THE Ds OF SATAN: DENIAL

In the scriptures, it is conspicuously revealed that we have an adversary the devil, who does not want anything good for us. He roams about looking for whom to devour. He opposes everything that is of God. He is the father of lies and deception. He is a looser and he has been ordained to failure and doom. Despite he is a looser, we are warned not to be ignorant of the devices of the devil and that we should not give him a room. We are also encouraged to put on the whole amour of God and stand against the wiles of the devil.

This implies that the adversary operates by employing deceitful devices and wiles. Despite his wiles and devices, we have someone who foils all his moves and that is the Holy Spirit.

Let us look into some devices that the adversary uses, so that you will not allow him to stop you or talk to you out of your victory. These devices are THE D’S OF SATAN

1) DECEPTION
2) DELAY
3) DISCOURAGEMENT
4) DENIAL

4: DENIAL

Denial can be both profitable and unprofitable. It is instrumental for both success and failure. It can be life giving, and suicidal; but when positively utilized, it brings promotion, satisfaction, and fulfillment. When it is otherwise used, it brings demotion, frustration, and depression.

WHAT IS DENIAL?

1) It is saying that something is not true.
2) It is refusing to give somebody something; or preventing somebody from having something they want or ask for.
3) It is saying that one knows nothing about something; refusing to acknowledge something.

SYNONYMS OF DENIALS

Negation, Contradiction, Renunciation, Repudiation, prohibition, Rebuff, Rejection, Repulse.

DENIAL IN OPERATION

There are two major ways in which we can operate in denial which are:
1. Positively.
2. Negatively.

**POSITIVE DENIAL**

Denial is positive when undertaking in order to:

a) Bring glory to God.
b) Maximize one’s potential, and callings
c) Be a blessing to humanity.
   This is voluntarily undertaking to suffer the consequences irrespective of what people say. It is referred to as redemptive suffering. Denying one’s self is in order to bring glory to God or increase one’s value or other person’s value.

**EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE**

1) God denied Himself of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ in order to bring many sons unto glory. Jn 3:16, Rm 8: 31-32.
2) Jesus Denied Himself to Glorify God and save sinners. Jn 10: 17-18; Jn 13:32, Rm 5: 6-8
3) The early disciples.
   a) The early apostles. Act 5:27-42
   b) Stephen Acts 7: 54-60
   c) Paul. Philippians 3: 1-15
   Basis for positive denial is Matt 16:24; Rm 12:1

**NEGATIVE DENIAL**

Negative denial is as evil as the devil. This is the end result of Satan’s actions in employing the other D’s. All Satan wants is to bring people to denial and when this is accomplished, he has the people in his grip. Negative denial is when people,

1) Have no room for God in their heart to the extent that they cannot give up personal gratification for God’s glory or godly cause.
2) Are selfishly motivated in their actions and become greedy. Oppressing people and obsessed with selfish interests that they cannot give to uplift others.
3) They are so selfish that they refuse God to operate through them. They have their understanding darkened because of selfishness and become blind to God’s revelation and truth. They deny the truth of the word of God and oppose God’s authority, thereby denying themselves access to the abundant supply of the Kingdom of God. Negative denial is based on satanic principles of selfishness, lies and subtle opposition to God.
SCRIPTURAL BASIS:

SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES:

1) Peter ----------; Matt 26: 31-35; 69-75.

The goal of Satan is bringing people to the point of denial and to put them in a tight situation where they are cut off from every means of assistance and later on destroy them. I know that this will not happen to anyone of us; we will rather give God the glory due to Him and be a blessing to nations there by fulfilling our role as a worthy ambassador of Christ.

Having understood, what denial is, and that it can be either positive or negative, let us now look into how to overcome the negative denial and be more established in the positive denial.

HOW TO OVERCOME NEGATIVE DENIAL

In order to know how to overcome negative denial, we use when Peter denied Jesus as a study case. Matt 26:31-45. Then saith Jesus unto them, all ye shall be offended because of me this night; for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

But after I am raised again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto Him, though all men shall be offended of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crows, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto Him, though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also, said all the disciples. Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples; sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith He unto them; my soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death; tarry ye here, and watch with me, and He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And He came and found them asleep, for their eyes were heavy.

And He left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time saying the same words. Then cometh He to His disciples, and saith unto them, sleep on now and take your rest, behold the hour is at hand, and the son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
Let us also go through the account given in Luke22:31-34.

And the Lord said, Simon; behold satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not and when though art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he saith unto Him, Lord; I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And He saith; I tell thee Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

From these two passages of scripture we understand what transpired before Peter fell into denial. Firstly it is revealed that Satan's purpose is to sift Peter as wheat. That is, Satan has marked him out to beat him down and tread over him, and then discard him. This is the same thing he accomplished in Judas Iscariot's life, making him to deny the place he had in Jesus ministry for pieces of silver, and ended his life by hanging.

**SATANIC PROCEDURE OF DENIAL**

1. **UNDERSTANDING THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.**
   When you ignore or contend with prophetic warnings released by the Spirit of God, you undermine the Lordship of Jesus Christ. These warnings can come to you through the word of preaching, reading the bible, or through the man God has placed over you.

   This is exactly what happened to Peter. Jesus told him that Satan was planning to sift him, yet he was boasting instead of asking the Lord for what to do in order to overcome the plan of Satan. Despite the fact that Jesus gave him the specific area in which Satan was to sift him, yet he did not see any course for alarm. He did not heed the warning that came from Jesus. If he did not undermine the Lordship of Jesus, he would have fallen down before Jesus asking for Jesus intervention on his behalf. He trusted himself more than Jesus, and this really set him up for Satan's onslaught.

   1Cor 10:12
   
   Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

2. **CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH.**
   When a man undermines the Lordship of Jesus Christ, he has no foundation to stand in the Spirit except in the flesh. Such a person will rely on his fleshly ability, boasting himself as more superior than other people. This leads to pride which is the mother of all falls.

   Remember, contrary to the word of God that came from Jesus to all the disciples, Peter undermined that the word is the truth, and must be heeded; he excluded himself from the protection that comes from heeding the word of God. He claimed that every disciple may fall but he would not fall. Thus doing, he denied the futuristic truth as revealed by the word of God. This would have made him to prepare so as not to fall.
Rom 5:2 Also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand. It is only by grace we can stand not by our fleshy ability. For us to access this grace it’s only by faith. Trust and have confidence in the Lord. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. When prophetic utterances are ignored, there is no foundation for Godly faith to access grace which is necessary for standing victoriously against all satanic onslaughts. Therefore fleshly confidence is standing on sinking sand. It is to have the form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

Heb 2:1-4

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will.

3. REDUNDANCY IN SPIRITUAL EXERCISE.

As faith without works is dead so is boasting without spiritual strength. Every victory in life is a product of spiritual strength. As in the physical, strong men are noted by the use of their strength in doing physical works, so also is it in the spiritual world. Physical strength is acquired through intake of physical food which is converted into muscles in the gym, so it is spiritually. Spiritual strength is obtained through the intake of the word of God, and it is converted into spiritual strength through meditation and prayers in the place of prayer. One of the signs of weakness physically is avoidance of works, so it is spiritually. When a Christian is avoiding spiritual works such as fasting and prayers and such like, it is an indication of weakness. Such a person is redundant in spiritual exercises. It is through these spiritual exercises that we receive the necessary strength or energy to overcome Satan during spiritual conflicts. This is why Jesus took them to Gethsemane to pray, but because they did not receive the prophetic word, they had no power to pray in order to overcome temptation.

They could not even pray for one hour; they were famished, empty of the word of God. As we know that secret preparation precedes public success. Your father that seeth in secret shall reward you openly. Since they rejected the prophetic utterance, they could see no reason to prepare for any show down. They were not aware of what was coming. That made them redundant in spiritual exercise which led to their fall in denying Jesus. It is very important to note that despite the prayer over Peter, he still fell into temptation, otherwise Jesus would not have said that when you are converted strengthen your brethren. One good thing is that he did not fall out of the faith like Judas did. Peter’s saving point is that his spirit was sold out to Jesus. This made it possible for Jesus to pull him out of his mess. Peter had to be publicly embarrassed to realize that by reason of strength shall no man prevail. Had it been he left the camp of Jesus, as Judas did he would never had been able to recover from the fall.
Therefore in order to overcome negative denial and be established in positive denial, we have to:

1. Acknowledge every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. **Philemon 6**, acknowledge:
   - The Lordship of Jesus Christ
   - Who you are in Christ Jesus
   - What you have in Christ Jesus
   - Where you are in Christ Jesus
   - The truth revealed in Christ Jesus

2. Let the mind that was in Christ Jesus be in you. **Phil 2:5**.

   This mind,
   - Does not exalt itself to use up the place of God.
   - It is void of self
   - It is full of service unto God
   - It identifies with men in order to minister to men
   - It abases Himself, humbled under God
   - It’s full of obedience to God at all cost.

When we establish ourselves in these, we will never allow negative denial in our lives, but we will grow in the positive denial. We will be instruments of righteousness in the hands of our God, become a vessel of honour to show forth His glory for all to come to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I believe you were really blessed by the last series of messages to you, **“the 4 D’s of Satan”**. However, I would love to encourage you so that you will continue to walk in the straight and narrow path that leads to eternal life. Understanding the present times we live in, you will agree with me that it is so easy to be distracted from following the Lord faithfully. If we allow these distractions, it could hinder and delay us from experiencing the plan and purpose of God for our life.

How can we establish ourselves in this path of life?

1. By heeding the warnings given by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Heb 2:1**
2. Avoiding the love of the world. **1Jn 2:15-17**
3. Having your mind set on things from above. **Rm 8:5-8, Col 3:1-2**

**1. HEEDING THE WARNINGS GIVEN BY OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.** **Heb 2:1-4**
Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation;
which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will?

From the above scripture it is evident that the way out of every trial is by heeding what is spoken by the Lord. Any other solution contrary to what is provided by the Lord is a trap in disguise. We therefore need to develop ourselves in obeying the messages of God to us. Now there are many warnings given by the Lord Jesus Christ. These warnings were given because of His love for us. He does not want us to fail nor be trapped in the net of the wicked one.

Here is the list of the warnings:

• You cannot serve two masters at the same time. Choose to serve God and use wealth to honor God. Not vice versa. Don’t let acquisition of wealth be the motives behind your serving God. Rather use what ever wealth you have to glorify God as occasion demands. Matt 6:24

• Do not treasure earthly possessions at the detriment of your heavenly possessions, but earthly possessions should be a means of securing heavenly supplies and interventions whenever earthly possessions fail to solve your problems. The way to secure heavenly supplies and interventions is to be rich towards God, use your earthly possessions to love God, and expand His kingdom on earth.

• What type of light is in you? The light here is symbolic of knowledge you have. Your usefulness in the Kingdom of God is directly proportional to the type of knowledge that is in you.

• Do not preoccupy yourself with earthly sustenance lest your actions be based on selfish motivations but earnestly ponder on how to establish and expand the kingdom of God and vigorously pursue it. This is the key to having God entrust you with the kingdom’s true riches.

I have to stop for now. Prayerfully go over this again and again if you have to make adjustments in order to get right, go ahead and do it. By doing so you are positioning yourself for exploits in life. Finally I want you to know that your tithe, offerings and giving will really go a long way to assist us carry on the vision of our church most importantly at this trying period of our church. If you have been faithful in your tithing, you can increase your offering and your other generous giving, if you have not been faithful, repent, we need your obedience to God in this matter. Remember Grace Beneficiary Ministries in your plans and budgets.