

The Old Paths

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“Satan Works Overtime”

Jarrod Jacobs

The Scriptures describe Satan as being active! In Job’s day, we see Satan “going to and fro on the earth, and ... walking up and down on it” looking for a righteous man (Job 1:7, 2:2). Peter warned, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (I Pet. 5:8). A lioness will creep and wait patiently for her time to strike and kill the gazelle. In hunting, she is active, and has a goal in mind — food for herself and her cubs. Notice, Satan is also described as being as active, as that hungry, hunting lion! Jesus said that Satan was a murderer from the beginning and the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). His actions continue to this day.

Notice the terminology used in reference to Satan. Satan is not sitting somewhere on a beach relaxing, is he? We do not get the impression that Satan gets up some mornings and says, “Today, I will take the morning off.” Look at this world. Satan has his hand in the TV stations, in the newspaper, in magazines, in radios and on the computer. He is in our schools, our military, our government, and in our homes. No, friends, Satan does not rest! In fact, Satan is working **overtime!**

Satan Works Overtime In Our Families.

Observe the character and

content of most families, and we will see Satan’s work. Divorce, abuse, ungodly behavior, being lax in training the children, hypocritical behavior, and many other things are present in families due to Satan’s influence. Remember, as goes the home, so goes the nation. Therefore, we find Satan working “overtime”, especially in the homes of Christians, to try and lure them away from God and His will.

Satan Works Overtime In Government.

When laws of men are enacted which encourage and sanction sin (ex: gambling/lotteries, drinking alcohol, abortion of babies, homosexuality, etc.), you can rest assured that Satan has been working overtime among our government’s leaders! He has been working among the nations of men ever since government began. Consider the wicked kings God names in the Old Testament among the Jews and the Gentiles! Then, look into the New Testament and be reminded of the sins of Herod the Great, Agrippa I and II, Caesar, etc. In studying these leaders, we find such sins as pride, lying, stealing, murder, etc. When we look at government leaders today, we find many of them falling into the same trap! These facts all bear record to the fact that Satan has been at work in the government!

Satan Works Overtime Among Individuals.

The book of I John lets us know

that men are tempted with the lusts of the flesh and eye, and the pride of life (I Jn. 2:15-17). We are told that Satan walks around as a lion looking for his next meal (I Pet. 5:8). Satan has not stopped yet, but continues to look for the “weak,” “sickly,” and those who are just unaware of their surroundings. When we see folks caught up in alcoholism, abusive behavior, lying, stealing, pornography, being unfaithful to God, ignorant of His word, not praying, not living as we should in Christ, etc., we are seeing the evidence of a people who are victims of Satan. Yes, Satan works overtime!

My observation is that many Christians are lax in their attitude toward Satan and his work. For this, we can also thank Satan, for he wants folks to be unimpressed with him, and make light of his tactics. If folks think Satan is a myth, or a joke, he is happy with this, for he knows such people will not take him seriously, and therefore will not take the salvation of their souls seriously, either (contrast Jesus’ teaching: Matt. 16:26). Solomon wrote, “Fools mock at sin” (Prov. 14:9). How Satan loves those “fools”! He also wants more people to be foolish, and he works “overtime” at making sure this happens!

Conclusion

Can we fight against Satan? Absolutely! He is powerful, but Christ has given us the weapons and armor for fighting Satan (Eph. 6:10-17; Rom. 13:12, 14; II Cor. 10:3-5). Now, we must **use them!** Perhaps we forgot that we are at war with Satan. Let us awake from sleep and be busy fighting temptation, as well as living a faithful life (I Cor. 15:58). Look to God (not self) for strength (Phil. 4:13). Exercise your senses (Heb. 5:14). We can win!

A Soldier Has Laid Down His Arms

Jarrold Jacobs

Last week my friend, Joe McGaw, left this world. He was born on February 2, 1928, and passed from this life on January 10, 2014, at the age of 85 years, 11 months, and 8 days. Brother Joe had made it to the time of life discussed by Moses in Psalm 90:10-12, where his strength had given him "four-score years" plus almost six more.

Brother Joe played an important role in my life in my "early days" of preaching. He, along with brother Leslie Sloan (deceased), brother Bill Hawkins (deceased), and brother Joel Plunkett took time from their schedules and lives to study the Bible with me and some other friends. For several years, it was my privilege to sit at the feet of these "older men" and learn the truth of God's word (Prov. 11:14, 15:22, 24:6). I came to appreciate brother Joe and the other men as I learned of sacrifice, love, patience, and righteousness from these men. All four served God to the best of their abilities (brother Joel continues to do so), and showed me what it takes to be a Christian. As I have said in the past, living the life of a Christian is not a sprint, but a marathon, and these men were living examples of this to me.

Brother Joe preached the gospel for many decades. He held a "secular job" for many years in addition to preaching (Like Paul did at times, Acts 18:3, 20:34). Yet, preaching the gospel was always first and foremost in his heart and life. He memorized volumes of Scripture (Ps. 119:11),

and was ready to preach the truth whenever he could (Rom. 1:15-16). He wrote bulletins, preached, debated and defended the truth numerous times in public and private debates. (I remember two pictures in his office where he was involved in a debate between Charles Holt and W.L. Totty. No doubt these two pictures brought him good memories.) I shudder to think what things would have been like for the saints and local congregations in Dickson, Davidson, Cheatham, Sumner, and Robertson counties, and other places had it not been for the preaching, debating, love, and work of brother McGaw.

In addition to his own work, he was an avid supporter of others who would preach the gospel. I appreciated so much the times I was holding meetings in Tennessee and he and his good wife Alma would visit. I remember with fondness the look on his face as I preached. It would have been easy for a man of his knowledge and experience to criticize and "nit-pick" a young preacher's work. Yet, Joe was an encourager of young men like me.

When I held debates in Tennessee, brother Joe helped me in that work as well. Brother Sloan was my moderator, and brother Joe

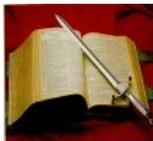
flipped charts for me. (This was in the days of overhead projectors, so he literally "flipped" the charts on and off the machine as the points/arguments were made!) His help was invaluable in helping teach and spread the gospel in that manner.

In his latter years, his knee and his voice began failing him. Yet, he continued to stand and preach as long as he could. When he couldn't stand, he sat and preached — til he couldn't!

Joe and his good wife Alma were married over 50 years. They knew what it meant to love one another and to commit a life to another (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-6; Rom. 7:1-3). This kind of example was not lost on young men like me who were influenced by this good couple (Matt. 5:16).

An old saying that has been attributed to folks like Bernard of Chartres and Sir Isaac Newton is that "we stand on the shoulders of giants". This is certainly true in my case. I am thankful to God for His providence in allowing my path to cross with brother McGaw. I will forever be indebted to good brethren like brother McGaw who helped me develop into what I am today.

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