

The Serpent of Paradise

Erwin W. Lutzer, JV conference, Czech Republic, May 2011

Faith to Confront Satan

1. Lucifer's great mistake: he miscalculated God (Isa.14; Ez.28)
 - a) He was limited in what he could achieve
 - b) He was limited in what he could foresee
 - c) He was limited in damage control

God's response: The drama of redemption is to be played out on earth.

2. Lucifer's deceptive approach in Eden (Gen 3)
 - a. He lies about who he is
 - b. He lies about who God is
 - c. He lies about the benefits of rebellion
3. How Lucifer (satan) approaches us (I Peter 5:8,9)
 - a. He uses our minds
 - b. He uses our flesh
 - c. He desires complete control
4. He uses our sins to control us (Eph.2:1-3)
 - a. Rebellion
 - b. Dishonesty
 - c. Anger
 - d. Hatred/murder
 - e. Fear
 - f. Guilt
 - g. Occultism---various

Note: General Characteristics of those who struggle with satanic influence

Shame, resentment, victim mentality, self-will, strife, agitation, gossip, addictions,
(influence/invasion etc.)

5. The Triumph of Jesus (Col. 2: 13-15)
 - a. Jesus reconciled sinners to God, permanently
 - b. He exposed Satan as unable to hinder the work of God
 - c. He judged Satan as worthy of eternal hell
6. He is totally subject to God (Rom 11:33; cf. Rev 20:1-3)
 - a. God uses him for His purposes
 - b. God uses him for our good

The extent of our authority: powerful, but limited.. (cf. the New Apostolic Reformation)

7. We must understand the nature of our victory (James 4: 6-10)
 - a. Submission
 - b. Resisting
 - c. Confession
 - d. Praise

Encouragement from Luther:

And though this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not from him
His rage we can endure
For lo his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him