

KEEP WATCH OVER YOUR MIND

JAMIE MCNAB

7.5.16

We need to be vigilant ... watching out for sin. We have to also remember we have an invisible enemy ... who wants us to sin ... who wants us to be deceived.

Let's have a brief recap.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV)

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Be on guard! Be vigilant! Satan is prowling around looking for someone to devour ... and he will find some. Hopefully, that won't be us. Be conscious there is an invisible enemy out there. Similar problems are out there for anyone who has been called. We have a real ENEMY!!

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (*schemes*) of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (*4 ranks of spiritual beings ... and we are in a battle against them*)

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

There's an onslaught ... a spiritual battle. We do come against these spiritual enemies even if we don't recognise it ... behind the scenes ... behind the façade. We should be still standing there ... not defeated.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NKJV)

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, **able to teach, patient,**

25 **in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,**

26 **and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**

(Talking about church members who have been snared by the devil)

We have to be alert! Vigilant! On our guard!

These spirit beings are real ... they are still here on the earth.

Luke 13:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

11 And **behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.**

12 **But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."**

13 And He laid His hands on her, and **immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.**

Luke 13:15-16 (NKJV)

15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?"

16 **So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?**” (*Jesus makes it pretty plain ... satan had made this woman infirm*)

NB Satan has a kingdom. So ... is satan dangerous to us? Yes indeed. He cannot just attack us physically. The area that satan can attack us is in our minds. It's our minds that separate us from the animals. Us being in God's Kingdom relies on us making right choices. Decisions determine direction, direction determines our destiny.

Genesis 3:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Now the serpent was more cunning (*shrewd, subtle*) than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, **“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”**

2 **And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;**

3 **but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”** (*Eve may have added the words, “touch it”*)

4 **Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.**

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (*Satan didn't strike Adam and Eve down ... he asked her some questions ... putting doubt into her mind*)

6 **So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.** (*Eve made a decision ... she listened to this being. She heeded the words of this serpent. And satan got his way. And ... Adam and Eve were devoured. It wasn't a physical attack ... He got to their minds. It was their decision. They weren't diligent.*)

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Genesis 3:22-24 (NKJV)

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. *(Eve had lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life ... and that is just how satan got to her. John warns us not to go that way)*

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.

2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity (sincere/pure devotion) that is in Christ. *(As the serpent deceived Eve ... he can also deceive us ... corrupting our minds ... wanting us*

*to think like him ... having the same way of life that he has ...
The same philosophy. Wanting to appeal to our minds.)*

4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or **if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!**

2 Corinthians 11:5 (NKJV)

5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NKJV)

13 **For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.**

14 **And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.** (*In Genesis: Nachash ... Bright or shining one ... describing satan*)

15 **Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.** (*Remember this was written back in 56AD ... barely 25 years after the crucifixion ... satan is out there deceiving ... teaching ... introducing error [watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees]*)

Beware! Watch out! Satan has false ministers! They will bring us to the wrong destiny.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV)

3 **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,**

4 **whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.** (*This is really the*

only effective way that satan can get to our minds. If you are blinded you can't see ... or see clearly)

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (this world is set up to go satan's way ... that's the way he has established society ... leading them where? Towards destruction! People in general aren't aware ... but ... we should be!)

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Acts 4:32 (NKJV)

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. (Sharing around)

Acts 4:36-37 (NKJV)

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,

37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. (Barnabas shared his possessions around ... which led a certain couple to make a big mistake ... see the following verse)

Acts 5:1-11 (NKJV)

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. (But ... they lied ... trying to appear more generous than they were. Satan was involved ... see verse 3)

2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?"

She said, "Yes, for so much."

9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Satan had filled their hearts to deceive. He couldn't force them to lie ... but he could plant thoughts ... seek their thoughts ... helping them to concoct this plan. Satan has just devoured two people. Where will they end up? Probably ... The Lake of Fire.

John 13:21-30 (NKJV)

21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." (Quite clearly Judas was at the foot washing)

22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.

25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. (Satan entered a disciple) Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.

29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.

30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

Satan had already put wrong thoughts into Judas' mind ... John 13:2 (NKJV) 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

Little by little ... Judas' mind was corrupted. He became bitter, jealous, twisted ... and eventually led Jesus to be crucified. So ... did Satan find someone to devour? Yes he did. And Satan hasn't gone away yet!!

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NKJV)

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil. (*Don't give an opportunity to the devil. GIVE NO PLACE TO THE DEVIL!*)

Ephesians 4:27 (AMP)

27 Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NKJV)

10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. (*Don't harbour unforgiveness. Don't think like Satan. That can happen to us ... individually or as a church group*)

James 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (*Satan takes advantage ... he has got several footholds*)

James 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (*So there is a devil who goes about like a roaring lion ... withstand ... oppose ... he won't even "hang about"*)

James 4:7 (Voice)

7 So submit yourselves to the one true God and fight against the devil and his schemes. If you do, he will run away in failure.

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (*RESIST! Take a position. Don't yield*)

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

So. Withstand in the evil day. RESIST! He has to get us to "go along with him ... and respond" ... and then it's by our permission.

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)

17 And take the helmet of salvation, (a picture of protecting our mind) and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Our minds will be where our battle will be. Sometimes our thoughts aren't our thoughts.

Proverbs 4:20-23 (NKJV)

20 My son, give attention to my words;

Incline your ear to my sayings.

21 Do not let them depart from your eyes;

Keep them in the midst of your heart;

22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

23 **Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.**

Proverbs 4:23 (NirV)

23 **Above everything else, guard your heart.
It is where your life comes from.**

We should be in control of our minds.

1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV)

6 **Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you in due time,**

If we aren't humble and we are proud ... satan can get to us.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV)

8 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks
about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

9 **Resist him, steadfast in the faith,** knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Satan's out there. So what are we thinking about? Are all of our thoughts just our thoughts ... or have they got an external influence? Guard our minds.

The important lesson is that we all have a spiritual enemy who is well practised in snaring people ... taking them captive and seeking to devour them. So we had better be vigilant. It's in our hands.