

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE DECEPTIVE TACTICS OF SATAN

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)

Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will	Satan uses many deceptive tactics. Falling into sin has consequences. We can overcome Satan’s deceptive tactics with God’s help.
Knowledge of God	God is almighty, ever-present, all-knowing, and everlasting.
Good Works	Hide God’s word in our hearts. Pray and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. Learn to flee from and avoid temptation. Make spiritual friends.

A. Satan’s Deceptive Tactics

Our temptations are rooted in three desires (1 Jn 2:16):

1. *The lust of the flesh*: This is the desire to fulfill the pleasures of our physical body without thinking of the will of God. This refers not only to sexual sin but also other sins, such as gluttony.
2. *The lust of the eyes*: This occurs when our desire to possess the things we see is greater than our desire for the invisible, spiritual values that we ought to pursue.
3. *The pride of life*: This refers to the desire to rise up or exalt ourselves so that we are equal to or above God. It is perhaps the vilest of the three and is tricky to catch, as it starts within ourselves, and we are often blind to it.

Just as he did with Adam and Eve, Satan makes us question God’s commandments. He denies or disguises the consequences of breaking the commandments and makes disobedience seem desirable. David lost his vigilance, and Satan used this opportunity to present to him a temptation that he could not overcome. These examples serve as a warning that we must constantly be on guard against temptation, especially in peaceful times when we are not as attentive.

B. The Consequences of Falling into Temptation

Sin doesn’t just impact us. It can also have a negative impact on our relationships. But it is even more important to remember that the ultimate consequence of sin is death. James 1:14–15 teaches us that there is a progression from desire, to sin, to death. But God does not want this to happen to us. He wants us to obey His commandments so that we can receive everlasting life.

Life Application: Overcoming Satan’s Deceptive Tactics

1. *Flee from and avoid temptation (2 Tim 2:22)*: Like Joseph who fled from his master’s wife, we must flee from sin. We will be less likely to sin if we simply remove the temptation from our lives.
2. *Hide the word of God in our heart (Ps 119:11)*: For those times when we simply cannot avoid a temptation, we can overcome it with the help of God’s word. But we must first hide it in our hearts.
3. *Pray and be empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)*: The Holy Spirit empowers us so that we are able to overcome our temptations. So, we must constantly strive for the fullness of the Spirit.
4. *Make spiritual friends (Eccl 4:12)*: Spiritual friends can help come up with solutions for temptations we face and hold us accountable for our actions. They can also pray for us in our time of trouble.

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Lesson 12 Homework Assignment

The Deceptive Tactics of Satan

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (2 Timothy 2:22):

1. What comes naturally to us when we pursue God? Why?
2. “For all that is in the world—the lust of the _____, the lust of the _____, and the _____ of _____—is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1 John 2:16)
3. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own _____ and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to _____; and _____, when it is full-grown, brings forth _____.” (James 1:14–15)
4. What are the deceptive tactics of Satan?
5. Name one way we can overcome Satan’s deceptions, and explain it in your own words.
6. List two actions that you will take this week to overcome Satan’s deceptive tactics in your life.