

Watch Out!

*The Devil
Wants
Your Mind*

by Frances Hunter

THE DEVIL WANTS YOUR MIND

God wants your mind.

The devil wants your mind.

Who's going to win? That depends on you, and what you put in your mind!

One of the fastest operating computers in the world today belongs to the devil! There's nothing he likes better than to use your mind as a computer and punch keys to put into your mind all kinds of things that aren't true! The devil has the greatest grip on the minds of people today than ever in the history of the world.

Praise God, this means we're racing towards eternity and the devil knows that he's making his last stand!

Many people don't even know who the devil really is. Let's find out! I decided to see what Mr. Webster had to say, and found it very fascinating. He gives a lot of interesting definitions of the word "devil."

He starts off by saying: 1. In theology, (a) the chief evil spirit, a supernatural being subordinate to, and the foe of, God and the tempter of man; Satan: he is typically depicted as a man with horns, a tail, and cloven feet; (b) any of such subordinate beings who reside in hell; a demon.

2. A very wicked person. (He even gives a scripture to back this up.) “Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?” (John 6:70 KJV).

3. Any great evil.

4. A person who is sprightly, mischievous, energetic, etc.

5. An unlucky unhappy person; as, the poor devil has had a hard time.

6. Anything difficult, a thing hard to operate or control, etc.

Webster described him very well, didn't he?

Satan, also known as Lucifer, had a special place in God's heart as one of his angels, but because of pride in his own beauty and trying to exalt himself above God, he was thrown out of heaven like a bolt

of lightning. “How art thou fallen from heaven, 0 Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14: 12-14).

He wanted to be more than God. He wanted to be on equal footing with God, and because of this, God threw him out of heaven. Satan then caused the fall of man. When he caused the fall of man as told in the book of Genesis, Satan regained rulership over the earth, and took away the dominion that God had given Adam.

The only way that each one of us can take away his power is by the power of the gospel. Only through the Word of God can we defeat Satan and get rid of all his cohorts which run around under the name of demons.

God provided a way of escape for all of us, but the devil is never going to give up fighting until God stops him forever.

Do you know who Satan is, and what his character is, and what his job is?

THE DEVIL IS THE FATHER OF LIES! John 8:44 says, “ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for HE IS A LIAR, and the father of it.” This was Jesus speaking, and telling us who the devil really is.

HE IS A DEVOURER! I Peter 5:8 says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Did it ever dawn on you that Satan was the first sinner? He disobeyed God and was thrown out of heaven, and his purpose is to make US disobey God. He wanted to satisfy his own desires and he put his own personal desires above God's, and this has been his

purpose ever since. To make us want OUR desires more than the desires of God.

HE IS A THIEF! John 10:10 says: “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy;” and that’s exactly what the devil wants to do.

He wants to steal your peace of mind.

He wants to kill your desire for the things of God, and to destroy your eternal life by deceiving you about the things of this world.

HE IS THE TEMPTER! Look at the way he tempted Jesus when Jesus was led into the wilderness. The devil always tempts our MIND when we’re having a wilderness experience. Jesus had fasted for forty days and nights and was hungry, and then the tempter came to him and said, “If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread” (Matthew 4:3).

He tempted him in the area where he was the weakest at the time — in his stomach! I’m sure that Jesus was just like all of us would be after 40 days of fasting — he was just plain hungry! The devil knew that

Jesus had the power to do anything, so he tempted him to turn the stones into bread in order for him to have something to eat.

Praise God, Jesus knew how to resist the devil because he said those wonderful words, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Maybe you think the tempting ended right there, but the devil knew how to continue the tempting, because just by the association of words, there was probably in Jesus’ mind the thought of a beautiful, hot loaf of bread with the top crust a golden brown. Mentally there was probably some butter melting on a slice of that bread. It could have been so real that Jesus could have physically wanted a bite of that beautiful bread, but He didn’t weaken, and neither should you!

The devil wants your mind, because he knows if he can control your mind he controls you, because all of our functions come out of our mind.

Riding on a plane recently I saw a national magazine with a picture of a brain on it divided into many sections, and in each of these segments was listed some kind of mind control. ESP, yoga, transcendental meditation, and many others I had never heard of before. These are all designed to “open up your mind to your potential and who you are.” I read for just a few minutes and felt the most satanic presence in the world, because that is exactly what the devil is trying to do right now, control our minds.

I want you to think of something simple just to show you how many of our functions are caused by what our mind registers.

Did you ever watch a bunch of children glued to a TV set? The minute the commercials come on (and I believe they’re geared to reach children’s minds), up comes a chorus of “Mommy, buy me a Slick-a-Trick. I want one of those! I want one of those! That’s the most fun-toy in the world today! I want one! I want one!” Probably something that would register even more vividly in your mind is this, “Mommy, get

some cereal that's flavored with elephant ears. Mommy, I want some elephant ear cereal! Mommy, the man said my ears would grow to be big like an elephant's ears if I would just eat some elephant ear cereal. Go get some right now, Mommy!"

Mother knows they're not going to like elephant ears, but their minds have been so impressed with commercials they become little monsters until they get the kind of cereal that is mentioned on TV. They don't rest until they get a certain brand of cereal.

No wonder the cereal manufacturers spend a lot of time on TV advertising. They know if they can get a child's imagination (or mind) about a certain cereal that their mother is a sure-fire customer for that cereal.

The devil uses everything he can THINK of (notice he uses HIS mind to get YOURS) so that he can hold men in subjection to him and keep them from turning to God.

We are seeing today one of the greatest moves of God since Jesus walked on this earth, and whenever this happens, the devil

really gets busier than ever before. Never have we seen such a hungering for the Word of God, and yet the minute people begin reading the Word of God, the devil comes and tries to take away that which has been sown.

The devil tries to get you through your mind, even when you're reading the Word of God. I am appalled at the number of people who say, "Will you pray that I can get interested in the Bible?" Then they will go on to say, "I used to have a tremendous hungering, but now I fall asleep when I read it." Or maybe they will have trouble with their mind wandering when they try to concentrate on the Word of God.

The devil does such a good job of fooling our minds that we often don't realize who our enemy

is. Kenneth Copeland in his book *The Trouble Maker* says something which really made me laugh. He said, "I went to a bullfight when we were in Mexico and there was only one thing about it that impressed me: The bull did not know who his enemy

was. He thought his enemy was that red cape. I remember thinking, ‘If he ever realizes his real source of trouble, that matador doesn’t have a chance!’

The Christian today needs a fresh revelation of his true source of Power and Supply, and also his true source of trouble.”

Did it ever dawn on you that we all have the same problem? Many times we don’t realize who or what the REAL problem is.

Watch how the devil puts fear in our lives. One of his biggest tools is fear, but before we go any further, I want you to memorize a verse of scripture with me, will you?

II Timothy 1:7: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” Say it again and again and again, until it is imprinted on your mind and heart by the Holy Spirit, so that you need not ever be afraid again. Keep on saying it over, and over, and over, until you are convinced that God has not given you a spirit of fear, so that whenever any kind of fear comes in you can throw that scripture at

Satan and he will have to run from you as fast as he can.

Watch the tactics Satan uses when he wants to control your mind:

SICKNESS — the other night we had every woman stand who had a fear of cancer. You would have been amazed at the number who live in daily fear of cancer. God's Word says: "Beloved, I wish above ALL things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2).

God does not want you sick! He wants your body whole and healthy. I've often heard people say that God sends sickness. God does NOT! It is the same thing as with our earthly father. Would he send sickness to his children? Would he rob you of your health just to teach you something? No, it's the devil who does that, because God is a good God. It's when we begin operating in a realm of fear that we open ourselves up to the attacks of the devil.

One of the greatest proofs in the Bible of the fact that the devil is the one who causes

diseases is the story of Job. In Job 2:7, God's Word says, "So went SATAN forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown." God had nothing to do with this except that he gave Satan permission to do whatever he wanted to with Job except to take his life.

The devil took the plagues that we have been delivered of, and threw them at Job, and Job had horrible sores over his entire body. Nothing could help him except the supernatural power of God!

One of the most widely used weapons of the devil is sickness, because he can create doubt and unbelief in God's people when he throws sickness at them. Job is a beautiful example of faith in God. He kept loving God regardless of the circumstances and in the end he was blessed far more than he would have ever dreamed.

We need to remember that it's the devil who threw the sickness at Job, and he's still doing the same thing today. Whenever the devil starts to throw sickness at you, give

him the healing scriptures in the Bible, and he won't be able to lay it on you.

Recently, I woke up in the middle of the night, and my throat felt like knives sticking in it. My nose started running, and as I rolled over to get a Kleenex, I instinctively said, "Oh, no you don't, devil. I don't want your garbage. Take it and leave it on someone else's doorstep, because I'm not going to take it!"

The next morning my throat was considerably better, but the devil is persistent, and every night he tried to throw the same symptoms on me, and every night, I'd say the same thing back at him, and then I'd give him a verse of scripture such as, "He sent his Word and healed them" (Psalm 107:20), or "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth ALL thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2,3).

You'd think the devil would get tired of trying, but he doesn't, and he kept trying to give me symptoms of a cold, but I kept

throwing scriptures at him until he discovered that he was a defeated foe!

The devil wants you to believe that healing went out with the disciples. I never read Luke 13:11-16 without being reminded of something that happened in our ministry shortly after we received the baptism with the Holy Spirit. “And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.”

We had been invited to a small Texas town to minister. The invitation had been given before we received the baptism, and as we drove up, we felt we would share a personal testimony, or something that would not be controversial, but when we got there, the Spirit of God moved on us to share with the people what was going on in the world

today, so we shared the miracles we had been seeing, including healing.

A hunchback woman of about 65 had been bound by the devil all of her life. As we told people we would like to lay hands on them so that they could see the glory of God, she came forward. This was a town where everybody knew everybody else, and down the aisle came this little old lady, so stooped over that you could not see her head above the seats, horribly crippled.

Charles laid hands on her, and neither of us remember what he prayed, but she fell backwards under the Power of God, and when she did, she screamed — not from fear, but from faith!

She KNEW that Jesus had touched her. She KNEW that she was healed!

She KNEW that when she stood up, the hunch on her back would be gone!

She stood up, and for the first time in her entire life, she could look people in the face. As Jesus had cared for the woman in the Bible, so he cared for this woman in the twentieth century. Her rejoicing and her

praises could be heard by everyone present, and her joy knew no bounds.

There were, however, people in the town who didn't believe in healing. One of them was the pastor of her church. Because of the great things that happened during our meeting there, her pastor preached the following Sunday morning on *Why Healing Doesn't Exist Today!*

She sat on the front row, where she had sat all these years crippled up, but now she was straight as a ramrod. Every time he said that healing wasn't for today, she said, "Hallelujah!"

The devil had such a hold on his mind, however, that he would never acknowledge this woman's healing, even with the evidence sitting right in front of him.

The devil will use ANYTHING to control your mind. He will use years of theological training to convince a person that the Scriptures say that healing passed away with the disciples, and he continues to tell us the same thing as he attempts to get our mind totally in his control.

The devil has taken such control of most of our minds, that when we feel the symptoms of something coming on us, we immediately acknowledge that “We’re catching a cold,” and we run for the medicine chest, instead of rebuking the devil, and acknowledging that “We’re catching a healing!” We never confess a cold, we always confess a healing! Hallelujah!

Take yourself right out of the devil’s hand and start confessing what the Word of God has to say, and you’ll surprise yourself!

You may say, “Well, I don’t believe in the supernatural. I’ve never been to a church where I saw anything supernatural.” Remember that the whole Bible is supernatural. If you believe in God, then you have to believe in a supernatural being. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you have to believe in a supernatural being. It’s the devil who says to you, “Don’t believe in the supernatural,” because your FAITH is a supernatural thing, and he wants to destroy that.

The devil really tries to reach us through our finances. For years the devil fooled thousands of Christians into thinking it was spiritual to be poor. Anyone who had any sign of prosperity was obviously not very spiritual. Then a revolution arose — people began to read what the Word of God has to say about prosperity, and realized that the devil had his way long enough, and they began confessing prosperity into existence.

I received an advance review copy of the New International Bible, and in thumbing through it discovered an interpretation of a verse which can really speak to the hearts of all those who believe in the prosperity of God.

Sometimes we wonder how God is going to perform a financial miracle for us, and we forget that all things are possible with God. Look what the Bible promises in Ecclesiastes 2:26: “To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.”

Now the devil is going to tell you that it just doesn't work that way. God spoke it clear and simple, so who are you going to let have your mind, God or the devil?

Hallelujah! When I read that, I called Charles who was at the office, and said, "Honey, raise your hands up in the air to make a funnel of yourself and then let's both tell God we receive the sinner's money for the City of Light!"

Isn't it exciting to put your hands up in the air and claim the wealth that some sinner has been gathering and storing up just for you! (Why don't you do that right now?) You can believe that the minute you do that, the devil will be right in there telling you that it just doesn't work that way! The devil probably attacks the financial area of our life as much as any other area because he puts fear in our heart as to whether or not we'll have enough money to get by on.

Beloved, the God we serve is a supernatural God and he can supply money from sources that you haven't even thought of yet.

If we confess our fears, they will rule us, because if you confess something with your mouth, it reacts upon your heart or your spirit. The Word becomes real only as we confess its reality. When we confess the Word of God, He watches over it to make it good. Rev. 12:11 says, “And they overcame him because of the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony.” If I continually confess lack; I believe in lack, and my confession surely becomes a reality.

There is no end to the things the devil will try to convince you of. He will try to convince you that you are in financial bondage and that there is no way out. Give him a Scripture to feed on that talks about God’s prosperity and see what happens to him!

The devil loves to see you WORRY! He gets into our innermost thoughts and we begin to worry about getting old, we worry about our house getting old, we worry about our car getting old, we worry about our air conditioner getting old, we worry about our

inability to get a job, we worry about our children.

Did you know that God can supernaturally keep that house of yours in good repair, or supernaturally provide enough money to have it fixed? And that the same thing applies to all the rest of those worries?

Where does worry come from? It comes from your mind! It doesn't come from your big toe. It doesn't come from your knee. It doesn't come from your stomach, it comes **RIGHT FROM YOUR MIND**. That's exactly why the devil attacks your mind!

Let's see what the Word of God has to say about worrying: Matthew 6:25 to 26 expresses this so beautifully in the Living Bible: "So my counsel is: Don't **WORRY** about things — food, drink and clothes. For you already have life and a body, and they are far more important than what to eat and wear. Look at the birds! They don't worry about what to eat — they don't need to sow or reap or store up food — for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far

more valuable to him than they are. WILL ALL YOUR WORRIES ADD A SINGLE MOMENT TO YOUR LIFE?" (LB) No, they won't, but the devil and worry will take years OFF of your life!

When we learn to trust God instead of the devil, we can stop worrying immediately. When we trust God to take care of all our needs, we can laugh in the devil's face when he tells us to worry. The devil wants to keep your mind full of worry so that you can't be thinking about heavenly things.

When the devil controls your mind to the point where he has you worrying about everything, he's got you right where he wants you. He will throw a spirit of depression on you and your mind will begin to concentrate on your problems instead of on the solution. He enjoys twisting your mind completely out of focus so that you can't even think straight. Ask any psychiatrist today the reason for most people seeking help. It's depression, because

they've let the devil control their thoughts and mind.

There was a time when I might not have thought laziness was of the devil, but I do today. Watch how the devil will attempt to control your mind. He'll tell you that you're too tired to do the things you should and that you need to rest. If your mind is tired and your mind is lazy, or if you have depression, remember that a large part of this comes from a mind Satan controls.

How do you get over that? Get out and do something for Jesus! There is nothing that will lift your spirits as high as going out and talking to somebody about Jesus and telling them what he has done in your life.

When my mind is full of ideas for a book, I am so loaded with energy that I can get by with just a few hours sleep. As a matter of fact, when I am writing a book Charles has real difficulty getting me to bed because I want to stay up all night writing.

How many people do you know who sleep an excessive amount just because they don't have enough to occupy their minds?

We need to keep our minds active and alert. I've had fabulous fun writing this book because I've been reading all the commentaries on the devil, plus checking the dictionaries and everything I can get my hands on to find out about the devil's tricks and his lies and deceits. Then I got so excited I wanted to stay up all night to find out more about the armor of God to put on to withstand the wiles of the devil. Hallelujah! . . . and I never got tired.

Another area where the devil is having a ball today is in the area of lust. Yes, lust! Even Christians are having problems in this area. The devil has so many things to attract and pervert our minds that a Christian really has to be on guard all the time.

As we were changing planes in the Atlanta airport recently, we stopped by the book and magazine rack to see if any of our books were there. I was amazed at the titles of some of the books; titles so suggestive they weren't even suggestive! They just came out and told you exactly what raw, sexual, sensual facts were on the inside. The

subjects which some devil-controlled mind had put in books was almost impossible for a Christian mind to comprehend.

My blood ran cold as I thought about some of these magazines falling into the hands of innocent young people to pervert their minds. Subjects that lead to perverted sex to make them sound appealing like “The Joys of Being Homosexual.” “Join the Crowd, Girls, Let’s All be Lesbians. It’s Fun!” The devil wants to possess and control every mind he can pollute.

Standing there sneaking a look at one on that subject was a lonely-looking teenager whose heart was crying out, “I’ll try anything for fun!” Obviously on dope, she had that lost look and hopelessness that accompanies the drug addict.

The devil says it’s natural to experiment with sex. God’s Word says, “It is the thought-life that pollutes. For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts of lust, theft, murder, adultery, wanting what belongs to others, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, pride, and all other

folly. All these vile things come from within: they are what pollute you and make you unfit for God” (Mark 7:20-23 TLB).

Listen to what the Word of God says: “Don’t fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, sexual deviates — will have no share in his kingdom. Neither will thieves or greedy people, drunkards, slanderers, or robbers.” You can let the devil fool you that sex sin won’t hurt you, but you can’t fool God!

How do you keep away from that? Get yourself as far away from things like that as you can. Don’t read magazines (even for information) that cover subjects where you might have a weak spot. The devil is throwing pornographic literature all over the place because he wants to trap the mind of people young and old, male and female. Lust can occupy your mind to the point where it can absolutely and completely destroy you because, for the Christian, along with it comes a feeling of guilt! A tremendous feeling of guilt. The minute a

lustful thought comes into your mind, the thing to do is to turn it off just like you turn a television dial from one channel to another. It takes effort on our part to overcome the devil, but remember this, you've got more power than he has.

Don't stay where there is conversation that might be even slightly smutty. Don't listen to suggestive jokes of any kind, but keep your mind pure and good! "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

GOSSIP is a favorite tool of the devil. Entire lives have been destroyed by gossip. Gossip goes from your ears to your mind to your mouth, and the devil wants to control all three. He wants to control what goes into your ears so that he will control what comes out of your mouth.

We have heard things repeated as absolute truth when there wasn't a trace of truth, but the devil tempted somebody to gossip. Whole churches have been ruined by gossip.

I will never forget when I was a brand new Christian, this was one of the areas where God really dealt with me, because I have to admit I really did like to gossip. I praise the Lord for the pastor of the church where I was converted because I heard one day that one of the young girls in the church was expecting a baby and she wasn't married!

The first thing I did was to run to the pastor and say, "Do you know, I heard that so-and-so is expecting a baby?" He almost yelled at me, "Don't you ever say that again! Don't you ever think about it, and don't you ever repeat it again whether it is true or not!"

I never had anything affect me as forcefully as that did, because in my heart I really thought I was going to share something with the pastor that he didn't

know and since this concerned someone in our church, I knew he would be able to give them some tremendous help. The devil had so completely fooled me that the devil told me to repeat this gossip to the pastor!

I have never forgotten this and I never will!

CONFUSION is another trick of the devil, because he is the author of it. One of his greatest abilities is to confuse people where the Bible is concerned. He doesn't have to worry about the winner of an argument about doctrine, because **NOBODY** wins a confusion fight.

I look at the confusion today among denominations — “We don't want to speak to you because you speak in tongues” — “We don't want anything to do with you because you don't believe in baptism by immersion.” “We don't want anything to do with you because we don't believe in being born again.”

When we received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the devil came in and said, “You'll get thrown out of your church.

You'll lose all your speaking dates! Nobody will buy your books any more!" The devil threw all kinds of statements like that at us.

One of his most fiendish tricks is to try to convince you that you're just making up your prayer language. He tries to tell you that it isn't genuine and it isn't real. We see this happen over and over again as people come forward to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. They receive, they begin to praise God in a brand new tongue, and the first thing the devil says is, "That's YOU, you are doing that, you are just making up little sounds. You don't feel anything." He actually convinces people that the Bible says, "Ye shall receive an emotional experience when the Holy Ghost comes upon you." The Word of God never mentions feeling in conjunction with the baptism. It mentions "power" instead.

Then someone comes to you and starts preaching that tongues went out with the apostles, that it is the devil who gives tongues, and you begin to wonder if you

really received the baptism or if you were deceived!

After we received the baptism, we received letters from non-spirit filled people offering to tell us whether or not our tongues were of the devil. The devil often uses Christians to confuse other Christians. I remember wondering if I should send a cassette with my beautiful prayer language on it, and then I remembered what it says in Luke 11: 13: “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

God isn't going to give us anything of the devil! And who ever heard of the devil giving you something with which to praise GOD?

The devil is a liar and there is no truth in him, so we have to start being aware of his tactics and using the Word of God against him. Every time the devil comes to say something to you about poverty or sickness, or attempts to confuse your life, throw the

Word of God at him and tell him what Jesus said.

Remember that God is not on the defensive — God is on the offensive, and the sooner you take up the Word of God to use against the devil, the sooner you will discover that the devil is on the defensive, and you will no longer have to be! Glory!

Don't get caught up in binding the devil all the time and spending time with him — try praising God and see how fast the devil disappears. Don't live to fight the devil — live for Jesus!

One of the easiest ways to let Satan trap you is to think you've got to go along with the crowd. Too often we are influenced by our peers. A peer to a young person is somebody who goes to the same school, and somebody who is really in the "in" crowd where they wish they were.

As we get older, it may be the neighbor next door, it may be somebody we work with, it may be your husband's boss, it may be any other individual we want to impress. Many times we do not fly the banner of

Jesus Christ just because it's easier to bow to the pressures of Satan.

A very good example of this occurred when we were in New Zealand. We were eating in the dining room of a very elegant hotel just prior to going to a meeting. We were in a hurry, because there was only a short time between the opening of the restaurant, and the starting schedule of our meeting. The waiter asked us what kind of a cocktail we wanted to drink, and we all said, "Water."

We sat waiting for quite a while, and as we did, I was looking around and noticed a very peculiar thing. The only people in the restaurant who were not drinking or smoking were those of us sitting at a table. We all stood out like a sore thumb, and I said to Charles, "I really feel out of place because everybody is drinking." Young people might be influenced and want to go along with the crowd, but I felt like I was sitting in a den of iniquity. We had no choice of where we were eating, because we didn't have a car and there wasn't anyplace

else where we could go to eat except at the hotel where we were staying.

Charles looked at me and said, “Honey, WE’RE not out of place, THEY’RE THE ONES THAT ARE OUT OF PLACE. We’re on the winner’s side because I read the end of the book.”

Hallelujah! We all straightened our shoulders back and sat there proud to be the peculiar people God called us to be. Too many times we think we have to bow to Satan’s pressure because people will think we’re odd because we don’t do what the rest of the world does.

Maybe you’re involved in something your own heart has a question about. Maybe somebody wants you to go to a movie that you know you shouldn’t see, and yet to be a part of the “in” crowd you’ll go. This is where the devil grabs hold of your mind and tells you that you’ll be unpopular if you don’t go along with the crowd.

We have a saying in our house, “When in doubt, throw it out!” That means anything! “But ye are a chosen generation, a

royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9 KJV).

A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE is another way the devil can really get after you. Have you ever known people whose attitudes were constantly negative? People who think the Word of God says, “Have gloom in the Lord always, and again I say have gloom?”

Recently we were talking to a woman who said she woke up every morning wondering what horrible things were going to happen to her that day. And that’s exactly what happened to her — horrible things! The devil wants you negative — he wants you to believe the Word of God won’t work for you and so he gets in there with those negative attitudes.

DOUBT and UNBELIEF are two attitudes in which the devil has a field day! Do you realize that the world is full of doubt and unbelief? Even professing Christians have doubt as to their salvation. The devil

will try to tell you over, and over again, that you are not saved.

He will tell you that you have committed the unpardonable sin.

He will tell you that nobody loves you. Yet, God is love, and he loves you so much that he gave his only begotten Son for your salvation.

Satan will tell you that you're ugly. But the Word of God says that you are created in the image of God.

The devil will tell you that you're alone and lonely. God tells you in Rev. 3:20 that Jesus is living in your heart, and when he's living in your heart, you can never be alone!

The devil will tell you that you are a born loser, and there's nothing you can do about it! God's Word says, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world!" (John 16:33).

The devil will tell you that you're a nobody! God's Word says, "I'm a joint heir with Jesus!" (Romans 8:17). That really makes you somebody, doesn't it?

The devil will tell you that you're poor and can't afford the things that you need in life. God's Word says, "But my God shall supply ALL your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

The devil will tell you that you have to keep sinning, because it is impossible to live above sin. God's Word says, ". . . I consecrate myself to meet your need for growth in truth and holiness" (John 17:18 TLB).

The devil will tell you that this is a world of "dog eat dog." God's Word says, "Love one another," and it says that all the way through the Bible. (Try John 15:12).

The devil says, "Do it tomorrow!" The Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation!"

How do we overcome all of these wiles of the devil? The Word of God makes it simple, because it says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Too many people forget that the Christian life is composed of the work of more than one

person. God has done his part, but we often fail to do our part, and when we fail to do our part, we leave an opening for Satan.

“Resist the devil” . . . that’s our part. God gives us all the power we need, but how do we get that power? Just before the words “resist the devil,” the Bible gives the condition, because it says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God.” The answer is simple, because when you submit yourself to God, you will have all the power you need to resist the devil.

We often hear people say, “Boy, the old devil has really been after me this week.” If you are ever tempted to make that statement, quote James 4:7 again and tell the devil he has to go. He can’t be after you if he’s running FROM you, can he? Learn to STAND on the Word of God.

How do you submit yourself to God? Read the Word and know what the Word of God says.

THEN DO IT! Know what is your right and your inheritance as a Christian. That is what submitting yourselves to God is.

Where does this happen? It all happens in your MIND. You have to believe that you want to follow God. You have to believe that God is who he says he is. You have to believe that Jesus Christ died on a cross for your sins. You have to believe when you became a Christian that those sins were forgiven. That's submitting yourselves to God.

Let's look at what Colossians 1:13 says: (TLB) "For he has rescued us out of the darkness and gloom of Satan's kingdom and brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son, who bought our freedom with his blood and forgave us all our sins.,,

We have been rescued out of the darkness and gloom. Hallelujah! We've been saved — rescued — delivered — whatever you want to call it — but it's been done!

The obvious things of the devil are easy to recognize, but he also uses little things that many people have difficulty believing are of Satan. Millions of people have been caught in the trap of the occult, witchcraft,

fortune telling, drugs, horoscopes, and even simple little things such as possession of owls and frogs.

Probably the one area where more Christians have been trapped than any other is in the area of horoscopes, because it seems so harmless to read the newspaper and see what's going to happen to you today. That's exactly the same as walking right into the devil's parlor, sitting down, and saying to him, "Well, what are we going to do together today?" I don't need the newspaper to tell me what's going to happen. I already know, because I've read the Word of God, and it's all

GOOD, GOOD, GOOD!

When I was a young girl, my sister and I went to a fortune teller to find out about the future. I remember asking if I would make the honor roll society. The fortune teller didn't even know what I was talking about, but as she questioned me, and I told her all about it, and how hard I studied in school, and what good grades I made, she looked into the crystal ball and said, "Yes, you will

make the honor roll.” It didn’t take much sense for her to figure out that a girl who made excellent grades in school was bound to be on the honor roll! But I swallowed it hook, line and sinker, and believed it was true! I did make the honor roll, but not because of the fortune teller!

I have often asked young people who have blown their minds on drugs how they ever got started, and almost without exception, their answer is the same, “I wanted to be part of the crowd! I didn’t think it could ever hurt me. I didn’t think I’d ever be hooked!” The devil makes it seem so simple that no one would ever get hooked on the first try, but I remember a little teenager who was brought to my house many years ago.

She was annoyed with her mother and dad because they wouldn’t let her date a certain boy, so she decided to “get even with them!” Some of her “friends” at school told her to take an LSD trip to really show her parents who was boss! She did, and her first and only trip was a bad one!

Every afternoon, the devil would convince her that her mouth was disappearing, and she would sit in a chair, visualizing that her mouth and her entire chin area were literally rotting away. Then she would begin to scream and scream until they finally had to give her a shot to quiet her down. Day after day, this same tormenting from the devil continued, until they brought her over to my house.

I remember looking at this pathetic girl who had so innocently been trapped into the devil's lair. She accepted Jesus as her Savior and Lord. I told her that the devil was a defeated foe, and that he couldn't stand up against the blood of Jesus, and that she had been set free. I had commanded the evil spirits to depart out of her, and they did! Once she knew what she had in Jesus, she was totally and completely set free!

I have seen her over the years, and she is a radiant, lovely young girl!

Did you ever get trapped by the commercialism of today! People wear owls around their necks, owls on their purses,

owls on their cookie jars, owls on their kitchen towels, owls on the walls, owls sitting in the corner, owls, owls, owls everywhere!

The owl is a creature of the night, and in Him, there is no darkness. Listen to what the Bible has to say in Isaiah 34:6-17 (Amp.): “The sword of the Lord is filled with the blood of sacrifices, it is gorged and greased with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams; for the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah (capital of Edom), and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. And the wild oxen shall fall with them, and the young bullocks with the old and mighty bulls; and their land shall be drunk and soaked with blood, and their dust made rich with fatness. For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and its dust into brimstone, and its land will become burning pitch. The burning of Edom shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall go up for ever; from generation

to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever. But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it; the OWL and the bittern and the raven shall dwell in it; and He will stretch over it the (measuring) line of confusion, and the plummet stones of chaos over its nobles . . . they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.”

You may say, “But my mother made this for me!” or “But my sister bought this for me!” or any other excuse you can find, but I wouldn’t have an owl in my house for anything! I feel the same way about a frog, because Revelation 16:13 says that in the end times unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet in the shape of frogs!

The devil will try to get us to use every excuse in the book, because he is clever!

A friend of ours came to Houston several years ago after having been married for many years to a Navy man. He suddenly

told her that he didn't love her any more, he didn't want her any more, and for her to get out. They were stationed at a Navy base, so she took her few possessions and came here. She had been a nominal church goer, but here in Houston she saw the reality of a living Jesus, went on to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit, was healed of tendonitis, got into the Word of God and things began to happen.

We went over to her apartment one night and I was horrified to discover she had owls all over everything. She must have had over three hundred owls decorating her entire apartment. You couldn't turn any direction without running into a bunch of owls!

We didn't say anything, but after we got out, I said to Charles, "Did you get the same evil feeling I did in there?" He said, "I sure did!"

We didn't say anything to her, but prayed that God would reveal the truth to her. We didn't have to wait long, because one day she dropped by and said, "Do you think there's anything wrong with owls?"

We asked her why she said that, and she said she had been studying the Word of God, and it seemed to her that God was telling her that owls had no place in her life.

She went home that afternoon, took a hammer, and broke five of the owls. Some of them were terrifically expensive, costing as much as \$300.00, but praise God, she wanted to be a woman of God, and not someone tormented by the devil.

Little by little, she had courage enough to break all the owls, and then an amazing thing happened! Her husband came home! Today they are happily married, have a little girl, and are involved in a beautiful deliverance ministry.

I often wonder what would have happened if she had not been obedient to God. The devil could have kept her from breaking these owls by saying, "But look how much money they cost!" Watch everything that you put in your house, because you never know when the devil can come sneaking in.

At one time we had an oil painting in our dining room. I bought it because it matched the yellow on our walls, but didn't really look at the painting. Even though it was a flower, it gave me an evil or odd feeling every time I went by it. We heard a man talk about the "things" in your house one night, and I said to Charles, "Do you really like that picture in our dining room, or does it give you the 'creeps' like it gives me?" Charles said he didn't like it either, so when we got home that night, Charles took a big butcher knife and said, "In the name of Jesus, devil, get out of our house." Then he sliced the picture into four pieces, and took it out and threw it in the garbage can! As I said previously, "When in doubt, throw it out!" and that's exactly what we did!

The devil will tell you that you can't quit smoking because you've tried. Remember that with Christ you can do ALL things!

The devil will tell you that God didn't call you to be a soul winner, but God's Word says for you to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

The devil will tell you that God helps those who help themselves, but God's Word says, "Apart from me you can't do a thing!" (John 15:5).

The devil will tell you it's no fun being a Christian. God's Word says, "I have told them many things while I was with them so that they would be filled with my joy" (John 17:13 TLB).

The devil will tell you there is no hell. God's Word tells you there is! "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murders, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which bumeth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). The devil will tell you there are lots of ways to get to heaven — just live a good life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

How do we defeat the devil? Memorize the scripture God has given us in Luke 10:19: "Behold, I give unto you power to

tread on serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

We've got power over ALL the enemy. Remember that Satan doesn't have YOU in a corner, YOU'VE got him on the run. God has given to all his Spirit-filled children power over anything and everything that Satan can do.

How do we get this power working in our lives? “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Get into the Word of God.

Confess the Word of God.

Possess the Word of God.

Act upon the Word of God.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:4,5).

We need to bring every single thought that we have into captivity to the obedience of Christ. The minute your mind begins to wander and you begin to think about the things of the devil, bring your thoughts into captivity and center them once again on the One who gave his life for your salvation and deliverance!

We need to literally put our hands to our brains, and take out those thoughts and desires which are not godly, and bring every thought into captivity.

You say you can't do it? Yes you can! Search the scriptures until you find the ones that really fit your needs. Let God quicken special verses to your heart. The scriptures that work for me might not speak to you; that's why it's so vital for you to get your own two-edged sword ready to fight the battle, because yours is all wrapped up in the pages of your Bible.

The Word of God is so exciting!

Did you ever read a familiar verse of scripture in the Bible, and all of a sudden

have twinkling lights come on? That's what happened to me recently.

How many times have all of us said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," and yet not really meant or understood what we said.

Reading through the Amplified Bible the other day, I came across this scripture and God really gave me a Spirit revelation of what this is all about:

Philippians 4:13 says, "I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me — I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me, (that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency)."

Believe that you are ready for anything and EQUAL to anything! Remember when the devil sends a problem across your path, that you are ready for it and equal to the problem, whatever it may be, and regardless of the size.

Why are you equal to ANYTHING? Because Christ infuses inner strength into you. The word "infuse" means to fill;

pervade; imbue; inspire; to pour into. So you are “filled” with Christ, you are “poured into” Christ and he is poured into you; you are inspired by Christ, therefore you are equal to anything.

Square your shoulders back and charge right after the enemy. Don't let him back you into a corner! You start after him with that two-edged sword that keeps getting sharper and sharper every day because you are spending more and more time in the Word of God.

Start confessing your victory right now!

Tell the devil that you're not putting up with his stealing and killing and destroying, that you're living in the abundant life of Jesus.

I'm saved!

I'm delivered!

I'm prospering!

I'm healthy!

I can do ALL things through Christ.

I'm a winner!

I've got power!

I'm a child of God!

I'm a joint heir with Jesus!
I have the mind of Christ!

**Phil. 2:5, "Let this mind be in you
which was in Christ Jesus!"**