

Satan: The Grand Illusionist

2 Corinthians 11:14

Deception is commonplace in warfare, and the Devil is a master of illusion. Though he is pure evil, he can give the appearance of being an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). He can make the righteous feel out-numbered, outgunned, and overpowered, when such is not the case at all. He can talk us into surrendering on his terms by getting us to overlook the vast spiritual resources God puts at our disposal. What kind of illusions does Satan offer us?

Human Wisdom is Sufficient

Man's wisdom only seems to be wise (Prov. 14:12). But God's ways are far above ours (Isa. 55:8-9). Failure to recognize the wisdom of Christ will cause us to be destroyed (Matt. 7:24-27). The wisdom of God is supreme (1 Cor. 2:4-8).

Sin Brings Happiness

Moses rejected the passing pleasure of sin (Heb. 11:25). The result of sin is always death (Rom. 6:21-23). Remember the prodigal son (Luke 15:11ff). The consequences of sin are eternal!

His Servants Are Outnumbered

Long ago, the prophet Elisha was surrounded by a Syrian army bent on his capture (2 Kings 6:8-17). Elisha was not bothered by this, but his servant was greatly distressed. Elisha told his servant, "Fear not; for they that are with us are more than they that are with them." Elisha then prayed for God to open the eyes of his servant so he could see what Elisha already saw. God did so, and the servant was able to see "the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." God had the matter well in hand, and was more than able to conquer the Syrians, which he did. Elisha's servant gained a new perspective that he must have carried the rest of his life. He learned the enemy's strength was illusory, and that, if God is for you, there is more power at work than can be defeated. And there is more to a battle than meets the eye.

So the next time you feel surrounded and outnumbered, don't surrender. Don't fall for the illusion that all is lost! Dig in. After all, "If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

- Matt Clifton, *Bulletin Digest* (via Bridgeport Church of Christ, Bridgeport, WV) -

A coward hides behind lies and deceit.

News Notes

BIRTHDAY: Nancy Hadley, this Tuesday, August 18th. Bring a card here to the building today. All cards will be sent in a group mailing tomorrow via Overnight mail.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.

BIRTHDAY PARTY: For Aiden Toomey (1 year old), next Saturday, August 22nd, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. RSVP: MaClay Toomey, (304) 374-4857.

BIBLE QUESTIONS: If you have Bible questions you would like Bro. Rico to study and consider for a Bible answer, please submit them to him in writing by next Sunday, August 23rd.

YOUTH RALLY: Saturday, August 29th, 9:00 a.m.—Lunch. Lubeck Church of Christ, Washington, WV. "Understanding the Will of God for my life." Lunch provided. Additional details on the bulletin board.

PANTRY: Oatmeal (round container).

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER: Harry Huff, Unit 2A-Room 112, 1010 Delafield Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

HOME: Anita Hopwood, Donna Stevens, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones.

FOX, CHESTER: Marlene Evans, Mary Johnson.

SERRA MANOR, WEIRTON: Jean Haught (Skip's mother).

ADDITIONAL SICK & SHUT-IN: Debbie Waite, Nancy Hadley, Brenda Harris, Sue Baumgardner, Carolyn Carbone, Christy Claypool, Jackie Brown, Herman McHan, Rob Wilson, Georgia Hackathorn, Brett Thompson.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m.
on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

ABSENT TOO MANY TIMES

The boss called me in, looked me squarely in the eye and said, "You are not interested in working for me. You don't really want this job, do you?" "Oh yes sir, I do. I need the job. It is very important to me and my family. But one thing and another interfered and I missed some more." Finally the boss called me in and he said, "You're fired!! You were absent once too often." I walked out of his office, down a long flight of stairs, out the door....into HELL. You see, my boss has been God. I had been employed as a Christian. Absences were from the worship and work of the church. God was right—I hadn't really wanted the job. I didn't really want to go to Heaven. SO I DIDN'T.

- Author Unknown (via Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL) -
Hebrews 10:24-25