

Lies the Evil One Told Me

One of the great lies of all the time is, "The check is in the mail." I am active in some Internet discussion groups for car enthusiasts where there are often people buying and selling classic car parts. There is one fellow that is often expressing his interest in buying various parts and is always quick to commit verbally but never seems to send the promised check. Those of us have gotten wise to his antics don't immediately run out to the garage to begin boxing up the parts for him any more because we know that there is a high probability that the check will never arrive. Now when we see him commit to things we smile and think to ourselves, "I'm not going to get caught again. That guy just can't be trusted. He's at it again!" We will sometimes caution others offline that are not yet wise to his ploys, because we have some history with this person.

I guess I am finally beginning to realize that Satan must be treated the same way as our car parts buying friend. We know that Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44-47), an author of schemes (2 Cor 2:10-11) and also the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10, Job 1:6-9):

Rev: 12:10 "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

As I look at the Revelation verse above, the picture I see of Satan is that among other things he is running a 24 X 7 ministry of accusation. This continues until God finally hurls Satan down and closes the door on that "ministry". For those of us involved in seeking to be built up ourselves and to build up others by encouragement, we are in direct opposition to Satan's ministry to accuse, isolate and discourage. The irony and diabolical craftiness of Satan's plan is to tempt us to sin and if we succumb, he then stands first in line as our accuser.

Although I have not spent any time in court myself, I'm told by friends that have been that there is no more lonely place than sitting as the defendant in a case as the prosecution details the deeds you have done. Often it seems we can almost seem to hear the arguments of Satan's prosecution team.

Here are the accusations I've heard and some bible verses I use for defense when these accusations come up:

You can't really minister to others until you conquer this one sin. (Hebrew 4:14-16, I John 1:8-10, I John 2:1-2)

You don't really know enough to mentor or minister to others. (John 9:25, Col 4:6, I Peter 3:15)

What you are facing now is best faced alone. (Col 3:16, Hebrew 10:25)

You did what again? How can God use you? (Matt 18:21-35)

You told God that you would never do that again and you just did it. (Gal 6:1-2, I John 1:9 - I John 2:2)

No one else has a problem with that. You are the only one. (I Cor 10:13)

No one will find out if you do that. Just go ahead. (Numbers 32:23, Job 10:14)

How can you believe in God when He allows _____ to happen? (Matt 10:29-31, John 9:1-7)

The reason that _____ happened was because God is judging you for something you did. It's your fault. (Romans 8:28-35, Eph 1:14-21)

You're really confused aren't you? (I Cor 14:33, James 5:16-17)

There is something that you have done wrong. Nothing specific but just a big vague “Something”. (Psalms 139:23-24, Col 1:9-14)

Now I used to buy into these accusations and waste a lot of time on them just like packing up car parts for a buyer that would never send the check. I’ve seen some good friends that have been short circuited in their walk with God because they bought into these lies. The question I’m often asked is how we distinguish the conviction of God from the accusations of Satan and the answer is very simple. If the impression you have is one of clear cut conviction (John 16:5-11) of a specific sin then that is God. If it is sharp and piercing and you feel like you have been stabbed with a scalpel (Hebrews 4:12-13) it is from God.

Conversely, if it is vague uneasy feeling, shrouded in cloudiness or feels like you are being beat with a hammer, then that is not conviction from God. The contrast is truly amazing once you begin to recognize it.

One parent tells his child that he has disobeyed and to be restored to fellowship all he must do is to acknowledge that wrong, to turn from it and hurry back to the loving arms of his parent. Once he does return he is fully restored to a position of favor. It was never really a question of the parent’s love, only the parent’s approval.

In contrast the evil parent actually encourages his child to do wrong but once he does follow the temptation and does wrong, the evil parent ridicules him and gives him no clear path of redemption. The child must earn his way back but the evil parent makes the path of restoration difficult to hopeless. In this case the evil parent makes it a question of both love and approval. Both have been lost and no clear path except earning your restoration.

So the next time you hear the accusations of the Evil One just smile and remember that you may have bought that line one time but you aren’t buying it anymore. Just turn back to God...

AC 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

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