



How Satan Gains Access to Work in our Lives

Part 14: The Wisdom of the World

In our last issue we looked at how Satan has access to our minds and can influence us through the thoughts he is able to implant there (Matt 16:21-23; John 13:2; Acts 5:3). In this issue we will look at how he can gain a foothold in our lives through our responses to the corrupted wisdom he has implanted in the minds of others (James 3:14-15).

While God is the ultimate source of all wisdom, He created Satan, the anointed cherub, as a being “full of wisdom.” Satan, however, corrupted his God-given wisdom through pride and selfish ambition (Ezek. 28:12, 14, 17). Today Satan’s wisdom is still saturated with these same characteristics (Isa. 47:10; James 3:14-15). It is also crafty and deceitful, just like Satan himself (Jer. 17:9; 1 Cor. 3:19).

Satan uses his corrupted wisdom to lure man away from God, and no one living in the world today is immune from his attempts. His first step of success comes when he succeeds in causing doubts in our minds concerning the Word of God. This was his approach to lure Eve into sin (Gen. 3:1-6), and it has been a continued tactic of his all through history. The New Testament writers were very aware of this and warned their converts not to be shaken in their beliefs through conflicting messages coming through false teachers or deceptive spirits of darkness (Acts 20:29-31; 2 Cor. 11:3-4; 2 Thes. 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:17). Having received the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the sacred writings of Scripture to guide us in truth and godly wisdom, we have no excuse for succumbing to Satan’s sly distortions of truth and corrupted wisdom (Ps. 119:104, 128; John 14:16-17; 16:13; 2 Tim. 3:13-17; 1 John 2:18-20, 24-27).

If we ignore these divine resources, however, we can easily slip from doubt to unbelief. This need not be a plunge into full-blown atheism, but a subtle shift away from firmly believing all that the Word of God teaches as truth. Sinking even to this level gives Satan a major victory, as we cut ourselves off from the power of God in so many ways. Unbelief hinders the release of His wisdom and answers to our prayers as well as His power to work miracles and perform major acts of deliverance through us (Mat. 13:58; 14:17-20; 28-31; Heb. 3:19; James 1:5-7).

Once we begin suppressing the truth of God’s Word in our minds through doubt and unbelief, our discernment and ability to resist being taken in by the world’s wisdom is greatly compromised (Rom. 1:18). At best, we allow ourselves to be guided by a far inferior source of wisdom, which God considers useless and foolish in comparison to His own (Isa. 55:8-9; Jer. 23:18-19; 1 Cor. 2:16; 3:18-19; Col. 2:2-3). At worst, we allow a foothold of darkness to be established in our minds should we be deceived and begin following the demonic wisdom which Satan has so adeptly intermingled with the wisdom of man operating within the world system.

Even the Church has been contaminated by ungodly wisdom, as Satan has disbursed within it his own servants disguised as godly leaders (Matt. 7:15; 13:24-30; Acts 20:29-31; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 2 Tim. 3:13). Because of this, believers must be constantly on alert (Mat. 10:16; 1 Peter 5:8). Paul warned us not to be captivated and

led astray by those who espouse strange-sounding doctrines and philosophies of men, focus on myths or things that are purely speculation, or engage in pointless genealogical studies or debates and arguments about words (Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 6:3-5, 20; 2 Tim. 2:14, 23).

Other things that should raise red flags for us are religious leaders who create their own set of regulations and legalistic requirements that may have the appearance of wisdom but are really derived from their own fleshly minds or deceitful spirits (Col. 2:18-23; 1 Tim. 4:1-3). Caution is also needed within churches open to the present day ministry of the Holy Spirit, as even the elect can be led astray by false visions, prophecies, words of knowledge, manifestations of the “Spirit,” or miracles that have their origin in Satanic power or human imagination rather than in God (Jer. 14:14; 23:16; Mat. 24:24; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Col. 2:18-19; Mark 13:22). We must never blindly accept any of these without testing and confirming them (1 Cor. 14:29; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 2:2).