

FOOTHOLDS OF SATAN - Drs. Larry & Lois Dodds

Satan gains entry into our lives through certain actions or attitudes, such as unresolved anger (“In your anger do not sin’. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” Eph. 4:26-27). We need to be especially vigilant, acknowledging wrong and hurtful attitudes to God immediately without covering them up or justifying them. Knowing ahead of time how Satan attempts to work his way into our lives in order to undermine us can help us resist his sabotage. Here are some of the footholds by which he gains entry into our lives.

Attitudes

1. Pride, anxiety and despair: I Peter 5:5-9

“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.⁷ Cast all your anxiety upon him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering.”

2. Unforgiving attitude: II Cor. 2:10,11

“If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven — if there was anything to forgive — I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” Failure to forgive hurts both parties!

3. Jealousy, envy and selfish ambition : James 3:14-16

“¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such ‘wisdom’ does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

4. Unbelief, discouragement, hardness of heart: Heb. 3:12,13

“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living god. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

5. Bitterness: Heb.12:14,15

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

6. Conceit: I Tim. 3:6

“He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.”

Trials of life which threaten our faith:

II Thes.3:2,3 “And I pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

Behavior

1. Having your own way: James 4:1-10

¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

2. Willful disobedience (following Satan): I Tim. 5:14-15

“So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. ¹⁵Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.”

3. Lying and deception:

Acts 5:3 “Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?’”

II Cor. 11:3 “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

4. Sexual sin: I Cor. 7:5 “Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

5. A bad reputation: I Tim. 3:7, 5:14 “He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.” “So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.”

6. Moral shortcut (the end justifies the means): Luke 4:5-7

⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

I Thes. 3:5 “For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.”

HOW SATAN CAN AFFECT BELIEVERS – verbs

Gen. 3:1-5	Accuses God to us
Job 1,2	Can cause physical affliction
Daniel 10:12,13	Hinders answers to prayer
Matt. 4:6	Quotes Scripture
Matt. 12:22-24 Luke 11:14	Can cause physical affliction
John 8:44	Lies
John 10:10	Tries to steal, kill and destroy
Acts 13:8-10	Withstands Christians, perverts the right ways of God
II Cor. 2:11	Schemes
II Cor. 4:4	Blinds the eyes of unbelievers to the gospel
II Cor. 11:3	Deceives our minds
II Cor. 11:14,15	To deceive, transforms self into angel of light and servants into ministers of righteousness
II Cor. 12:7	Buffets and torments
Eph. 4:26,27	Tries to get a foothold
Eph. 6:16	Sends fiery darts
I Thess. 2:18	Hindered Paul's plan
I Thess. 3:5	Tempts us
I Pet. 5:8,9	Seeks to devour
Rev. 2:10	Put believers in prison
Rev. 12:10	Accuses us to God