

May 15, 2011

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Monday

Prov. 1:22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded?"

Satan is no fool. He does not tempt us with poisoned vegetables but with poisoned candy. Sin tastes good, feels good, and looks good. If sin were not filled with pleasure, there would be no temptation involved. Don't be fooled. Sin can be wonderfully pleasurable, delightful, *and deadly*. "If it feels good, do it," is the mantra of the fool. Be wise. Not all that is pleasurable is sinful, but sin entices because it brings pleasure. Then like poisoned candy, it kills. Gossip, sexual sin, anger, dissentious words, covetous desires: all taste grand — and all kill!

Tuesday

Eph. 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Demons are real, really. They bring the power of Satan to bear upon the lives of men. They may inhabit a non-believers' life. They may torment the life of a sinful believer. In some cultures they show themselves exactly as they are seen in the New Testament: convulsions, strange tongues, raging behavior. In other cultures the signs are more subtle but just as deadly: drug addiction, broken homes, child abuse. Whether they come as covertly as a Special Forces op, or as overtly as a tank brigade, don't be fooled. The battle rages and is real. The victory is spiritual. The victor is Jesus. The weapon is the word of God. You are a soldier.

Wednesday

Luke 11:26 "Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."

Open, unrepentant sin is an open invitation to demonization. If you willingly walk in unrepentant sin, Satan has an open door, an opportunity for entrance. Some have found victory and release, but open the door to further bondage by walking in unrepentant sin. Is there sin in your life of which you are aware, but from which you are unwilling to walk away? Are you opening your life to demons through abuse of drugs, alcohol, pornography, anger, or bitterness? Are you seeking the Lord to grow you, sanctify you, and cleanse you, or are you resting in unrepentant sin? Demons are real.

Thursday

1Pet. 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Who knows you best? Your wife? Your parents? Your best friend? No! Apart from God, who knows the depth of every person's heart, the devil knows you better than anyone. He is *not* all knowing (omniscient). He does not hear your thoughts, but he is perceptive, cunning, observant, and old -- very, very old. He has watched others just like you for thousands of years. He knows every look and temptation. He knows every inclination of the fallen heart. He devises his schemes based upon the knowledge of man. He is effective. You must be wise, cautious, and faithful.

Friday

1Cor. 10:12 Let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Everyone has a bent toward sin. You are no different from me in that aspect. But everyone's temptation may be different. You may be tempted toward lust. I maybe tempted toward anger. You may be tempted toward coveting. I may be tempted toward gossip. Satan knows your weaknesses. It is important that you recognize them as well. He will attack you at your weakest spot, often in your weakest moment. Pride? He is good at attacking there. Anger? He knows how to push your button. Lust? That's easy for him. Jealousy? He loves that one. Resist him. Hold tight to the Lord and to His word.