

The Attacks of Satan

Introduction

Current day psychologist tell us that 10,000 thoughts go through the human mind in one day. That's over 3,500,000 a year. Where do these thoughts come from? A scientist has done research on the brain, that is the brains of mice. He discovered that if you train a mouse and take DNA from that mouse and give it to another untrained mouse, the untrained mouse will learn twice as fast. But no one knows how thought originates. It can not be explained by chemical or neurological process. So where does thought originate?

Certainly some thoughts come from within ourselves.

Some thoughts come from others. The other day, someone came into my office and said "Greg, let's go get a taco." Great idea. I was all for it. Some thoughts come from God particularly the Holy Spirit. This is most visible when the prophets had visions and trances. God promised he would write the law on our minds. We also see, Romans 8:5 "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."

Yet, some Scripture teaches that thoughts originate from Satan. Let me give you an example. Look at Satan put a thought in Eve's head. Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.' " 4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Eve did not think of this on her own. The "you surely shall not die." It was a lie. Satan put that lie in her mind. Then Satan used the truth to mislead her.

Satan, today, puts thoughts in our minds. We call this temptation. It does not originate from us. It comes from him. Because we think it, we assume it is a thought we originate. But in many cases it is not. Notice temptations come from the flesh, Satan and the world system. Today we will look at Satan. There is only "7" areas that Satan tempts in. Each area is rewrapped looks different but in reality, it is the same.

I. The Methods of Attacks (His M.O. not actual temptations)

A. **Satan uses deception.**

1. 1 Timothy 2:14 And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.
2. He will disguise his attacks. He will appear, if necessary, as a lamb not a

wolf. He will appear as an angel of light not one of darkness. 2

Corinthians 11:14 “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

3. Satan will use deception as a means to tempt you, to put thoughts in your mind. He will never just appear as Satan.

B. Satan Uses Schemes

1. Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
2. Schemes’ which is the word for method in English. It means to follow after a thing systematically.
3. He has a method or system he follows to tempt you. He knows mankind well. He knows how to set the trap. He has a method to lead you there.
4. Example: Nature provides us with an illustration that closely parallels the insidious tactics employed by our adversary. According to scientists, Arctic polar bears feed almost entirely on seals. To enjoy such a meal, they sometimes resort to a cunning bit of trickery. If the hole through which the seal gets his food is near the edge of the ice, the polar bear will take a deep breath and swim under water to its exact location. Remaining below the surface, he will then make a tiny scratching sound, imitating a fish. When the charmed seal hears this, he dives in for a quick supper, only to find himself suddenly entrapped in the huge, hungry embrace of his predator.

C. Satan will use Trickery

1. 2 Timothy 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 will.
 - a. Snare' deceitful trick or entanglement, trap.

II. The Temptations of Satan

A. A Footnote To Remember

1. Satan can only tempt a believer based upon the permission of God. He just can't capriciously come along and tempt.
 - a. Job 1:6, Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And 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." 8 And 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." 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 "But put forth Thy hand now and touch all

that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face." 12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

- b. Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. "

B. The Seven Temptations of Satan

- 1. Satan tempts believers to act independent of God.
 - a. It was his fall and that what he tempted Eve with. You'll be able to see this ultimately fulfilled in the Antichrist.
 - b. Isaiah 14:14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'
 - c. Genesis 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
 - d. Remember, he will use lies, methods, and trickery to cause one to think he or she is accountable to no one. God doesn't care. Do you're thing. Ends are justified by means. Explain away the

teaching of Scripture so that you can do your own thing. NO ABSOLUTES. SATAN WILL TEMPT YOU TO SET ASIDE SCRIPTURE AND DO YOUR OWN THING.

- e. The believer who says I don't need to commit to a local church to be saved, has yielded to Satan. No accountability is being godlike and not the teaching of Scripture. Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

2. **Satan tempts us to doubt - the Word of God (Worry)**

- a. Matthew 4:5 Then the devil *took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and *said to Him, "If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU'; and ' ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE. '" 7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"
- b. Eve tempted to doubt what God said about eating of garden.
- c. Satan will place thoughts in your mind that God doesn't care, God doesn't answer prayer. God's will for you is not the best. Satan will lie, try to trick, and methodically try to convince you God's

word is not true. You are commanded to trust and not understand.

3. **Satan tempts believers to lie.** (April 15 coming up).

- a. Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? 4 "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God." 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 And the young men arose and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.
- b. John 8:44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.
- c. The highway patrolmen pulls you over and asks you how fast you were going. That thought to tell him just a couple of miles over the speed limit rather than 15 miles, comes from the evil one. You think it so you assume it is your thought but in reality it came from the father of lies. Satan will use schemes, methods, and tricks to

convince you lying is the right thing to do.

4. **Satan tempts to have an unforgiving attitude**

- a. 2 Corinthians 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it* for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.
- b. Forgiving has to do with the mind. It means to no longer remember. This requires one to control his thoughts. Satan will lie, trick, use schemes to cause you to justify why you should not forgive.
- c. As saved people, who have been forgiven everything. As saved people who were forgiven by God at the cost of Christ we should be very willing to forgive. It is inconceivable that we should not forgive.
- d. We are commanded to forgive: Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
- e. Look at the example that Christ uses: Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus *said

to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 "And when he had begun to settle *them*, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 26 "The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.' 27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' 29 "So his fellow slave fell down and *began* to entreat him, saying, ' Have patience with me and I will repay you. ' 30 "He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. 33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even

as I had mercy on you?' 34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 "So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart." (Not just words).

- f. To do this you must forget (2 Corinthians 10:5) no matter how justified you feel you are - Satan is a master at justification.

5. **He tempts believer's to be discouraged.**

- a. 2 Corinthians 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. (1 Thessalonians 2:18).
- b. Here we have the way Paul defeated this temptation to be discouraged. To allow circumstances to control him rather than

Paul raising above the circumstances.

- c. Satan will always tempt you with a negative outlook to be discouraged. He will cause, in some cases, circumstances as he did with Job, to get your eyes on self and have a pity-party.
- d. Remember Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- e. Satan would have you down trodden, cursing God while God is seeking you to go to your knee's and trust him.

6. Satan tempts believers with pride.

- a. James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 1 Timothy 3:6 *and* not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.
- b. Pride is to have an unrealistic view of ones self. The world is centered around the big AI” . You perceive yourself to be very important. This is a self-centered person. Satan tempts you with

demonic reason that this is true.

7. **Satan tempts believers with spiritual cowardice.**

- a. 1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- b. Remember, Peter denying Christ was related with Satan sifting him.
- c. You can talk about politics, sports, and current affairs. But talk about the cross of Christ, and the fear, butterflies come. Satan will put every thought in your mind why you should not share. You'll offend, you'll make them think you are weird. You'll lose respect, etc.

III. Conclusion

Satan can only tempt the believer. If you resist him, he will flee. James 4:7, Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The story is told A few years ago -- a friend asked a strange question. "If Satan were to blow you out of the water, how do you think he would do it?" "I'm not sure I know," I answered, "but I know there's one way he wouldn't get me -- He'd never get me in the area of my personal relationships. That's one place where I have no doubt that I'm as strong as you can get."

A few years after that conversation -- a chain of seemingly innocent choices became destructive, and it was my fault. Choice by choice by choice, each easier to make, each becoming gradually darker. And then my world broke -- in the very area I had predicted I was safe.

Oswald Chambers comments on the tendency of men and women to lose major personal battles not at the points of their weaknesses but, strangely enough, at the points of their perceived strengths. He wrote, "The Bible characters never fell on their weak points but on their strong ones; unguarded strength is double weakness."

Funny! During my earlier years I'd thought we were most vulnerable at our weakest points -- until I realized from personal experience that where we perceive ourselves to be the strongest is where we're least likely to be prepared for a battle that isn't psychological or emotional. It's spiritual!

-- Rebuilding Your Broken World, by Gordon MacDonald

Satan can tempt but you can resist for the glory God. The lamb of God has overcome.