

## SATAN'S RECONNAISSANCE

This lesson is an extension of last week's study of Saul's evil spirit (1 Sam.16:14). God rejected Saul as King of Israel and as a result withdrew the Holy Spirit from King Saul. Then the Lord allowed an evil spirit (demon) to terrorize Saul.

We are left to wonder why the Lord did this to Saul. Saul had developed an unacceptable pattern of behavior regarding the details of the directive will of God.

(1 Sam.13:13-14a) "Samuel said to Saul, 'You have acted foolishly; **you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God**, which He commanded you, **for now** the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. **But now** your kingdom shall not endure'."

(1 Sam.15:19-23)

**This lesson will study four aspects of Satan's Reconnaissance against the Spiritually Advancing believer in the Angelic Conflict (AC).**

### **1. Satan's reconnaissance in the Angelic Conflict (AC) is taught in both Old Testament and well as in the New Testament.**

- **Old Testament:**

(Job 1:7) "The Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' Then Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.'" (Job.2:2)

(Job 2:3) "The Lord said to Satan, '**Have you considered My Servant Job?** For there is **no one like him** on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.' Then Satan answered the Lord, '**Does Job fear God for nothing?** Have you not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.'"

- **New Testament:**

(1 Pet.5:8-10) "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthened and establish you." (James 4:7; Phil.1:29-30)

**NOTE: The AC is intensified in Church age (Luke 8:26-39; 22:31-34).**

### **2. Satan's reconnaissance in the AC is for developing a strategy of attack against the spiritually advancing believer.**

(Eph.4:27) "And do not give the devil an opportunity (topos/ place)." (Eph.4:25-32/ 1:7)

(2 Cor.2:11) "So that no advantage would be taking of us by Satan, for **we are not ignorant of his schemes**" (ta noema) [that which is thought out in mind] (nous).

### **Satan attacks the faith belief system in the believer.**

(2 Cor.4:4) “In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds (ta noema) of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

### **Paul gave the first family of human race as an example.**

(2 Cor.11:3) “But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your **minds (ta noema)** should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” (Gen.3) (2 Cor.11:14)

(2 Cor.10:5) “**We are destroying speculations any every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought (pan noema) captive to the obedience of Christ.**”

### **3. The believer cannot do anything about the AC, about Satan’s reconnaissance, nor about his schemes that God allows against us.**

But Paul teaches that there is something we can do in the AC in (Eph.6:10-18).

(Eph.6:10-11) “Finally, **be strong in the Lord**, and in the **strength of His might**. Put on the **full armor of God**, that you may be able to **stand firm against the schemes** (tas methodia) [cunning device, wiles] of the devil.” (Eph.4:14; 1 John 4:4)

- “But **resist** him, firm in your faith.” (1 Pet.5:9a; 1 John 5:4)
- “Submit to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)
- “**Fight the good fight of faith**; take hold of eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Tim.6:12; 2 Tim.4:7-8)

### **4. Satan’s goal in the AC is to get the spiritually advancing believer to abandon the doing the will of God for his will.**

(2 Tim.2:26) “And they may **come to their senses and escape** from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his a will.” (Luke 15:17)

### **The Parable of the Sower (Matt.13:1-23)**

There were four hearers of the word on the Path – under Satan’s attack

- **Rocky**
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- **Thorny**
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- **Good**
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