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Coming to Grips with **Satan's Plan for Your Life**

“**G**od loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!”

That's the good news.

The bad news is that Satan hates you and has a *destructive* plan for your life.

Even secularists are beginning to believe. Newspapers carry stories of demon worship and openly discuss the growing belief that there is a personal devil. We should not be surprised that there is empirical evidence that Satan exists, for we have met him in our own lives and in the experiences of others. More important, we know incredible details about him from the pages of the Bible. Not only does he exist, but he is actively seeking recruits.

In fact, I believe that *he has already made meticulous plans for our downfall*. All that is left for us to do is to step into the carefully laid trap. Unfortunately, the trap is hidden—it

blends in with our aptitudes and surroundings and looks as if it is the route to fulfillment. Though it appears harmless, the consequences could be disastrous should we fall into it.

Satan is on the prowl, stalking and setting traps for God's people (and yes, for unbelievers, too). He stays out of view, waiting for an unguarded moment. If we could know the extent of his knowledge of us . . . if we could understand his fiendish delight should we become a discredit to Christ, we would pore over the Scriptures to learn about him and about the weaponry God has given us for the battle.

Satan himself is abhorrent to us. Knowing that, he comes using different disguises and different names. His goal is *to get us to do something he wants while making us think that the idea is wholly ours.*

Understandably, his chief point of attack is the human mind. He has varying degrees of access (depending on the amount of sin we tolerate) and uses his opportunities to the hilt. Since he is not a gentleman and plays only by his own rules, he influences our thoughts and feelings without formal invitation. He is most pleased when his activity is completely hidden.

To alleviate any suspicion or fear, he gives his ideas familiar names that make us feel comfortable. Even the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood was cunning enough to know that he could not say to the grandmother, "Let me in, for I am the wolf!" Instead he disguised his voice and whispered, "I'm Little Red Riding Hood!"

Satan's full-time occupation is *making sin look good to us*. Whatever the lure he employs, it is a highly intelligent spiritual being who plots our downfall. His intention is to cause us shame and to neutralize our effectiveness for Christ.

Satan also has tens of thousands of lesser spirits under his authority who have varying degrees of intelligence and power. They are highly organized and are forced to become his mercenaries, his servants who do his bidding. If they disobey, they are likely punished by their cruel leader.

Of course there would still be addictions, violence, and wasted lives in the world if Satan and his demons did not exist. We have a sin nature that is capable of every kind of evil. Satan, however, plays a key role in tempting us, and, should we say yes to his promptings, he will tighten the chains to keep us bound.

HIS GREATEST DESIRE

And now for his plan for our lives.

Hunters study animals to become familiar with their likes and dislikes, their habits and whereabouts. Animals don't usually get caught by accident; they are lured into circumstances that look attractive but conceal a deadly hook. If you are catching a mouse you use cheese; a bear will be drawn to a piece of fresh meat; for fish you use worms. You promise your prey what it wants to have but give it what you want it to have. Let's apply this simple analogy to satanic entrapment.

First, Satan tries to develop a keen understanding of his intended victim. Just as we know that mice prefer cheese to dead worms, so Satan knows our weaknesses and habits. He and his demons are keen observers of human nature, but he needs even more specific knowledge of each victim in order to set a trap that will succeed. It is reasonable to assume that evil spirits (one or more) are actually assigned to us to observe our habits and weaknesses.

Second, just as we must determine whether the mouse lives in the basement or the bedroom, so evil spirits observe where we work and with whom we work. They are partic-

ularly interested in our daily habits. Of even greater interest is our secret life—those attitudes and behaviors that we keep from others. This provides them with perhaps the most fruitful area of temptation.

Third, just as it would be foolish for us to think we could catch a mouse without a trap, so Satan knows that he must remain hidden. A mousetrap is important because it can be used in our stead; it can catch our victim while we remain out of view. Furthermore, a trap can hold out the promise of food and fulfillment while keeping the ultimate consequences concealed. Mice see only the cheese and do not understand the wire and the powerful spring. Likewise, Satan wants to keep us ignorant of the intriguing dynamics taking place in the spirit world. He wants our circumstances to appear to be ordinary; his traps do not arouse undue suspicion. *Yet behind the trap is the trapper; behind the lie is the liar.*

Satan has as many lures as there are human weaknesses. To change the analogy, he leads us into a hallway with many different doors. To him it does not matter which of these doors we choose, because any one of them will lead to the same dark room of satanic involvement and control.

Later in this booklet, I will list twelve of the most common doors