

**OVERCOMING TEMPTATION**  
**PART 5b-THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOR AND ARSENAL**  
**HOW SATAN ATTACKS THE SAINTS**  
**EPHESIANS 6:11; 2 CORINTHIANS 2:11**

**INTRODUCTION**

We saw how this word translated "*wiles*" has been translated in some places as "*schemes*"! The devil is a *schemer*!

We also said we get our English word "*method*" from the Greek word for "*wiles*." We must be aware of the *methods* of the devil! The word carries the idea of *craftiness, cunning, and deception*... **Satan's evil schemes are often built around stealth and deception!**

Make no mistake—Satan and his demons, seek to attack us as believers! And just as we should use everything in our armory and arsenal to thwart his attacks, he uses everything he can in his effort to defeat us!

**I want you to see that there are at least 9 ways Satan attacks the Saints:**

**1. Satan attempts to impugn God's character and credibility of both God and His Word!**

(e.g. *Genesis 3:1-6* Eve in the Garden of Eden) Realize that our greatest strength is to trust God, so Satan's objective is to make us distrust God! In countless variations Satan continues to tempt us to doubt God's will and to doubt God's motives!

**2. Satan tries to undermine present victory by generating trouble that makes our lives difficult!** In doing so he tempts us to forsake our adherence and obedience to God's standards and/or God's calling.

*1 Corinthians 16:9* For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and **there are many adversaries.**

*Acts 19:8-10; 2 Timothy 4:14-18*

**3. Satan attacks believers through doctrinal confusion and falsehood!**

Christians who are not students of God's Word easily fall prey to wrong ideas about the things of God!  
*(Ephesians 4:11-14)*

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*Galatians 5:7*—"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

Paul mentioned two blasphemers by name that he said he had to deliver over to Satan (Hymanaeus and Alexander—*1 Timothy 1:20*)

**4. Satan attacks God's people by hindering their service to Him!**  
*Romans 1:13*—"Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,)..."

*Romans 15:22*—"For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you."

*1 Thessalonians 2:18*—"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

All through the book of Acts the Apostles were hindered!

**5. Satan attacks believers by causing divisions!**  
*(1 Corinthians 1:10-13)*

**6. Satan attacks believers by persuading them to trust their own resources instead of trusting God!**

**7. Satan attacks believers by leading them into hypocrisy!**  
He loves for us to talk a good talk, but not walk a good walk!  
He loves for us to say one thing with the mouth and but live contrary to what we say!

**8. Satan attacks believers by leading them into worldliness!**  
(Demas in *2 Timothy 4:10*)

**9. Satan attacks believers by leading them to disobey God's Word!**

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**Conclusion**

Satan has it in for us, but remember that God has promised us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

*1 Corinthians 15:57—“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

God has given us the whole armor of God with which we can stand victoriously against the schemes of Satan!

God has graciously provided the armor! But we must be obedient and do as He tells us—PUT IT ON!

There are **five pieces of armor** here with which we should be clothed. A once and for all decision should be made by us to wear the armor! But I also believe that daily we should make sure the armor is in place! Lord willing we'll look at one of these pieces of the armor each week!

This week we consider *Ephesians 6:14a* - "*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...*"

Paul was in prison when he was writing this. He was being guarded by a Roman soldier who probably had most or all of this armor with him.