

PLAYING WITH THE DEVIL

No matter what type of games we play we all like to make sure that we know what the rules of the game are and that everyone makes a good attempt at following the rules of the game.

One of the greatest mistakes believers make is to underestimate Satan's devious characteristics regarding his never ending determination to steal, kill, and destroy all who call themselves Christians. We all have a tendency to blame other people for our problems and generally give the Devil a pass.

SATAN HAS NO RULES

II Corinthians 11:3 Remember that he will use anything and everything to lie, cheat, harass, and discourage believers so they become of little use in their service or worship to the Lord.

Acts 5:1-5 He may be tempting someone at this very moment to deceive others in order to create the impression of being more spiritual than the rest of our piers.

I Thessalonians 2:17-18 He is always looking for ways to hinder us from getting the Gospel message and Christian fellowship to those who need it the most.

Ephesians 6:12 He is always finding ways to fight against spiritual growth in all believers.

II Corinthians 4:4 He will find ways to blind the spiritual eyes of unsaved family and friends so they will not see the glory of Jesus Christ in your life and become aware of their eternal need of Christ.

Luke 13:16 He may very well smite you with a physical ailment that will keep you from serving God and you may lose your motivation to walk with the Lord.

Matthew 13:38-39 He may be right now sowing tares in your family, within your friendships, within our very congregation of believers in order to deceive and create disunity.

Revelation 2:10 Many times he will use people in the church, family, friends, coworkers and neighbors to find ways to persecute believers for their stand on moral and spiritual issues.

I Peter 5:6-8 He is at this very moment walking around in order to find someone to attack, capture and destroy chiefly through the sin of pride.

Revelation 12:10 He most assuredly has already many times slandered and belittled every one of us before God at the throne room pertaining to our sin and lack of commitment to Jesus Christ.

Luke 22:31 If he thinks that you are a strong believer and have influence over other people for the Lord, he may ask God for permission to "sift you like wheat" through temptations and discouragement.

SATANS STRATEGY OF DIVISION

James 3:14-16 Satan loves to cause division among believers. He will cause personal alienation between believers and between church leaders and the congregation. Church division is usually rooted in envy, pride, and selfishness.

Ephesians 4:27-31 The Devil loves to cause division among believers through unresolved anger, malice, bitterness and bad words spoken toward others. This behavior causes demonic disorder and "gives place to the Devil."

Hebrews 10:24-25 We can prevent division by being proactive and by constantly affirming each other in love and caring for each other before putting all our energy on ourselves.

Romans 12:9-10 There would be no division if we would honestly prefer and love other believers.

I Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 13:17 Satan works particularly hard in order to divide people from their spiritual leaders because he knows that sheep without a shepherd can be easily ravaged by wolves.