

SNARES OF THE DEVIL, (Part #1)

“And that they will come to their senses and escape (ananepho / a.a.subj) [recovery, rehab] from (ek+ablative of separation) the snare (tes pagis) of the devil (tou diabolos), who has been taken captive (zogreo / perf.p.ptc / nplm) [capture alive] by him to do his will (Thelma).”

This lesson will answer four questions taken from this verse.

- How can the Devil take a believer captive? (2 Cor.2:11; 11:13-15; 1 Tim.2:14)
- What is an example of a snare of the Devil? (1 Tim.3:6, 7; 5:13-15; 6:9-10)
- What is the will of the Devil? (Matt.16:21-23)
- How does a believer escape from the snare-will of the Devil? (Eph.5:15-18)

Before we answer these four questions, I need to establish a couple of important doctrinal principles regarding this subject.

1. There are three spheres of wills for the believer to contend with in the world.

- God’s will Ps.40:8; Matt.6:10; Rom.12:2.
- Satan’s will 2 Tim.2:26; Mark 4:15; 2 Cor.11:14; 1 Pet.5:8-9
- Human will Luke 12:47; 22:42; 23:25; 1 Cor.7:37

2. All of these attempt to impose their will upon the believer.

God and Satan are the only ones not permitted to coerce human volition because of the A/C.

Eve is an example of this in Gen2:17; 3:1-7; 2 Cor.11:3. [Satan always attacks the revealed will of God. Satan’s will is to get to act volitionally against the will of God (1 Tim.3:7; 2 Cor.10:5)]

3. We will use several believers in answering our four questions.

Two prodigal sons:

Younger: “But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘How any of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger.’” (Lk.15:17) [**snare** - wild living or prodigally] (Lk.15:13)

Older: “But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you, and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a kid, that I might be merry with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him.’” (Lk.15:29-30) [**snare** – self-centered and deprived of god’s will]

Peter: “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Lk.22:31-32) (**Matt.16:21-23; snare** – men’s interests; **26:69-75**)

Confess of sin (1 John 1:9) opens the snare, but what keeps a believer inside the snare is conformity to the world (OMCD) (Rom.12:2; Eph. 4:22-24) (Samson of Judges 16).

“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)