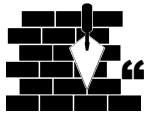


SATAN - “Unmasking The Opposition” - part 1
(this portion of the Leaders Guide covers questions on pp 4-6)



“Building Blocks”

1. **(Q2)** It would be easy to see Job as the one “on trial” in this book, but it is actually God who is on trial. Satan is *accusing* God of “inciting” Job to love Him. In other words, Job’s “love” has been “bought” by blessing, and is therefore not really love.
(Q2) Throughout Job 1 and 2, every time “Satan” is mentioned (14x) the Hebrew is literally, “the satan,” which means, “the adversary.” It is a title, *not* a proper name. The same is true for most (but not all) of the occurrences of “Satan” in our New Testaments. The Greek word “the” precedes it.
2. **(Q5)** Satan’s “tactics/designs” for my life lead me astray from my devotion to Christ. If I understand the “workmanship” motif (Eph. 2:10) to be connected to my sanctification, then Satan must be opposed to that work of God in particular. What God has “prepared” for me, Satan wants to prevent, distort or destroy (E.g. John 10:10).
(Q4&5) The Greek word translated “schemes” (NAS) or “designs” (ESV) in 2 Cor. 2:11 (*noema*), is the identical word translated “minds” in 2 Cor. 11:3! It has to do with our “thought about something.” Paul says that Satan is thinking and planning. In 2:11 he uses a word for “advantage” that means to “gain access to more,” or “to accumulate a greater part.” In our day, it would mean something like becoming a majority share holder.
3. **(Q9-1Pet)** This passage is extremely powerful when compared to Jesus statement to Peter in Luke 22:31-32 and Peter’s subsequent failure. Peter is now writing in his own letter out of the deep conviction that emerges from failure that has been redeemed for God’s purposes.
4. **(Q9)** The Greek word “asked” (NIV) or “demanded” (NAS) means to “ask for oneself.” It is *not* asking for *something*, but *someone!* Satan was saying, “Give me Peter...” The inescapable conclusion from the rest of Jesus’ statement is that this request was granted!
 The word for “sift” is a winnowing term and basically means to “shake in a sieve.” The most obvious meaning here has to do with agitation more than “sifting” to separate something from its context.
 In verse 31, both occurrences of “you” are plural, but in verse 32 all four are singular. That means that Jesus is talking to *all the apostles* in the first verse, but singles out Peter in the second verse. Peter’s response in verse 33 indicates that he did *not* understand the nature of this “sifting,” and obviously assumed that he would be able to “handle it.” Most likely, he thought it would be an *external* challenge, like confrontation or arrest; perhaps even the death sentence.
5. **(Q9-Eph)** The word translated “opportunity” (NAS, ESV) and “foothold” (NIV) is the Greek word, *topos*. It used for an indefinite space that is occupied. Think of it as “real estate.” Satan wants holds on the “Boardwalk” and “Park Place” of our lives.
6. **(Q9-Heb 12:14-15)** The word “peace” here is *not* the presence of harmony, but the absence of war.



“Stumbling Stones”

1. **(Q4&5)** One of Satan’s most effective tactics (I.e. “schemes”) is to convince Christians that their major problems are *external*; people and circumstances. The sober truth however, is that our spiritual battle with him is primarily *internal*. It is mental in nature.

Satan wants to increase his “real estate” holdings, but it is in *our thoughts* more than anything else. Perhaps that is why in a very clear passage on spiritual warfare, Paul speaks about “taking every thought (*noema*) captive...”

This is the identical word that is used in 2 Cor. 2:11 and 11:3. Our battle with Satan is primarily in our minds. Letting our minds have “free rein” to wander or build mental arguments against people or justifications for actions and attitudes is *not* merely a human activity. It is a form of spiritual “surrender!”



“Going Deeper”

1. **(Q4)** Can you think of any relational conflicts in your life where you never considered there to be a spiritual element?
2. If so, how would or did this affect the way you thought and prayed about it?
3. What difference would it have made had you known the things you learned from this chapter?
4. **(Q5)** Do you think Satan wants to turn you *away* from God or *against* Him?
5. What does this quote of C.S. Lewis’ have to say about the idea of *away* versus *against*?

My Dear Wormwood,

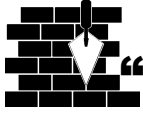
Obviously you are making excellent progress. My only fear is lest in attempting to hurry the patients you awaken him to a sense of his real position. For you and I, who see that position as it really is, must never forget how different it ought to appear to him. We know that we have introduced a change of direction in his course which is already carrying him out of his orbit around the Enemy; but he must be made to imagine that all the choices which have effected this change of course are trivial and revocable... You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate him from the enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out in the Nothing... Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.” (Screwtape Letters, pp. 53,56)

6. **(Q6e)** Use the list of opposites below and answer the question: What are the implications of the idea that Satan wants to move me in the opposite direction that God wants to take me?

relief	—	pain
health	—	sickness
wealth	—	poverty
success	—	failure
promotion	—	demotion
notoriety	—	obscurity
life	—	death
relationship	—	loneliness
more	—	less

7. **(Q9)** How did you approach this question, considering that Satan was not mentioned in every verse?
8. **((Q9))** How did you approach this question, considering that Satan was not mentioned in every verse?
9. **(Q10)** If Satan is truly “against us,” what is the point of this verse?
10. **((Q11))** Share your results for this question.

SATAN - “Unmasking The Opposition” - part 2
(this portion of the Leaders Guide covers questions on pp 7-8)



“Building Blocks”

1. **(Q1-Hebrews)** The word translated, “destroyed” (NIV, ESV) and “render powerless” (NAS) is the Greek word, *katargeo* which means to “cause to become idle,” or “unemployed.” It has to do with influence. We should think of it sort of like being “fired.” He had (delegated) control over death, and it had the power of it taken from him by means of Jesus’ death on behalf of the “offspring of Abraham” (vs. 16).
 The word for “power” here is one of six Greek words that could be used. It is the word, *kratos* which is typically used for God. It means “might” or “dominion.”
(Q1-1Jn 3) The word “works” should be understood here as the “products of an enterprise.” Jesus came to put Satan out of business! Christians who take a loose view of sin effectively put him back in business!
(Q1-1Jn 4) The word “overcome” is in the perfect tense here. The emphasis is on a victory that has been won, *and a state of victory secured*. The indwelling Christ is greater than the Devil. There is a contrast established here between Christ and “he who is in the world.” This is a clear reference to Satan (cf. with John’s other references: Jn 12:31; 14:30)
2. **(Q2c)** Romans 12:1-2 speaks of two crucial things: a “renovation of the mind,” that yields the “transformation” of the whole person. Paul’s use of words like *metamorphoō* is a clear connection to sanctification. It refers to a “change in the form” of something. It was the word used to describe Jesus’ appearance in the Transfiguration.
 “Conform” here means to “shape one thing like another”; it refers to things that are transitory, changeable and unstable.
 “Renew” means to renovate; the word refers to a complete change in something. It does *NOT* mean a “recovery” or a “restoration.” Paul uses this word 2 times in his writings: here in talking about the “renovation of the mind” and in Titus 3:5 where he is referring to the work of the Spirit in our salvation.
3. **(Q3-Eph 6)** There is a wealth of ideas in this passage! Paul tells them (Greek imperative; command) to “*BE* empowered.” The verb is passive. He is *NOT* telling them to *DO* something as much as to *LET* something be done to them. That are “to be empowered in the Lord and the endowed strength of His divine power.” It is *GOD’S* armor we are to put on, not our own.
4. **(Q4-a)** A very insightful story about the spiritual warfare element in prayer is in Daniel 7:10-21 where an angel indicates that he has been hindered in getting to Daniel because of the “Prince of Persia.” Political figures aside, there is at least an element here of spiritual warfare in the heavens associated with the prayers of God’s people. The battle of Satan and Michael over the body of Moses told about in Jude is another example.
 Jesus specifically told the Twelve to pray so that they “might not enter into temptation.” This statement appears in all three of the Synoptic Gospels (Matt. 26; Mark 14; Luke 22). He also refers to it in the Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6; Luke 11). The word translated “enter” *eiserchomai*, means to go *into* something. It’s used for Satan entering a person, food entering the stomach, and people entering a city. It at least appears that temptation is more of a “sphere” than it is a thought.
 Jesus linked prayer to spiritual warfare in his statement about casting out some demons (Mk 9:29).

It is interesting that his statement about the “flesh is weak” the word *asthenēs* means to be without strength. It is what is lacking, not what is present. Perhaps this is why Paul commands the Ephesians to “be empowered” with the Lord’s strength, and to put on the Lord’s armor. In other words, Paul says, “Let God give you what you lack.”



“Stumbling Stones”

1. **(Q4&5)** One of Satan’s most effective tactics (i.e. “schemes”) is to convince Christians that their major problems are *external*; people and circumstances. The sober truth however, is that our spiritual battle with him is primarily *internal*. It is mental in nature.

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“Going Deeper”

1. **(Q2)** Share your results for this question.
2. **(Q4)** List as many difference arenas in life where *untruth* is “in charge” of someone’s (yours?) thinking. (E.g. racism, despair, bitterness, unforgiveness, lust, etc.)