

Satan is a formidable foe. He is not to be taken lightly nor treated lightly (Jude 9).

1. He goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom to devour (1 Pet. 5:8). "Devour" is a metaphor for defeating people. He accuses the brothers before God's face day and night (Rev. 12:10).
2. He is a created being, not the Creator (Ezk. 28:13-14; This passage refers to him as the prince of Tyre who he was using for his purposes). He wished to change his God-given position and deceived himself into thinking he could be like God (Isa. 14:12-14). He is Satan – the adversary (Rev. 12:9), and the Devil – the slanderer (Rev. 12:9).
3. **He deceives completely.** He wants to twist our perspective (1 Tim. 2:14; 2 Cor. 11:3). He knows how our minds work, by observing us. He knows what attack best fits our situation (2 Cor. 2:11; Acts 5:3).
4. He manipulates circumstances as a basis to tempt us (2 Cor. 12:7; Job 1:14-19; 2:7).
5. He takes advantage of circumstances as a basis for temptation (1 Tim. 3:6; 1 Tim. 5:11-15).

He tempts with specific schemes related primarily to deceit (the lie) and pride.

TEMPTATIONS OF DECEPTION

Busybody - 1 Timothy 5:13-15 - He tempts us to involve ourselves in the affairs of others, that are not our business [prying and snooping].

Lying - Acts 5:4-6 (John 8:44) - He tempts us to speak what is distorted, inaccurate, wholly or partly not true. Leads to our own deception (2 Timothy 3:13).

Doubt - Job 1, 2; Acts 18:9; Romans 14:22-23 - He tempts us to question God's goodness, what God wants us to do, has promised, or the Bible and God Himself. An act in doubt is sin.

Gossiping - 1 Timothy 5:13-15 - He tempts us to share with others what they don't need to know.

TEMPTATIONS OF FEAR

Laziness in spiritual things - 1 Timothy 5:11-15 (v. 12). He tempts us to be lazy about doing God's will. We may be hard at other work, but neglect God's things

Stealing - Ephesians 4:27-28 - He tempts us to take what does not belong to us. It is a sin based on pride or lying.



Disappointment & Discouragement - 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 [Job 3:1-3; 19:6-12] - He tempts us to be unhappy with a circumstance, an outcome, our physical condition. "Why did God let this happen to me?" - disheartened!

Cowardice - 2 Tim. 1:7 [Lk. 22:31-34] Heb. 2:15 - He tempts us to be timid about doing God's will: sharing the gospel, taking a stand, using our spiritual gift.

TEMPTATIONS OF PRIDE

Pride - 1 Timothy 3:6; Jas 4:6-7 - Pride is an inflated opinion of ourselves involving arrogance at one extreme and self-pity - "I deserve better" - on the other.

Independence from God - James 4:13-17 (Isaiah 14:14) - He tempts us to make plans and act without regard for God's will.

Rotten speech - Ephesians 4:29 (Matthew 26:69-74) - He tempts us to malign the character of others, through words used with cruel intentions.

Ungracious attitude [bitterness] - 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Jas. 3:14-15 - He tempts us to feel we are justified in not being gracious with another.

The Fiery Darts of the Evil One

We resist Satan when he tempts us (James 4:7). **We resist by the faith** (1 Pet. 5:8). **We resist him in the evil day by putting on the whole Armor from God** (Eph. 6:13).

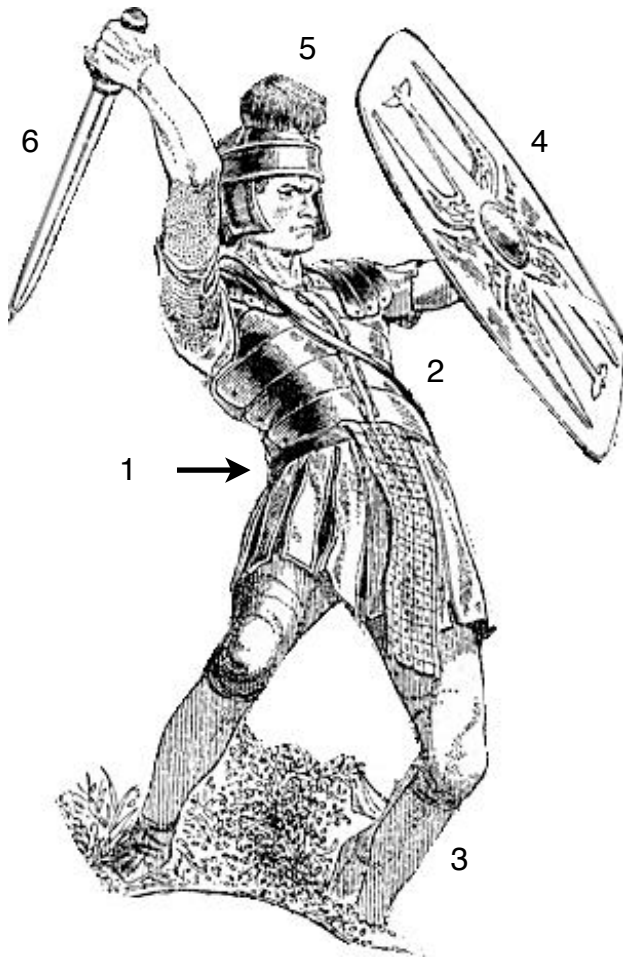
We are to be made strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10). "Lord" emphasizes that He is our master as well as our position (Eph. 1:6; 2:5-6). This is mental strength from the Spirit (cf. Eph. 3:16).

Once we are strong in the Lord, we resist Satan by putting on the whole Armor of God.

The Armor is a picture to remind us of six specific areas of truth about Christ and ourselves which God provides to counter Satan's attack. Satan's temptations are mental (may be based on circumstances) and our defense against his temptations is also mental.

1. Girdle consisting of truth 6:14 - We need to recognize Satan's deception and know this is a temptation from him. Jesus always saw things accurately (Eph. 4:21). *Deals with lying and gossiping*

2. Breastplate consisting of the righteousness 6:14 - Satan wants us to focus on our own righteousness and plan our own activities. We need to recognize our only righteousness is in Christ (4:24; 1 Cor. 1:30) and we can only act righteously through that position (Php. 3:9). Acting any other way will be unrighteous. *Deals with independence and pride*



3. Shoes consisting of preparedness for the Gospel of peace 6:15 - Satan wants us preoccupied with ourselves, our wants, or our "needs" and to focus on how others have "wronged us." Christ is our peace (2:14-15). He is the basis of peace in the body of Christ (4:3). We remember He has created all of us believers together into one new man. *Deals with bitterness, laziness, stealing*

4. The shield consisting of the faith 6:16 - Satan tempts us to doubt our access to God, or presume it is based on our conduct. Christ is our access (2:18). That access is promised through faith (3:12) and encouraged—ALWAYS GO TO GOD: WORSHIP AND ASK! *Deals with doubt and independence from God*

5. The helmet consisting of the salvation 6:17 - Satan tempts us to think God has not sufficiently provided for us: discouragement and disappointment. He may tempt us to focus on our works. However, our salvation is by grace (2:5, 8) and Christ is the Savior. *Deals with disappointment, discouragement, cowardice, unforgiving spirit, and pride*

6. The sword from the Spirit consisting of an utterance from God Satan does not want the believer to correctly use, understand or relate to God's Word. He tempts us to doubt that we or others will become what God has planned. The sword is the individual utterances of God (Gk. *rhama*). Remember that Christ speaks an utterance to cleanse the Church (5:26) so that we will be what God says about us in

Christ (1:3-4). Christ intercedes for us.

We then communicate (pray) with God 6:18 We worship – communicating Who God is. He is All-knowing, All-powerful, Good, Holy, Love, Righteous, and Truth.

We make requests [supplication] to God regarding others. Supplication means we may not know the exact need or for whom we are communicating, "...all the saints".