

## 17. Of Satan, the Prince of Evil Spirits.

**Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.** 1 *Pet.* 5, 8.

The evil spirits are organized under the direction of Satan, the prince of the devils. He is very cunning. Remember how he brought about the fall of our first parents. He will not cease tempting us till he has found out where we are weakest. Therefore the Bible warns: "Be sober, be vigilant!" There is not an hour of the day in which we are not tempted by this formidable foe. He comes as an angel of light, quoting Scripture, but perverting it. Or he approaches like an adder, insidiously, fascinating men's minds by his bewitching manner, until all unawares the sin and wickedness to which he has tempted us is done. Again, he lies in wait like a wild beast and, when man is most secure, springs upon him and entraps him into sin. He suggests to Christians misbelief, error, and impure thoughts; he beguiles their senses with allurements of pleasure and the glory and riches of this world; he plies them with afflictions, pushing and browbeating them into sin. And when he has won them, he rules over them in his satanic kingdom.

The whole world is Satan's kingdom, for which reason he is called the prince of this world, the god of this world; for it is he who corrupted it. He seduced man to sin and thereby introduced sin into the world and, together with it, woe, misery, and death. All men are born sinners and therefore by nature subjects of Satan in his kingdom. Had not God had compassion on the fallen human race, not a soul would be saved, but all men would have to remain in Satan's kingdom and share with him his doom of eternal damnation. But God did have mercy on us. There is a victory over Satan.

Christ has broken the power of the devil, and He gives us the power to resist the devil. He has given us a weapon with which we can stand firm and slay the great enemy of our soul: His Word. And if we stand fast in the faith, the devil cannot harm us.

## Prayer.

Almighty God and Father, grant me grace to guard myself against the temptations of Satan, against sin and shame, and to be found in accord with Thy divine will, in order that I may walk so that, guarded against all ill, I may always cherish Thee in my heart and thoughts. And when the hour of my death draws nigh and I am to depart this life, grant, I beseech Thee, that I may fall asleep in the true knowledge of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and awake unto life eternal. Amen.

Fear not, O little flock, the foe  
Who madly seeks your overthrow;  
Dread not his rage and power.  
What though your courage sometimes faints,  
His seeming triumph o'er God's saints  
Lasts but a little hour.

This devotion is one of 318 taken from *Daily Bread* by F. E. Pasche, published by CPH in 1926, but now in the public domain. They have been copied and reformatted by Rev. Bruce G. Ley and made available for distribution by pastors and missionaries.

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