

## CALVARY BIBLE COLLEGE: SHILLONG

### SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK 2015

Topic: UNDERSTANDING SATAN AS OUR SPIRITUAL ADVERSARY

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#### **WHY WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND SATAN:**

1Pe 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”.*

Satan is our enemy. One of the most important principles of warfare is to know your enemy. If you are fighting a war and you have a lot of information about your enemy, it makes the battle so much easier. If you know very little about your enemy, the battle will be more difficult. If you know in advance all the questions that are going to come for your examination, the examination will be so much easier for you.

It is exactly the same with the Christian life. If you know your enemy, you can overcome him and be more than a conqueror in every temptation. There are many Christians who struggle throughout their whole lives trying to follow Jesus, but fail. I think one of the main reasons is because they know nothing about their enemy.

The Bible tells us a lot about Satan. In fact, immediately after God created Adam and Eve the very next thing the Bible talks about is Satan.

#### **The Origin of Satan:**

Satan is not the opposite of God—an anti-god. According to the Bible, Satan is a created being, having been created by God as His most powerful angelic helper. So, Satan is an angel who rebelled against God.

We know that God existed from all eternity. But Satan did not exist before time began. Satan is a created being. He was known as ‘the shining one’ or Lucifer (Isa. 14:12). He was created as the head of the angels, to lead the angels in the worship of God. God gave him many supernatural abilities and powers when he was created. But he fell into sin and became Satan.

But Satan still has those powers today, because God did not take them away from him when he fell. Satan uses his powers to harm people. And that is why people who get in touch with him do supernatural things through witchcrafts.

It is written concerning Satan, *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground,”* Isa. 14:12.

As the head of the angels, Lucifer was in God’s presence constantly. The reason for his falling away is given in the next two verses (Isa. 14:13,14) *“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the*

*congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High”*

Lucifer was more gifted, more beautiful and had more supernatural abilities than all the angels. He led the angels in the worship of God – until pride entered his heart. He then had the desire to become equal with God – who created him. That was really a stupid thought that came into his heart. How could he ever ascend above God? That is how Satan is foolish in many of the things he does and thinks, even though he is so clever! Many clever people in the world too do a lot of utterly foolish things, spiritually speaking. The more we study about Satan, the more we will see how stupid he is in many of the things he does.

It did not take many years for the highest archangel to become the devil. It only took a moment. He did not fall gradually, step by step. He came down like lightning as Jesus said – in a moment (Luke 10:18). One moment, he was the shining one. As soon as he began nourishing the thought of becoming like God, immediately he became the devil.

Just as it took only a moment and not even a second for an angel to become a devil, it takes just a moment also for a really good person to become like the devil?. Let us remember this.

Another passage that tells us about the origin of Satan is Ezekiel 28. Here we see Satan called “the king of Tyre” (Ezek. 28:12). Demon power was behind the ruler of Tyre. And the Lord spoke to the Satan who indwelt that human ruler.

The Lord reminded Satan of the time when he was in the Garden of Eden (Ezek. 28:13). This tells us that Lucifer was in Eden before Adam and Eve were there. And the Lord reminded Satan of how he had been “*perfect in his ways from the day he was created until sin was found in him*” (v. 16,17).

Lucifer’s heart was lifted up primarily because of his beauty, cleverness and his having the highest position among all created beings. He failed to recognise that all these three things that he was proud of – his beauty, his cleverness and his position – were all gifts of God. And that is what many human beings even Christians, fail to recognise. And that’s how Satan gets a foothold in their lives, and finally destroys them.

So we see that the sin in the world originated with pride. Not with murder or adultery but with pride. And that’s why salvation came through Jesus humbling Himself. The way of humility is the way of deliverance from all of Satan’s schemes and wiles.

In Lucifer, we also see the origin of the spirit of discontentment with one’s appointed lot in life. If we could look at this world from God’s point of view, we could see the world full of grumbling, complaining, murmuring people everywhere – a spirit that they have all received from Satan.

The spirit of rebellion against authority is yet another thing that originated with Lucifer. There was only one authority that Lucifer had above him – and that was God. And he rebelled against that authority. He wanted to be above that authority and to push God down. The spirit of rebellion against authority is what has led to numerous revolutions in countries and what has caused strikes in factories. And in these days, we find that rebellious spirit even among students – not only among College students but among school students as well.

We should never forget that it was this spirit that changed the best of angels into a devil. And this spirit can change a good boy or girl into a devil even today.

When Lucifer fell, he did not fall alone. He had company. In Rev. 12:4 we read that he dragged down one-third of the other angels along with him. They too foolishly joined him in his spirit of pride, discontentment and rebellion. It is the same today. When one person is evil he is not content to remain evil by himself alone. He wants to drag others down with him.

### **The Titles of Satan:**

1. **Adversary:** 1Pe 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

Satan is our arch adversary. Sometimes he gets so close and is so nice we take him for a friend. We don't take him seriously. Like Eve we strike a dialogue with the devil. Jesus did not allow the demons to speak (Mk.1:34). Once we recognise Satan in any form in our life we must snap ties with him. Those who start a conversation with him often end up convinced that he is right. The time we spend in argument is used by Satan to break down our resistance.

2. **Liar:** John 8:44 *“there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, you do not believe me” v. 45. When the scripture does not suit our purposes and allow us to fulfil our lusts, we prefer to believe the lie of the devil. If we decide to abide by the truth, that is God's word, at any cost, then we can escape the onslaught of the liar. He doesn't speak of blatant lies, but white lies, just a little bit of altering of God's truth as he did to Eve. She preferred to believe his lie because she was consumed by the lust for the fruit. Then she became the agent of Satan to hook Adam.

3. **Crafty:** II Cor. 11:3 *“as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”*

Satan did not appear in his own person; he appeared as a beautiful serpent. Some say that the serpent was the only creature that had the power of speech except man. If this is correct, Eve would think it was the serpent speaking. Satan made the attack when Adam and Eve were apart. Satan attack the weaker vessel and he did it when she was near the tree.

4. **Thief:** John 10:1,10 *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy”*

He is a thief because he does not enter by the door; he steals away your most precious possessions and strikes you off-guard. He is never straightforward. He is subtle and that was how he got the first woman. He steals away our godly convictions, peace and joy by offering cheap substitutes. If you are not prepared for him any moment, he is going to get you at the most unexpected time.

5. **Murderer:** John 8:44 *“He was a murderer from the beginning”*

Death was not in God's original plan. But the institution of death was by the devil. When Eve ate the fruit and found herself still alive she would have run to Adam and encouraged him to eat. But one day when she saw Abel dead, she understood the sorrow of death and on her death bed experienced the suffering of death. Till today, this merchant of death is snuffing our lives that are

flickering. He gleefully advocates suicide as a solution to problems, to anyone who would listen. He spoke to Job through his wife and suggested “Curse God and die”. But Job withstood the pain, suffering and mortification to ultimately enjoy a double benefit. When the going gets rough be Mr. Tough.

6. **Accuser:** Rev. 12:10 *“the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”*

He keeps accusing you of your past sins, present failure and future position. It is just a ploy to weaken us. If you keep on accusing a person he will become dull, depressed, unenthusiastic and finally useless. Next time the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.

7. **Tempter:** Mat. 4:3 *“Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread”.*  
I Thess. 3:5 *“lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labour might be in vain”.*

There are two major areas of temptation. One is the temptation to sin. Another is the temptation to quit your faith. Whatever temptation you may face, it will do well for you to remember that Satan has authority only to tempt. He can never force you to do something. The ultimate decision is to be yours and yours alone. God has given us a will to withstand temptation. If you yield to temptation, it is of your own free will. Satan could not pluck the fruit and put in in Eve’s mouth. He only kept encouraging her till she decided for herself.

8. **Angel of light.** II Cor. 11:13-15, *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works”.*

The devil is a deceiver and deception means it looks so bonafide. This is a very tricky area. He preaches in the outfits of the apostles of Christ, ministers of righteousness.

9. **The god of this world.** II Cor. 4:4 *“whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe”.*

Our Lord and God of this universe allowed Satan temporarily to rule this world. There is no place where he cannot go, though it be the garden of Eden. He can work miracles, mobilise the forces of this world against you, unleash the most devastating weapons of persecution and prove his power to an awesome extent. If he cannot tempt you or deceive you, his biggest gun is to hassle you from all sides. The best Christians are often found in the worst of times.

10. **The great dragon, the serpent, the devil, Satan.** Rev.12:9 *“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him”*

Satan is called a serpent partly because of various qualities of the serpent which seems similar to his; partly because he assumed the form of a serpent in Eden; and partly because the serpent was a common symbol of evil. He showed Eve the brighter side of sin but completely hid from her the

darker side. He told her of being like God knowing good and evil but spoke not a word about their nakedness, shame, curse, punishment and loss of innocence.

### **THE METHODS SATAN USES TO ATTACK CHRISTIANS:**

If you do not know how to resist Satan in your life, it can not only ruin your life on earth, it can also affect your eternal destiny. Satan won't wait until you have grown up, before he begins his attacks on you. He will start on you right now. So you must know something about his methods.

Satan is a spirit. The Bible says Satan comes as an angel of light – as one who is attractive. And it is because he comes as an “angel of light” that he is called “the deceiver of the whole world” (Rev. 12:9).

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament begin with description of Satan tempting people – the OT with the temptation of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3) and the NT with the temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4). That shows the importance that the Bible gives to the matter of our knowing the methods of our enemy.

If we follow the example of Adam and Eve in the way they confronted Satan we will certainly fall. But if we follow Jesus' example in the way He confronted Satan, we will overcome. We are commanded not to give chance to the devil. Eph. 4:27 *“nor give place to the devil.”*

1. The Spirit of Stupor (KJV-Slumber): Rom 11:8 *“God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, To this very day.”*

Some of us are natural sleepers. We sleep lying down sitting or even standing. *“Love not sleep”* (Prov. 20:13). It is the love of sleep God warns us against. David says, *“I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids”* (Ps. 132:4). This means our will power has a say in our sleep. *“While the bridegroom was delayed they all slumbered and slept”* (Matt. 25:5). This gives us a hint that we need to cut down on our sleep to the maximum possible extent. Eight hours may be too much for an adult. Do not sleep when you can work for another half an hour. Work till you can really work no more and then go to bed. If you wake up in the night and cannot sleep, don't be rolling in the bed. Get up and read your Bible, pray or work. Rise up as early as possible. Learn to walk faster and do things quicker. Some fellow dream of worthy achievements, while a few stay awake and do them.

2. The Spirit of Fear: II Tim. 1:7 *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

It is surprising that the “coward” stand foremost in the queue to hell (Rev. 21:8). Fear is a great hindrance for any growth or achievements.

*“Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue”* John 12:42. We are afraid to witness. We are afraid to manifest our gifts. We are afraid of making mistakes, of change, making a new moves, attempting things for God.

Paul was a timid man (I Cor. 2:3). But he could say, *“For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”* (Heb. 13:5-6).

3. The Spirit of error: I John 4:6 *“We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error”*

If we do not know God as we ought to know and hear His word, we give place to the spirit of error. Paul’s one longing in life was to “know Him” and so he was kept from error or deception. (Phil 3:10)

Jesus said, *“Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?”* (Mark 12:24). To avoid error, we must know the word of God and the power of God.

As we study the Bible we must understand a) Who God says He is and b) Who God says we are. If we believe and act on these we will not err. Understand the Bible as simply as possible. It is the *“Highway of Holiness ... whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray”* (Isa. 35:8).

4. The Spirit of Harlotry: Hos. 5:4 *“For the spirit of harlotry is in their midst, And they do not know the Lord”*

None of us need to pretend that we are ‘above all that’. With all our spirituality we need to accept that we are all below that, at least to the point of obsession. It is like a cobweb. You keep on cleaning it. It keeps coming up again and again. You have to keep on cleaning, dusting, wiping at the earliest sign. If neglect, at the twinkling of an eye the web is complete. Many strong have been slain and fallen. A good rule to remember is: Not to do or speak anything with a member of the opposite sex, which you will not do if your spouse were present.

5. The Spirit of Disobedience: Eph. 2:2 *“the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”*

The sons of Rechab (Jer. 35) did not receive a direct commandment from the Lord not to drink wine. Their grandfather commanded their father and their father commanded them and they followed it. Then came the day of their temptation. In the house of the Lord. By the prophet of the Lord. Here is something which everyone enjoyed, which they had never tasted in their life, in the house of the Lord offered by the most trustworthy person, prophet Jeremiah. But he could not make them drink.

Temptation to disobey God comes at the most unexpected time, in the most unexpected place through the most unexpected person. Contrast with the man of God who disobeyed God by obeying a prophet and was killed by a lion (I Ki. 13). God does not accept excuses for blatant disobedience.

There is no generation which enjoyed the privilege of the Word of God as much as we. We even have the electronic Bible. How much God will require of us! Do we want visions, dreams and prophets to tell us to obey?

6. The Spirit of Heaviness: Isa. 61:3 *“To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”*

No child of God can escape sorrow, suffering or failure. That is why Jesus came to give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness that we may be called the trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he may be glorified. God is ready to

give us beauty and joy and praise, only if we throw off our ashes, mourning and heaviness. We hold on to them and refuse to be comforted.

7. The Spirit of the World: I Cor. 2:12 *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God”*

You cannot serve God and money. You have to decide your master and be his faithful slave. Many many children of God have become faithful slaves of money. Their mind is full of increasing their income, multiplying their possessions, expanding their business etc. God ask, *“Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”* Luke 12:20, 21). So get rid of all the things that clutter your life and hinder your intimacy with God.

8. The Spirit of Lie: I Ki. 22:22 *“I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets”*

Have we taken for granted that it is impossible not to speak lies? Do we have an accommodating conscience? Have we consoled ourselves that it is too delicate a matter to acknowledge? Do we flatter? Let us accept the challenge to be absolutely truthful. *“For He said, “Surely they are My people, Children who will not lie.” So He became their Savior”* Isa. 63:8. In other words children who refused to lie. So, he saved them from that situation.

9. The Spirit of Bondage: Rom. 8:15 *“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”*

There are Christians who continue to have only a servant mentality. They worry about ‘displeasing’ their Master rather than learning to please their Father. They are afraid God may send them to hell in spite of all their struggle rather than resting in the life of heaven on earth. Our heathenish backdrop has cast its shadow on our Christian thinking. We should never lose the reverence for God. But there is no need to be terrified of God as the heathen.

10. The Spirit of Pride: Pro. 16:18 *“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall”*

Pride is a quality that peeps in, the moment we think we don’t have it.

Let’s stop talking about ourselves. Stop bragging about yourself and your accomplishments. Let us also not look for compliments from people, nor try to pluck praises from the mouth of others but wait for the day of our crowning.

### **THE METHODS WE ARE TO USE TO DEFEAT SATAN:**

Getting rid of those ungodly spirits is not enough to overcome the enemy. We are to be filled with good Spirits. Like Job we must not only shun evil but also fear God. Like Jesus, not only hate iniquity but also love righteousness. We must be filled with –

1. The Spirit of Christ: Rom 8:9 *“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His”*

We bear His Name but not His nature. Unless we allow the Holy Spirit to develop in us the attitude of Christ we'll just be dummy Christians, men of straw. We are very much interested in getting God's power but slow in following the leading of the Spirit.

In any situation stop and ask the question, "If Jesus Christ were in my place what would He do?"

2. The Spirit of Love: II Tim. 1:7 *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

Love God, love your neighbour. This is all the law and the prophets (Mt. 22:37-40). Both the vertical and horizontal components of love are beautifully explained by the apostle of love in I John 4:17-20, interposed by the statement, "Perfect love casts out fear"

When we learn lessons in love and attempt to embrace people, we end up pricking each other like porcupines making love. The fear of hurts paralyses us from making the next move.

3. The Spirit of Sound Mind: II Tim. 1:7 *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"*

The Holy Spirit does not make us robots. He transforms us by renewing our minds that we may be able to find the good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom 12:2). He does not dictate but directs us to find His will through our minds. He guides our thinking.

4. The Spirit of faith: II Cor. 4:13 *"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,"*

Paul does not see faith as a kind of passport to salvation, as though we must believe if we are to be regarded as among the saved, and that from then on we must live by our own efforts. He speaks of Christ as dwelling in the hearts of believers "through faith" (Eph 3:17), Sinners cannot merit salvation, they can only trust God or, as Paul puts it, have faith in God (or in Christ). It implies our recognition that we are sinners and thus unable of ourselves to forsake evil and to do good. Faith is sometimes seen as the basis of the whole Christian life. "We walk by faith" (2 Cor 5:7): faith pervades the whole of the life of the Christian.

5. The Spirit of Gentleness: Gal. 6:1 *"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted"*  
I Cor. 4:21 *"What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?"*  
I Pet. 3:4 *"let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God"*

In I Cor. 4:21 the phrase is used in Paul's counselling the Christians. In I Pet. 3:4 it is in the context of wives converting their husbands.

The spirit of gentleness is highly important in the ministry of counselling whether it be a Christian or in trying to win people to Christ.

6. The Spirit of Faithfulness: Prov. 11:13 *"A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter"*



Faithfulness is the quality of being trustworthy. A faithful man is firm in adherence to his promise, duty, friendship, love and so on. Faithfulness does not depend to whom you are loyal. He may change or backslide. But you must love at all times. Prov. 17:17 *“A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”* That is what we mean by “God is faithful”. Whether we are good or bad towards Him He is the same towards us. Let us exercise that divine character.

7. The Spirit of Contriteness: Ps. 34:18 *“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.”*  
Isa. 57:15 *“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble,”*

Immanuel is for the contrite ones. Blessed are the poor in spirit. To understand this quality better think of a poor man standing before the rich, cheated and dumb. He cannot speak for himself, neither fight for his rights. Like the poor man let us allow ourselves to be hurt, accepting the judgment passed on us, committing ourselves to God.

8. The Spirit of Patience: Eccl.7:8, 9 *“The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. 9 Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.”*

We must learn to keep our spirit under constant subjection or else it will be out control at the most unexpected moment. Examine any situation where you lost your patience and you’ll find haste and anger there.

9. The Spirit of Newness: Rom 7:6 *“But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter”*

Do not be legalistic in following set patterns and traditions. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. Expect new things, new happenings, new developments in your life and ministry. Make a habit of praying for new ideas. God will spark your imagination. Launch out boldly. Accept failure. Failure is not a crime. Turn your dreams to deeds. Keep saying ‘Yes’ to life. Face new challenges. Aim high and soar.

### **The Defeat and final destiny of Satan:**

The greatest battle that ever took place on this earth is not written about in any of the world’s history-books. It was on Calvary, when Jesus, through His death, defeated Satan, the prince of this world.

When Jesus died He made the devil powerless. So that we might be forever free of Satan and the bondage of fear that he had put on us throughout our lifetime

**GOD WILL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR SIDE AGAINST SATAN**

James 4:7 *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

### **Conclusion:**

We have been flirting with the devil for too long. The time has come to wave the devil a big goodbye. We know for sure the end of this romance is a life in hell.

We are espoused to one and He is jealous for us.

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### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. What other names are used to describe Satan? Give Satan's character sketch after his fall.
2. What the Bible teaches us concerning the final destiny of Satan? Do you think God as unforgiving? Give reasons.
3. What actually is Christian warfare all about? Suggest ways and means to fight Satan offensively.
4. List the methods Satan uses to attack Christians and suggest ways and means to fight Satan defensively.
5. Do you think it will be possible for Christians and Satan to live peacefully without disturbing each other? Suggest precautions we should take in dealing with Satan?