

Satan—What He is Like

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 2:11.

B. One of Satan's most clever ploys is to make people believe that he does not exist.

II. Satan operates in his own children. (I John 5:19, John 8:44)

A. He is engaged in the act of preventing. (Luke 8:11)

1. He snatches away the Word. (Matthew 13:19)

2. The condition of hearing the gospel is always the status of the heart. Satan can influence.

3. Satan blinds unbelievers. (II Corinthians 4:3, I Corinthians 1:18)

B. Satan perverts the truth.

1. He does this through false doctrine. (II Corinthians 11:13)

a. He turns people away from the truth. (II Thessalonians 2:9, II Timothy 4)

b. He turns people away from the deity of Christ. (I John 4)

c. He denies the Second Coming of Christ. (II Peter 3)

d. He turns people onto idols. (Psalm 106, Colossians 2:23)

2. He traps people into systems. (Ephesians 2, Romans 1:24, 1:26)

a. He oppresses people by their lusts.

b. He oppresses people through disease.

c. He oppresses through mental illness. (Mark 5, 9:22)

d. He oppresses through death. (Revelation 18:2, 9:16)

e. He influences through governments and nations. (Ephesians 6)

III. Satan operates on the children of God.

A. Satan causes believers to doubt.

B. Satan causes persecution of the church. (Genesis 3, Revelation 2, 12)

C. Satan hinders our service. (I Thessalonians 2:18, II Corinthians 12:7-9)

D. Satan infiltrates the church through phony Christians and false doctrine. (Matthew 13:38, I Corinthians 4, I John 4, II Peter 2, II Corinthians 2:5)

E. Satan tempts us to sin.

1. He tempts us to trust in our own resources. (I Chronicles 21:1, Ephesians 6:10)

2. He tempts us to lose faith in God. (Luke 20:31, I Peter 5:8, Ephesians 6:26)

3. He tempts us to be out of control morally. (I Corinthians 7:5)

4. He tempts us to be preoccupied with the world.

5. He tempts us to be proud. (I Timothy 3:7)

6. He tempts us toward discouragement. (I Peter 5:6)

IV. Resist the devil and he will flee.

Application questions:

1. What is an outstanding way you have seen Satan pervert the truth in your culture?

2. How have you seen God help you overcome some temptation of Satan? What did you learn?

3. How would you respond to a Christian who does not put much stock in the influence of the demonic? Explain.
