

How To Escape Satan's Three Major Snares

What causes a seemingly solid, balanced, deeply converted Christian to turn from God's way of life?

Could it happen to you?

How can you be sure, absolutely sure, that you are immune to such a tragedy?

You cannot serve two masters –

No matter how converted we are, it is possible for every one of us to become preoccupied with the cares of this world.

Matthew 6:24 [King James] *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

This is a dogmatic statement.

The more deeply you are involved in the commission that Jesus Christ has given to the Church, the less likely you are to fall into this snare of Satan's.

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*

This commission was given directly to the original eleven disciples but through them to every human being who becomes a disciple of Jesus Christ, that is every true Christian.

Luke 14:26 [Amplified Bible] *“If anyone comes to Me [Jesus Christ speaking] and does not hate his own father and mother, that is in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude towards God, and likewise his wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes even his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”*

This leaves **no** room in our lives for the attractions of this world.

1 Timothy 5:8 [Amplified Bible] *“If anyone fails to provide for his relatives, [note context of providing for widows] and especially for those of his own family, he has disowned the faith, by failing to accompany it with fruits, and is worse than an unbeliever who performs his obligation in these matters.”*

It is a matter of setting our priorities right and this last scripture helps us maintain a right balance.

Have you taken time to consider what other “masters” you may actually be trying to serve?

Could it be your ego, perhaps?

Could it be your vanity?

Could it be your ambitions in this life?

Could it be your job?

When you face trials and tribulations, especially when your immediate family is involved, [**Matthew 10:34-36**] do you begin to doubt your calling and want to turn away from God's true Church?

Let us look at three broad areas through which Satan works to trap and destroy God's people, causing them to lose out on their chance of salvation.

The spirit of rebellion –

Revelation 12:10-12 [NIV] *“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.’”*

Satan is the accuser of the brethren, all Christians, and he is in rebellious anger towards authority and wants all humans, especially Christians, to follow his example.

This attack of Satan is something all Christians are to overcome.

Satan, swayed by his own ambition, turned against the Creator God, fought and lost.

Isaiah 14:12-14 [King James] *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”*

Lucifer is the original name given to a powerful angel, with authority to rule this earth before the creation of human beings.

Genesis 1:1 [King James] *“In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.”*

God created a perfect earth with animals over which Lucifer was given stewardship.

Genesis 1:2 [King James] *“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”*

The word “was” Hebrew word “*hâyâh*” is better translated “*became*” when we consider the words of **Psalms 103:30** where we are told that the Creator God had to renew the surface of the earth, after it became “*without form and void,*” which was the result of Satan's first rebellion against the Creator God.

The same Hebrew word is translated “*became*” in many other scriptures, for example **Genesis 2:7, 10; Genesis 6:4; Genesis 19:26;** etc.

Satan knows that he has through his rebellion **lost** the future rule of the earth to Christians, [**Revelation 5:9-10**] although God is allowing him to continue his rule until Christians have been prepared to take over rule under Jesus Christ.

Matthew 4:8-9 [King James] *“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”*

Jesus Christ did **not** tell Satan that the world was **not** his to offer to Him.

This is why Satan wants all humans to join him in rebellion against God's rule, so we will end up with him, [**Jude 6, 13**].

In the name of freedom, people all through history have turned in rebellion against authority, not understanding that there is no place for rebellion in true freedom.

John 8:31-32 [NIV] *“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”*

The truth, God's Word, the Christian Bible, [**John 17:17**] is what will bring us true freedom from our deserved death because of our sin, rebellion against our Creator God, [**Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23**].

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

Actually, in a world where Satan is still god you don't need too much encouragement to set your mind on rebellion.

When you look at the world today, you can see how hard Satan is at work.

Everything Satan does, in one way or another, is directed towards rebellion.

Satan's attacks are primarily directed towards Christians, that's where he wants to do the most damage.

In a society based on Satan's principles of selfishness and vanity, obedience to God is **not** easy, but with God's help we can overcome Satan's snares.

James 4:7-8 [NIV] *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

If we submit to God's commands and draw near to Him then Satan will flee from us because of God's presence is in us by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [1 John 4:4].

Satan's snare of pride –

Satan will tempt you by working on your pride and vanity.

Pride is potentially one of your biggest pitfalls, for it makes you unable to recognise your faults and unwilling to apologise when you are wrong.

Satan loves pride, it was his pride that was his downfall.

Ezekiel 28:11-15 [NIV] *“The word of the LORD came to me: ‘Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.’”*

Satan had a high position at the throne of God, and was a “*model of perfection*” and “*blameless in his ways*” when God created him.

Ezekiel 28:17 [NIV] *“Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.”*

But because of his pride Satan was deposed from his high position.

Pride will make you a friend of Satan and will put a wall of separation between God and you. Is your pride worth that tragic price?

Will you, like Satan, turn your back on God because of your own vanity?

One of the most important lessons God gave to His people through Moses was to command them to be humble, [**Deuteronomy 8:3, 6-7, 10-17**].

This warning applies to us today as much as it did to Israel.

It is **only** by the grace of God that we have whatever we possess.

Pride will also incite you to judge and criticise, it will make you think you know better and that your opinions are wiser.

James 4:10 [NIV] *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*

The more you know God through the study and meditation on His Word, the Christian Bible, the more you will realise just how little you actually are.

Isaiah 40:15 [NIV] *“Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.”*

Where does this leave us if we try to compare ourselves to the Creator God?

James 4:11-12 [NIV] *“Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you, who are you to judge your neighbour?”*

Only the Creator God can judge any human being for **only** He knows all the facts and motives a person has to act the way they do, [**Psalms 139:1-16**].

Satan’s snare of covetousness –

Satan wants you to covet something that is not yours, you would then be following his example.

Isaiah 14:12-14 [King James] *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”*

Lucifer, Satan’s original title, coveted God’s throne and authority.

Exodus 20:17 [NIV] *“You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”*

God actually spelled out a whole list of items after which we should **not** covet, ending with an all-encompassing final statement.

In Satan's world everything is geared towards lust and coveting.

False publicity, sex, material wealth.

The media encourages you to covet, you are given many vain but appealing reasons to buy things you don't really need, or lust after things that are neither right nor good for you.

Proverbs 30:7-9 [NIV] *“Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonour the name of my God.”*

There is danger in much wealth, just as there is in poverty. In both instances Satan can effectively use this tool of covetousness.

Matthew 6:11 [NIV] *“Give us today our daily bread.”*

Jesus Christ taught us to ask God for our daily bread, just what we need from day to day.

This will help us **not** to fall into the temptation to covet.

It will teach us to trust the Creator God and **not** set our hearts on material things, which are temporary, [Ecclesiastes 5:10-15].

Philippians 4:10-13 [NIV] *“I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

Contentment is something we have to learn, Paul had learnt this by relying always on his Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. This was the physical conditions of Paul's life.

Philippians 3:10-14 [NIV] *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. **But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.**”*

Paul was far from content with his spiritual life, his thoughts and aim was towards his heavenly calling by God.

Philippians 3:15 [NIV] *“All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.”*

All of us who are seeking spiritual maturity should view our physical and spiritual lives in the same way.

This is how we can have victory over all the snares that Satan sets in his attempt to destroy our future in the Kingdom of God, the created family of God who will soon be taking the rulership of this world out of the hands of Satan.