

Strategies of Satan
Recognizing and Resisting the Subtle Strategies of the Enemy
2 Corinthians 2:11

We have an enemy of our souls who does not come in obvious, frightening manners but comes more subtly through lies that sound true, accusations that seem justified, and distractions that seem harmless. In 2 Corinthians 2:11, Paul says that we are not ignorant of these strategies, but God has awakened us to them so we can be equipped to stand. Once we recognize the pattern, we can resist the pull and remain aligned with God's truth. But it's difficult to resist what we don't recognize.

The **three primary strategies** the enemy uses to derail believers are (DAD):

Strategy #1: Deception and Lies

Satan's oldest and most consistent weapon is deception (Genesis 3:13 (NKJV)). To deceive means to cause someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid. In Scripture, it is an intentional twisting of God's truth to entertain false hopes that lead people astray.

Deception happens through:

Cunning – Satan is clever, shrewd, and skilled in deception, which are weapons in his arsenal.

Continual Conversations – There is a whole organization set up to deceive us (Genesis 3:1–5).

Inner Cravings – What inner cravings does Satan find in us that he uses as bait (Genesis 3:6)?

In the New Testament, Satan transforms into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) and has people who are operating under deceiving spirits (1 Timothy 4:1). Deception is so powerful that we can look at the Word and deceive ourselves (James 1:22). Deception rarely begins as rebellion; it begins as rationalization (Revelation 12:9).

"You might be on the pathway to deception if you justify what the Bible condemns, your emotions override your obedience, or you treat God's Word as an option or outdated." – Pastor Billy Johnson

Strategy #2: Accusation and Condemnation

Satan is the accuser of the brethren. His goal is not just to tempt us to sin (accusation), but to torment us after we sin (condemnation) (John 8:1-11 (NKJV)). These are designed to silence us, so we stop serving God. Satan will also use people to function as accusers. We might fall victim to accusation and condemnation if we 1) have persistent guilt after repenting or 2) withdraw from the community of believers. But God throws our sins into the “*sea of forgetfulness*.”

“If you have asked for forgiveness, God has forgiven you.” – Pastor Billy Johnson

Strategy #3: Distraction and Misalignment

How many of us are living a distracted life, not recognizing that it is a tool of the enemy? Distract means to draw away in another direction. Misalignment is when our priorities shift from God’s will to our own agenda. In Mark 8:27-33, Peter was drawn away in another direction, and his priorities shifted from God’s agenda to his own. Distraction is dangerous because even good things become distractions when they replace the main things. We might be distracted if: our busyness replaces intimacy with God; we are pursuing personal ministry success while neglecting personal devotion; and we scroll endlessly through social media but rarely open the scriptures.

“We who are in desperate need of the wisdom of God live distracted from His voice.” – Pastor Billy Johnson

PRAY: *“Lord, help me discern deception, reject accusation, and overcome distraction. Align my heart with Your truth, my mind with Your peace, and my life with Your purpose. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*