

THE
OCTAGON

In the Institutes John Calvin said that Satan's work is: "as to be compelled to render Him service."

Ephesians 6:11-"Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

- "schemes"-(grk. methodias)-cunning attacks, tricks, craftiness, deception. Used to describe laying a trap BEHIND someone or to come upon them unaware from the back.

2 Corinthians 2:11-"so that we would not be outwitted by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his designs."



I. SATAN'S BATTLE IS AGAINST THE CHURCH

His Submissions Against The Church Are That He:

- **Disrupts**-He tries to disrupt the called of God like Paul whom Satan inflicted with a “thorn of the flesh”-2 Cor. 12:7 and by preventing Paul from going to Thessalonica 1 Thess. 2:18
- **Destroys**-Lives, Animals, Marriages, and Other Relationships-John 10:10;Job;Luke 8:33
- **Defection**-His demons serve as agents of apostasy-1 Timothy 4:1–3
- **Discourages**-Satan has believers be persecuted in Smyrna-Rev. 2:9–10
- **Distorts**-Makes lies seem to be truth. He persuaded Ananias and Sapphira to lie in bringing their offering. The truth was to bring all of the offering from land they sold. The lie was that it would be “ok” for them to bring some of the money but not all!-Acts 5:3



I. SATAN'S BATTLE IS AGAINST THE CHURCH CON'T

Deceives - He deceives and will deceive the nations of the earth-Rev. 20:7–8

• **Discredits**-Tempted the Corinthians to sexual immorality in the church-1 Cor. 7:5

• **Disdain** - He accuses Christians and tries to make them feel unworthy-Rev. 12:10

• **Disorder** - He persuaded Ananias and Sapphira to lie in bringing their offering-Acts 5:3

• **Division** - He put in the heart of Judas the seed of betrayal to attempt to thwart God's plan-John 13:2



A. Satan's Reason: He wants to BRUISE you because of his curse (Gen. 3)

Some very common “bruising” thoughts:

- Satan puts blasphemous thoughts in your mind and then whispers that you cannot be a child of God if you have such thoughts.
- Satan gets you to question the truth of the promises of God and mercy of God, when in fact God has never ill treated you.
- Satan argues with you that no child of God could be like you: so weak in faith, so corrupt, so hard, so prayerless, so foolish.
- He accuses you – leading you to discouragement
- Satan presents the world to you in a fair and fine way so as to tempt you back to worldly friendships and vain ideals.
- Satan presses you to indulge in “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” (1 John 2:16)



B. Our Retaliation: We have to Battle with the weapons we have been given.

Regroup

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8: 28

Rearm

• **Truth**-John 8:31–32

• **Tear Down Strongholds**- 2 Corinthians 4–5

Resist

• James 4:8–10

• **Be aware**

○ Ephesians 6:10

• **Stand**

○ Ephesians 6:10–12

■ Martin Luther-“Even the devil is God’s devil”

• **Defensive**

• **Offensive**

