

WILES OF THE DEVIL

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"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
Eph. 6:11.

It looks to me that the lost world has decided that the devil will be their God. He has his way with so many things, and traps believers into sin, and blinds the eyes of sinners. He is very clever and sneaky, and is working all he can to hinder the plans of our creator. He doesn't know it, but he is a fallen, defeated, foe when it comes to believers. For a daily life of victory we must be wise to his tricks and by wise dependence on the Spirit avoid his evil attempts to hinder us. From years of experience and knowledge of the Word of God, I want to expose his trickery in at least a dozen ways. **(1) He Grabs Your Attention:** *"No man that warreth, entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."* II Tim. 2:4. He works constantly day and night to distract believers from holy things to worldly things. Through the glitter of advertisement and the entertainment business he constantly waves evil as good. His attractions are always false and misleading and time wasting. He wants your record to be that of a wasted life which wastes your abilities in worthless activity. Everything he offers is deceptive, destructive and wasteful and never right and fulfilling. Keep your eyes on God! **(2). Influences Your Testimony:** *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."* II Cor 6:17. You, dear believer are the only Bible your sinful friend reads. We are constantly on display, and by our lives encourage or discourage sinners to come to God. Carelessness about any phase of your life that discredits God will be magnified, paraded

and used by Satan in his plans. You dare not be careless with your life and allow sinful failures to help strengthen evil. Guard your testimony as the treasure it is before the eyes of all mankind. **(3) Satan Warps Your Affections:** *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* I John 2:15&16. He works on young eyes like a gigantic magnet of evil, and still traps many that are older and ought to know better. He binds and blinds and refuses to let you do right. Satan secretly tries to regulate the minds and eyes and lives of every believer. Beware! **(4) He Blurs Your Focus:** *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God."* I Cor. 10:31. Often you value the wrong things, waste much time on TV and think and major on things that are cheap and wasteful. If you cannot do whatever you should and substitute the cheap motives of Satan you will one day face judgment for your foolish, self pleasing decisions. **(5). The Devil Likes To Dominate Your Conversations.** *"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."* Psa. 19:14. Be sure to control your tongue in conversation with others. Never lie or stretch the truth or bring injury to others by your words. Profanity is never acceptable, and remember if you think it, you will use it. Consider the tape of God's recorder to be always running, to be rerun at the judgment some day. **(6). He Loves To Influence Your Dress:** *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."* I Thess 5:22. Modern styles lead to body exposure, sloppiness, style worship, and ugliness. The message is, I am loose, tempting and available and wish I wasn't the sex I am. I therefore revolt against neatness, modesty, and whatever expresses my rebellion, I like it. What ever happened to

young men with well fitting clothes, and girls who know what a dress is. Pants wearing women strive for male dominance, and even grandmothers reject Deut. 22:5. Today's youth are just one of the bunch, and very few women stand out as beautiful ladies in a dress pleasing to quality men. Oops, excuse me but you know it is true. **(7). Influences Your Music Tastes:** *"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties."* Psm. 141:3 & 4. Little is worse than a diet of popular Rock and Roll music of the day. It is, in fact, an insult to the word music. It feeds the flesh, advances evil thoughts and actions, and captivates the listener in an atmosphere of evil. Now even so called new Christian music copies after it's style. It bathes the listener with an atmosphere that kills the spiritual. **(8). The Devil Steals God's Tithe:** *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* Mal. 3:10. Satan does not want you to tithe to the Lord, and will demand that you use your money for all the things of earthly possession. Failure to tithe can deprive you of a lifetime of monitory blessings now, and eternal reward later. Wasteful, worldly spending, leads to tragic neglect of support for the things of God. **(9). He Clutters Your Schedule:** *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* Eph. 5:16. He loves to fill our lives with wasteful unproductive hours that make us busy in earthly things. Many things we have to do for daily living, but we tend to make ourselves too busy. Where were you last prayer meeting night, and what were you doing to please self, instead of God. Satan leads in constant competition for our time and energies. After all we have to take time to rest. He is an expert in

how to make you too busy to be faithful to God. **(10). He Injects Immoral Thinking:** *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."* Prov. 23:7. Most of us are so careless in the use of our eyes, and focus every day on trash. TV, movies, books, and music, plus the computer provide a daily diet of sounds and information which destroy our close walk with God. The Spirit within is grieved within us if we allow the devil to occupy our minds with evil. Where does he lead your thoughts in quiet times? Immoral and improper thoughts will lead to doing many of the things you hear and see in careless moments. Your mind is a terrible thing to waste, and clutter with evil. Flee from evil thoughts by substituting scripture and pure thinking. **(11). Satan Wants To Ruin Your Witness:** *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Matt. 5:16. The world is looking for thrills and satisfaction in something. Everything they try backfires and even they can see the loss. We need to show the joy and victories of living a Christ filled Christian life. Accepting the same worldly things they have tried will never bring them to Christ. They need to see examples of what knowing the Lord produces. Be a shining light of true Christianity. **(12). Satan Will Lead You Into Idolatry:** *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* Eph. 5:11. Wrong values lead to wrong loves. Whatever you erect in your life that is not one hundred percent approved of God, easily becomes an idol. What is there in your life that you sometimes question as to its rightfulness? Did you decide on God's basis, or erect an idol to it, excuse it and keep going. Idols are more than trophy-like things that are allowed to continue in your life. Nothing must be allowed to dim our relationship with God. *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* James 4:7b Understand he is a real person of danger to watch out for. Resist the Devil!

