



“Don’t Take the Bait”

Sun Feb 25, 2024

I. **James 1:12-17**

A. First and Foremost: Know Your Enemy & Know Your Father

1. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy...He is called “The Great Serpent”, the one who deceives the whole world.
2. Your Father...Your God loved you so much that He gave His only son; Jesus came to give us life and made a way for us to live a life full of purpose, fulfillment, and joy.
3. “Let no man say...”
 - The scripture cannot be any clearer than this: God is not testing you!
 - Good and Perfect things come from above with no variableness (fickleness) or shadow of turning (change).

B. How Satan does what he does best...

1. Enticement is the name of his game...
 - Satan cannot make you do anything.
 - Satan can only put things in front of you in the attempt to get you to see things the way he wants you to see them; this is enticement that leads to sin (the Bible view of sin is anything that separates you from God or anything that is not of faith – **Romans 14:23**...remember this for later discussion).
2. **Genesis 3:1-6** – Adam & Eve did not see anything different about the tree until they listened to the stranger’s voice (the 2nd word).

II. Your Mind & Your Mouth

A. The bait is the enticement in the area of your mind/thoughts

1. Example: A medical diagnosis / this is a 2nd word with an attempt to get your mind to see something that wasn’t seen that way before. Here is the key: Just because someone with “expert” knowledge says something, does not mean that it is truth (there is a difference between truth and fact). The enticement turns into sin only when you ACCEPT it.
2. **II Corinthians 10:3-5**
 - Imaginations – Reasonings
 - High Thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God (tree in the garden, sickness, guilt, poverty, depression, fear).

B. Your Mouth is connected to your Mind

1. **Matthew 6:31**
2. The “Jairus” story is so powerful when it comes to receiving the “First” Word of Promise. **“Don’t be afraid; Only Believe.”**

- C. The Offended Heart and The Critical Spirit (2 areas of great concern)
1. Watch out for those feelings... **Proverbs 18:19** - "I'm not offended...I am just hurt" – It's the same thing! (Deal quickly with offense just like you would with fear and worry...Cast it down or it will devour your life from the inside out!).
 - This is especially true concerning children/teenagers....be who God called you to be and don't worry about what others think about you; be a leader/Friends and fellowships in this world have no comparison to a relationship with God....and if you are always looking for fulfillment from people, you will live a life full of disappointment and offence. (This is the area I spoke of earlier: If it isn't by faith, it is sin....offence is the same as "idol worship". You are placing your feelings above God!
 - What is not of faith...these are the areas of enticement to sin that believers overlook or give no value to it. When you are offended, you spread your hurt through your mouth, and without knowing it, you become a weapon of division (**Hebrews 12:15**). Ask The Lord to forgive you for allowing your feelings to be in a place to be hurt, and then speak out loud to the devil and tell him this: "I resist you Satan in the name of Jesus; I am not moved by your thoughts, lies, and deception. I am a child of God, and you have nothing in me!"
 2. The Critical Spirit – Why are God's people so quick to judge?
 - **Matthew 7:1-3** "Judge not..."
 - Don't' take the bait....Satan is only looking for an avenue to bring judgment and harm into your life; the world has a critical, judgmental attitude about everything....Don't take part in the devil's scheme!

"Oh Lord, put a watch over my mouth; keep the doors of my lips. Help me to be mindful of your love every single day. I release all bitterness, offence, and judgment in Jesus Name. Thank you for your freedom; thank you for your peace. I receive your joy unspeakable, full of glory...Right Now... Today is My Day!"