone to distract you. These people will

call you and talk to you for hours so that they can waste your time. You might also get phone calls from solicitors trying to sell you something.

I was working on an assignment for the Lord and the enemy had random people that I have not talked to in years call me. I don't answer the phone because then I would be giving into the enemy and his tactics. The enemy will also try to send people from your past into your life. These people may have been people you have let go of years ago. But the enemy will try to send them back into your life to keep you away from your relationship with God and from fulfilling your purpose.

1 Peter 5:8-9 says, "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, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."



