

HOW DOES THE DEVIL STEAL FROM YOU?

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Geneis 3:1-6

More than likely you have probably heard or seen the scripture that the e devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. It is common knowledge that the devil is a thief. This general understanding helps us to be cautious of the devil.

However, it does **NOT** prepare and protect us from his schemes, tactics, attacks and influences. Knowing that the devil is a thief does not help you to recognize his methodologies.

WISDOM NOTE:

THE DEVIL CANNOT STEAL ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION!

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

The devil is **NOT A PHYSICAL** force on the earth. He is a demonic spiritual influence. Because he is a spiritual influence he **NEEDS** people to cooperate with his agenda. The first example was introduced to us in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 3:1-6 says, *"Now the snake was the most clever of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day the snake said to the woman, "Did God really say that you must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?"*

The woman answered the snake, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God told us, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. You must not even touch it, or you will die.' " But the snake said to the woman, *"You will not die.*

God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree, you will learn about good and evil and you will be like God!" The

woman saw that the tree was beautiful, that its fruit was good to eat, and that it would make her wise. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband who was with her, and he ate it."

In Genesis chapter 3 the devil **STOLE** the Kingdom away from Adam by **INFLUENCING** Eve to believe that she wasn't like God, when she was. The devil did not physically take away the Kingdom. He **INFLUENCED** her to convince Adam to give it up.

The notion that the devil can take something from you without your consent is **UNTRUE**. You are not helpless! You are not powerless. As a matter of fact, you are powerful. You have the ability to say no.

James 4:7 says, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* The opposite of resistance is compliance! Whatever the devil has stole from you was because you **ALLOWED** him to influence your decisions and actions.

For example, the person who stole your opportunities was invited into your life because you **ALLOWED** it. The scam that took your money required your **PARTICIPATION**. The fake friends that stole your time were invited into your life because you **ALLOWED** it.

The boss that stole your self esteem and self worth accomplished his goal because you **TOLERATED** his disrespectful treatment. **THE DEVIL IS ONLY AS POWERFUL AS YOU ALLOW HIM TO BE.**

DIVINE PROTECTION

In order to protect yourself from the devil's influence you must become astute to God's Word. The reason the enemy is able to steal so much from you is because so many of God's people are ignorant and foolish.

Unfortunately, people who **DO NOT** apply the knowledge they have attained about God's word and those who **REFUSE** to learn about God's word are prime targets for the devil.

Understanding, discerning and applying God's Word is the **ONLY** way to protect you from the devil's thievery. When you apply what you know you are **WISE!** Proverbs 4:6 says, "*Hold on to wisdom, and it will take care of you. Love it, and it will keep you safe.*" NCV.

Wisdom will keep you safe from deception, schemes, thieves and all sorts of evil. **WISDOM IS APPLICATION!** Any fool can learn something valuable. However, a wise person utilizes what they have learned for their benefit.

If you want the enemy to stop stealing from you, **USE WISDOM!** Wisdom will keep you guarded, protected and secure so you don't become a victim to the enemy's devices!

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