The Desires of Satan

Introduction: We have an adversary in life, namely Satan. With his demons we find ourselves in constant danger. To handle his attacks the Apostle Paul teaches us to put on the armor of God.

Eph. 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Having this enemy calls for us to learn his ways of attacking. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 2:11 “lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

The Devices of Satan

1. He wants to deceive us, especially in the area of who God is and what God has said.

   - John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Satan is a liar. He questioned Eve in the garden concerning what God had said and then told her that God had lied to her.

   - Gen. 3:1-5 "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'? And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden: "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die." "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The reason you and I are to put on the belt of truth is because he is so good at lying. We are in constant need of the truth.

2. He wants to devour us.

   - I Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

   - John 10:10 "The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

We will need the breastplate of righteousness for protection as he seeks to devour and destroy us.
3. He wants to discredit us before God.
   - Rev. 12:10 "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our
     God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day
     and night, has been cast down.
   - Job 1: 9-11 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? "Have You not made a
     hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his
     hands, and his possessions have increased in the land." But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and
     he will surely curse You to Your face!"
   - I John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we
     have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

We need to understand how Christ's righteousness protects us.

4. He wants to delay of work for Christ
   - I Thess. 2:18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.
   - I Cor. 16:9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
   - II Cor. 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the
     flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

5. He wants us to doubt God. He wants us to believe that God is untrustworthy.
   He likes to show up when bad things happen to good people and ask if God is so loving, then why did He allow
   this to happen?

6. He wants us to be divided. He strives to prevent unity in the body.
   In John 17 Jesus prayed that his disciples would be one.
   - John 17:20-21 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they
     all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that
     You sent Me.”
   Satan had a field day in the Corinthian church because he was able to bring about great divisions.

7. He wants us to have doctrinal confusion.
   Paul taught the Ephesians that they needed to be established in their faith so they would not be carry away
   with every wind of doctrine. Jude tells us to contend for the faith.

8. He wants us to be discouraged and depressed.
   When the work became hard, long and difficult for the workers of the wall, they became discouraged and
   wanted to quit.

9. He wants us to have persecution and suffering.
   - we are perplexed, but not in despair;

10. He wants us to be distracted so that we become unfruitful.
    - Luke 8:14 “Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked
        with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
    - James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with
      God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
    - II Tim. 4:10a for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world,

11. He wants us to deny the Lord and disengage from the work of the Lord.
    Apathy and complacency in a Christian’s life are great victories for Satan. Check Simon Peter out with his denial.

12. He ultimately wants more than anything for us to disobey God.
    The greatest temptation Satan throws at us is to live a self-sufficient life. He wants us to be master of
    our own lives, living only for ourselves and trusting only in ourselves. Satan does not want us to rely on God.

***Application: How is Satan working in your life? What do you need to do to defeat him?