

The Devil Wants You Sifted and Killed
(I Peter 5:8-9; Luke 22:31)

Peter said, Be well balanced, meaning sober of mind, vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour (I Peter 5:8).

Soberness of mind, vigilance and cautiousness are the requisites to keep the evil one from us. In his letter to the church of Ephesians, Paul admonishes us to stand our ground with the **belt of truth tightened** around our loins; with the **breastplate of integrity**; with **feet shod** (to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news; with the **covering shield of faith** upon which we can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked (one): with the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword that the Spirit wields**, which is the **Word of God**; **praying at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and entreaty**. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (Ephesians 6:14-18).

The devil, the accuser of our soul, will not quit until he has his desires accomplished in the lives of men. He hates men, because men have been bought with the precious blood of YAHSHUA unto salvation. That has thwarted his plan to take them to hell with him. He stands accusing us before our Lord God. All he needs is an open door. We often invite him by not being dressed with the full armor of God, falling into temptations of his lies. Peter says, he roars like a lion. That should give us a warning that he is near. Submission to God first we can resist the devil and only then he will flee from us, it is a promise we have from God's word (James 4:7).

We are guilty of going to spiritual battle many times without the full armor God has made available to us. For some reason or another we lose focus of whom the battle is against and fall into the mistake of getting angry at each other, when God's word has said that our struggles are not with flesh and blood, but against the powers of the "master spirits who are the world rulers of this present darkness". We get angry and fall into the sin of bitterness, when the Word of God says, Be angry and sin not; do not ever let your wrath last until the sun goes down; **leave no room for foothold for the devil** (Ephesians 4:26-27). So when we go to bed with anger, we wake up with spirits of bitterness and many others, for we have given the devil an open door into our life. Forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32b) is the command we have from our Lord. Peter said that the devil roams around roaring like a lion looking for someone to devour. It is a warning we must pay attention to. The apostle Peter was warned by YAHSHUA concerning the devil's desire to sift him. He said, Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has asked excessively that you be given up to him, that he might sift you like grain; but I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren (Luke 22:32).

We are familiar with the fact that Peter did fall into the temptation of denying his Lord. But because of YAHSHUA'S prayer on his behalf, Satan had no power to sift him. Praying in the

Spirit at all times for one another is a sure victory we will have in facing the evil one. As YAHSHUA prayed for Peter, we too are to pray for one another, exercising foresight, looking after one another, to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace (Heb. 12:15a), for the devil prowls in search of someone to destroy. He tried to destroy the Patriarch Job with terrible sores from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet. He went forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with loathsome and painful sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head; and Job took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself, and he sat down among the ashes (Job 2:7-8). In chapter seven verses 2-6 Job describes his sufferings. He said, As a servant earnestly longs for the shade and the evening shadows and as a hireling who looks for the reward of his work, so am I allotted months of futile and nights of misery are appointed to me. When I lie down I say, When shall I arise and the night be gone? And I am full of tossing to and fro till the dawning of the day. My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken and has become loathsome, and it closes up and breaks out afresh; my days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. In spite of all his sufferings, Job remained faithful to his God, defeating the enemy, the devil. In the end he was rewarded.

Satan attacked Job not because of sin in his life, but to test God's words of confidence in His servant Job's righteousness. In another experience Satan, the accuser was found standing at the right hand of Joshua the high priest, to be his adversary and to accuse him before the Angel of the Lord. Although Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, nonetheless the Lord spoke to those who stood before Him saying, Take away the filthy garments from him and He said to [Joshua], Behold, I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with rich apparel (Zechariah 3: 4). While the devil intended to destroy the high priest Joshua with accusations, the Lord responded with forgiveness and His righteousness was imputed on Joshua by clothing Him with "rich apparel". Nothing has changed concerning the devil's intent to destroy men. He continues progressively working against men's salvation. His deceitful ways have led many stray from the truth and kept many from believing the truth. As the father of lies he pursues after as many as he can to the destination of destruction.

Be vigilant, be sober; be attentive and calm; be ready to defend yourself and to attack him dressed in God's full armor, not in your own strength. Adam and Eve tried that and failed; the prodigal son followed his ways and ended up in the pigs' pen, eating of their food, until he made a decision to return to his father in repentance of heart; readily the father dressed him in the best robe, gave a ring and shod his feet with new sandals. Peter tried and ended up denying the Lord; only by repentance he could be forgiven and saved from the consequences. Sadly for Ananias and Sapphira they died in their sin of lying. Judas Iscariotes privileged by walking with the Son of God, learning and witnessing miracles performed by Him, decided to go the way of the devil and fell prey of his schemes. YAHSHUA called him the "son of perdition". Some believe that Satan will resurrect him to be the beast or the antichrist based on Revelation 17: 8a: The beast that you saw [once] was, but [now] is no more, and he is going to come up out of the Abyss and proceed to go to perdition; also believed him to be from the tribe of Dan.

If you have not accepted YAHSHUA to be your Savior and Lord of your life, you are doomed to fall into the hands of Satan; YAHSHUA said, I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep; I give them eternal life, and they shall never lose it or perish throughout the ages. And no one is able to snatch them out of My hand (John 10: 11,28). You will be safe from the evil one only as the Lord YAHSHUA'S sheep. No power is greater than His and no one will be able to snatch you out of His hand when you accept His gift of salvation. Come to Him now, be saved and safe!