

# Your mind and emotions are the battlefield

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Although you as a believer rejoice in the Lord with the hope of the resurrection, you have to admit that there is certainly a lot of negativity in this world.

We should not be surprised since we read Peter's words about the adversary, the devil, walking around as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). The adversary seeks to devour.

When considering the names of the devil, we can learn about his character and about his mission. Notice the parable of the sower in three Gospel accounts.

In Matthew's account (Matthew 13:19) the devil is called the wicked one. In Mark's account (Mark 4:15) he is called Satan. In Luke's account (Luke 8:12) he is called the devil.

The Greek word for "wicked" is *poneros*. In the King James it is translated as "evil" 52 times, as "wicked" 11 times and as "wicked one" six times.

The Greek word for "Satan" is *Satanas*. It means an adversary or a hostile opponent.

The Greek word for "devil" is *diabolos*. It means "malicious," "slandering" and "false accuser."

## **Victory from the Father**

Believers realize that we have victory over the devil because of the Father. God sent His Son to die to conquer the being who had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14). God raised His Son and placed Him at His own right hand (1 Peter 3:21-22).

And Paul said in the book of Romans that the God of peace will bruise Satan under the feet of believers (Romans 16:20).

Victory over the devil comes from the Father through His Son.

Yet Paul also wrote to the congregation in Corinth that he was concerned about the subtle serpent corrupting their minds (2 Corinthians 11:3). The god of this world is a master deceiver.

The Father and Son realize that the devil can influence sincere people. When the devil influenced Peter to say something foolish in Matthew 22:21-22, Jesus' response in verse 23 indicated He knew the source of the problem. Christ said: "Get behind Me, Satan."

Peter was not absolved of his responsibility for his words. But Christ knew the main influence in such foolishness.

### **Examine yourself**

Since you are a sincere person, how can you tell when the devil is influencing you? Here are some scriptures to consider.

- Galatians 5:19-23. Does your behavior reflect the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit?
- Ephesians 4:26-27. Do you recognize anger within you? Do you recognize any unresolved anger within you? Do you recognize any grudges within you?
- Ephesians 4:31. Do you recognize any bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking or malice within you?

Did you notice that the battlefield is your mind and your emotions?

### **Moving forward**

What should you do when you realize that you (as a sincere person) have been influenced by the devil?

According to James 4:7-8 we should submit to God and resist the devil. Then the devil will flee from us.

According to Matthew 6:13 we should have a daily prayer of asking God to deliver us from the evil one.

### **Recognizing sin**

Since other people are sincere people, how can you tell when the devil is influencing them?

Notice some of the same scriptures.

- Galatians 5:19-23. Is their behavior reflecting the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit?
- Ephesians 4:26-27, 31. Are they expressing anger? Are they revealing that they have unresolved anger within them? Are they showing that they have held onto grudges? (Grudges smother forgiveness.) Worse yet, are they manifesting a preoccupation with revenge?

### **Helping others**

What should you do when you realize that other people (as sincere people) have been influenced by the devil?

Galatians 6:1 shows that you can consider trying to help them. If you do try, remember to have a spirit of meekness.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 shows that you should avoid situations that engender strife. Give meek instruction if you have the opportunity.

Probably the best thing you can do to help another person is to influence him (or her) to pray for God to deliver him from the evil one.

And then, of course, you can pray for him. You can fast for him. You can make a commitment of supplication and intercession for him.

When we consider our own personal relationship with God and another person's personal relationship with God, let's always remember that the mind and the emotions are Satan's targets.