

The Strength of Satan

The 16 Deadly D's

STAGES

1. **Disappointment:** All disappointments are His appointments.
And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **Romans 8:28**
2. **Discouragement:** The second stage of disappointment. Do your actions and countenance look as if "God is dead?" Ask forgiveness. *Moreover David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.* **1 Samuel 30:6**
3. **Despair:** The third ^{and} final stage of disappointment. *We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;* **2 Corinthians 4:8**

TACTICS

4. **Doubt:** The first tactic Satan used with Eve was to doubt God's Word. *Has God really said?*
5. **Disbelief:** The final form of doubt. Satan finished tempting Eve by denying the command of the Lord. *Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.* **Hebrews 3:12**
6. **Distraction:** A very subtle tactic of our enemy. Distractions from God's may be wholesome activities such as doing things with the family or your job. The real enemy of the *best* is not the *worst*, but the *good*. Do not forget to use Peter's words in a difficult situation: *But seeing the wind, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"* **Matthew 14:30**
7. **Double-mindedness:**
"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **Matt 6:24**
A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. **James 1:8**
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **James 4:8**
8. **Dishonesty:** This can often be more than lying or stealing: Dishonesty can withhold certain facts in certain situations. It can owe God tithes and offerings. We cheat our children and our people when we are less than we should be as parents, or workers in our jobs or ministries. *But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.* **2 Cor 4:2**
9. **Deceit:** Cults add to God's Word and liberals take away from it. *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.* **2 Cor 11:13**

TACTICS

10. **Dullness:** Affects the listener that prevents stemming the tide of iniquity and apostasy. *Concerning Christ we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.* **Hebrews 5:11**
11. **Deadness:** Unchecked dullness. We are to be dead to *sin* and alive to *righteousness* **Rom 6:1,2,11**. But some Christians have allowed Satan to twist these two facts. *I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.* **Revelation 3:1**
12. **Delay:** Many a man meant to get saved at the 11th hour, but died at 10:30. *Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.* **Proverbs 27:1**
13. **Discord:** Trouble in the church can more likely begin with discord rather than doctrine. *There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.* **Proverbs 6:16-19**
14. **Defilement:** God does not require gold or silver vessels, only clean ones. A believer who defiles himself with the things of this world can never be used by God, regardless of his education, ability, energy, or experience. *Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.* **1 Cor 3:16-17**
15. **Defame:** Criticizing or belittling others. *Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.* **Ps 101:5**
16. **Disobedience:** There are two very different men named *Saul* in the Bible. What made the difference in them? Obedience. *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, ... "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king."* **1 Samuel 15:22-23**

The Strength of the Christian

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **James 4:7**

How do I resist?

1. KNOW HOW THE DEVIL ATTACKS

in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes

2 Corinthians 2:11

2. STAND GUARD

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

3. WEAR PROPER PROTECTION

Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-17

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD

Ps 27:13