

"SATAN DECEIVE AND USE ME?
NEVER !!

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Received
12/4/80
XW

HWAPP# 9563 9204

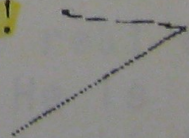
HWA

and grieved!

For the moment, I was much discouraged. If you had lost a half dozen, a dozen or more of your "loved ones" how would you feel? It seems for the moment that we had lost from the Church more than half of the top ranked evangelists.

~~and grieved!~~ The result of Satan's inter-fied wrathful attack against Jesus Christ and the Church at this END-time! I mourn more over such a loss than one by death. Don't you?

Yet when I stopped to jot down the names of those evangelist-ranked, those still loyal and solid outnumber those gone two to one!



~~And I love those who are now out~~

Yet I loved those who are now outside the Church. Jesus would understand. He suffered the same experience, when "from that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said ^{Jesus} unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:66-68). And even one of Jesus' twelve apostles betrayed Him!

But if even Jesus suffered persecution, so must we who follow Him. And if He had to suffer seeing those who had been with Him turn away, so must we who are faithful in His Church today.

In actual fact, of those now out I would shift the major guilt from them to the real enemy, Satan. He is the only real enemy. He is furious right now, intensifying his attack! I again warn all of you!

Yet if I say to one who is now out, "the blame is not yours. Satan got to you--deceived you and thus used you against Christ and the Church," he would bristle up in self-righteous anger. He

would say, "Satan deceive and use me? NEVER.
You accuse me of being a minister of Satan?
Satan could never deceive ME!" ~~YOU FALSELY~~
~~ACCUSE ME!~~

No, I don't falsely accuse--I don't accuse
such a former minister at all! I merely
remove the principal blame from him and lay
it where it belongs--on SATAN!

But do you think YOU are immune from the
wiles and subtle deceptions of Satan? Are YO
stronger than Satan? DON'T SO UNWISELY UNDE
ESTIMATE ~~XOUREKX~~ ^{SATAN}! Satan is the strongest
being or personage God ever created, except
the other two arch-angels Michael and Gabriel.
Satan DID get to the more than a half dozen
top ranking ministers in God's Church! Ever
though they themselves do not realize it.

But HOW? That is the important question.
HOW? For if Satan could be cunning enough to
have gotten to them, perhaps he could get to
you or me--UNLESS we understand HOW, and WHY
he got to them.

Let's think about that a while! Let's be
sure ~~we~~ the rest of us do not fall into
Satan's trap! In what way did those now on
the outside let their guard down? If we unde
stand that--if we understand HOW Satan gets
through to us, then we CAN be secure in Chr
and in His Church!

There are certain ways in which we may "lower our guard down"--make ourselves susceptible to being deceived and used by Satan, and also certain ways in which we may open the door for a demon to enter and possess us.

God's Word warns us to be constantly ON GUARD against Satan's wiles.

Let me give you some examples.

For instance, consider a man who was consciously pained by a feeling of inferiority. Everyone of us experiences an uncomfortable sense of inferiority at times. I'm grateful that God caused me to read some place, when I was only 18 or younger, that it is indeed a wise man who knows his own weaknesses, his shortcomings and limitations, as well as his talents, abilities and strengths. I have ever since tried to know my own weaknesses as well as abilities--to correctly and properly assess myself. Where there were lack of strengths, and inadequacies, I have relied on the POWER OF GOD or avoided those fields or endeavors I was unfitted for.

SURELY HE IS TALKING!

But consider a man who did not do that. This man, troubled by a feeling of inferiority, tried to find a way to "kid himself" out of it--to convince himself that he was not inferior. He decided to become a "scholar". If he could

Reference
to Ernest
Martin ?!

regard himself as one of the ~~great~~ ^{elite} scholarly,
he reasoned, he would not have to suffer the
feeling of inferiority. One talent this man
certainly lacked was that of sound scholarship.
He let a sense of VANITY lead him into this.
Now vanity is the very foundation of Satan's
philosophy. It is self-centeredness. It leads
naturally to coveting, competition, resentment
of authority over one.

So this man began to think of himself as a
"scholar." He began to work on that which he
was not fitted to do. He began a "scholarly"
check-up on the doctrines of God's Church. In
his "scholarly" research he began by misunder-
standing Acts 17:11, where those at Berea "were
more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that
they received the word with all readiness (ope-
ness) of mind, and searched the Scriptures
daily, whether those things were SO." This man
did not search the Bible to see that God's
truths were SO. He tried by UNScholarly human
reasoning to prove the Church doctrines were
NOT ~~SO~~ true.

This self-centered attempt led to doubts
instead of faith, and to a spirit of competitio
against God's Church. Without perhaps realizing
it, he had started himself out on Satan's way
of vanity, coveting, competition, resentment of
authority within God's Church.

MENT in His Church. He went out of the Church.

Three or four other ministers made the mistake of treating cheaply the GOVERNMENT OF GOD in His Church. They did not consider carefully the real meaning and significance of a very pivotal and key statement of Scripture, in Act 3:19-21. The heaven must receive Christ "until the times of restitution" (restoration) "of all things." What is to be restored is centered around the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, which Lucifer made inoperative. The Government of God has not yet been restored to all the world. It soon will be. Meanwhile, in this short "END-time" that Government has been restored WITHIN GOD'S CHURCH! It is THAT GOVERNMENT Satan is wrathful against.

These ministers thought they had discovered a new truth, contrary to the teaching of God's Church. They knew well they should have come with it first to headquarters or to me personally, to make it official doctrine. Thus it might -- if true -- be shared with the whole Church worldwide. But they allowed a spirit of vanity self-centeredness and competition to enter. They kept it from headquarters, but began teaching their "new truth" to their own church.

But their "new truth" was gross and harmful error. They misled brethren -- for the time being. They opened their minds for Satan to DECEIVE

ad to USE them!

If you allow a bit of self-centeredness, vanity, covetousness, envy or jealousy, spirit of competition or resentment of authority-- especially that of the Government of GOD in His Church--to enter your mind--if you begin to act on such impulse, you have already started in Satan's way. For those attitudes and desires are ways of TRANSGRESSING God's Law--OF SIN!

And where does it lead?

You take one such false step; accept one false "truth" and refuse at once to REPENT of it and turn from it, you will then go on into more and more error.

For 54 years now, I have seen this happen-- all too often to those I have loved. If people mourn and weep over a loved-one who dies, HOW MUCH MORE have I had to mourn and suffer over the SPIRITUAL loss of a brother or sister in God's Church!

Let me illustrate, One is walking along in a thickly wooded forrest on a moonless pitch-dark night. But just ahead of him is an experienced guide with a lighted lantern. If he follows that lighted lantern he will be led safely out of the woods. But if he turns aside just a step or two and hesitates, the light continues on out of his sight. Then he is really lost.

If one turns aside from God's truth on just one point, or one doctrine, and does not quickly repent, the light of God's truth moves on. In his self-centered effort to find the light of truth, he now walks blindly in wrong direction. He takes more and more steps in the wrong direction. That is, he proceeds on into more and more error, all the while losing more and more of what truth he had.

God's Word, the Holy Bible, is "a lamp under our feet" to guide us out of the darkness of error and into the daylight brightness of TRUTH. The oil that produces the light in the lamp or lantern, causing it to light up to our understanding, is the Holy Spirit. (C/f Ps. 119:105; Mat. 25:1-13).

So comprehend the illustration. We ~~are~~ ^{all were} lost in the dark woods of sin. On first realization of it, with repentance and belief, we received a first portion of God's Holy Spirit. The Bible begins to light up. It is as many as are led by the Spirit of God that are the begotten sons of God (Rom. 8:14). The Spirit of God, by lighting up the Bible, leads us a step at a time, into more and more truth, and a step at a time out of error and sin. But if and when you reject one point of truth, it is like stepping aside in the dark woods. You are no longer being led by the Spirit of God opening the Bible to

→ ~~fear of loss of control~~ -----
hands of a psychiatrist or a hypnotist. If one would ask me to totally relax my mind, and let my mind be blank, I would immediately rise up and walk away. If I should obey I might open the door of my mind to a demon.

Under normal circumstances, however, NO ONE NEED FEAR A DEMON MAY TAKE POSSESSION--unless you open your mind by letting it be blank, or under control of another, or you lose your mind in an emotional angry rage.

But we do need to be ON GUARD against the wiles and deceptions of Satan. He deceives people by SELF-centeredness; vanity, lust and greed, especially of power, envy and jealousy; hostile competition, resentment of any kind, especially resentment of authority, a most especially resentment of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

Satan is going about seeking WHOM he may destroy from God's Church and Kingdom. Don't let the one he destroys be YOU!

We CAN be secure in Christ and in His Church