



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

May 2019

## FROM US TO YOU

We live in a very complicated world these days. There are pressures on society that past generations never had to experience. Our parents and grandparents had to deal with wars, crime, poverty, disease, hunger, alcoholism, and family problems. We still have the same situations today. However, some of them are easier to deal with than they used to be. Modern medicine has come a long way. Technology and advances in science have made many ailments less painful and easier to cure. Some diseases have been totally eradicated. And modern chemistry has made pestilence less pervasive than it used to be. We thank God for all the blessings that come with contemporary life. But past generations never had to deal with the new social problems that exist today. You didn't hear terms like LGBTQ discussed openly.

The initials stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer.

Our hearts go out to people who are struggling with the emotions of being pulled in two different directions. Those struggling with this conflict often go for years in an array of guilt, doubt, and confusion. We have heard such sad stories of what such people suffer, looking for something solid that they can hang onto. They may look like everyone else on the surface. You can't see someone else's emotion, or the cauldron of anxiety within them. It is hard for Christians with traditional values as well. When you see someone in pain, physical or emotional, it's human nature to want to help them. But changing what they feel inside is not so easy. Only Christ



can change the human heart (see Matthew 11:28-30). And only God knows what pain people feel, both physical and emotional.

A woman, Anne used to know, told her a sad story about her nephew. He was born with a condition called [hermaphrodites](#). He struggled with it for years, having both male and female genitals. As an adult, he decided that his emotions were more feminine than masculine. And he didn't want to live with a conflicting gender anymore. So he concluded that surgery would be the best solution. Even then, society created more emotional turmoil for him. He was told that first he would have to see a psychiatrist. Then, before he could have the surgery, he would have to wear women's clothes for a year. That created even greater anxiety for him. He didn't want to do that either. He wanted to be only one sex, not a cross-dresser. He looked everywhere he could for help, but didn't find anything that could satisfy him. Unfortunately, his misery became more than he could bare. So he committed suicide.

Only God can see the emotions inside each of us. Only He knows what inner conflicts and pain we suffer. And only He can remove all the anxiety we feel, and replace it with inner joy, love, “*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding...*” (Philippians 4:7 NIV). The anguish people suffer is not only limited to the LGBTQ com-

munity. Satan can work in all kinds of ways in the human mind. Most people are tormented by some kind of inner struggle. Don't be fooled by those who seem so calm on the outside. You don't know what's really going on in their life. Many of those in the public arena battle more demons in their lives than even those around them know. It's common for celebrities to have multiple marriages. Alcohol and drugs are often there regular source of getting through each day.

Are you addicted to something? It could be alcohol, drugs, food, tobacco, pornography. If so, Satan is the one who keeps you bound, but Jesus Christ can set you free! Do you feel controlled by some type of weird irrational behavior, such as excessive neatness or a chronic desire to even things out? Towels must be hung at just the right angle. Shoes must be perfectly lined up. Or perhaps there is a person or event that you cannot stop thinking about.

The memories are painful and relentless, and they are building up emotions in you that could be explosive. You have tried to block them out, but they are too strong. Is your obsession driving you crazy? These thoughts are caused by demons, who are also called evil or unclean spirits. They are fallen angels who have rebelled against God. Satan is their leader (Revelation 12:9). Demon activity can range from the mildly annoying to the downright dangerous! Have you ever felt the bizarre urge to close your eyes while driving? Or to use a knife to hurt yourself or someone else? Demons are putting these thoughts into your mind! But Jesus

Christ has the Power to set you free (John 8:34-36)!

You may be thinking to yourself, “They're going to tell me to get religion. I've already tried that. I went to a church. That made me feel worse. No one was friendly.” No we're not telling you to get religion. Religion isn't going to help you! And it's so boring! It's also hard to find the right church to go to these days. You don't need churchianity. You need a person named Jesus Christ (2 Peter 2:9)!

When all else fails, and you're desperate for help, forget the psychologist. He'll just make you comfortable in your sin. Forget the psychiatrist. He or she will just give you drugs. Entertainment might make you forget your problems for awhile. But if you want to get totally rid of your burden and feel clean inside and out, there is only one sure cure. Give the battle over to Jesus. Ask Him to take it away from you. Repent of your sins. “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23 NIV). Also, see Luke 18:10-14. “*Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you*” (1 Peter 5:6-7 NIV). “*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*” (Psalms 34:18-19 NIV).

In the Lord's service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

# Satan's Subtle Tricks And Deception

By Anne Kaestner

It's something we all have in common, temptation. As long as we don't give into it, there's really nothing to feel guilty about in being tempted. Even Jesus was severely tempted at a time when He was hungry, tired, weak, and vulnerable (Matthew 4:1). None of us are immune from it, rich, poor, old, young, educated, or illiterate. It doesn't matter what race you are, religion, or political persuasion. The Bible tells us that we are all descendants of Adam. No human being was ever blessed as much as he was. Adam was made perfect. He was healthy, strong, and smart. He was made by God, Who breathed His Own breath into the lifeless body of a man and made him a living, breathing, eternal being. Adam was never supposed to die. So brilliant was he that he named all the animals (Genesis 2:19). Within his loins was placed the DNA for everyone who would ever be born on earth, except the Lord Jesus Christ, who was sired by God (Luke 1:35).

With all the men who have fought wars, and killed millions of people, so that they could rule the world, Adam was given control of the entire earth system by God. Yet despite his great intellect, health, and authority, Adam had one great weakness. He was vulnerable to temptation. Of course, it was not the kind of temptation that the rest of us get. We are born with Adam's bloodline. And life is in the blood (see Leviticus 17:14). Therefore, we have Adam's sin in our blood too. So we are born with a compulsion to sin. Adam was not! He was not a stupid man. However, what he did was the most stupid, idiotic thing any human being ever did since the time of creation! He allowed the devil, Satan, to take it all away from him (Gen. 3:1-19). How was Satan able to do that? And what led up to it?

Satan's original name was Lucifer. He had once been a very wealthy and powerful angel of God, an anointed cherub (see Ezekiel 28:14). Sometime back in the eons of time, long before God created the human race, Lucifer became jealous of God. As a result, he led a failed mutiny into Heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). He had been able to convince one third of the angels (stars) of Heaven to join him (Revelation 12:4). Not only were they soundly defeated, and thrown to the earth (Revelation 12:9), but God destroyed their solid bodies as well (Ezekiel 28:18). And He apparently, changed Lucifer's name to Satan, and his position from anointed cherub to the devil. He had lost it all. Satan was a spirit without a body. He had been stripped of all the prestige, wealth, and power that God had given to him.

Now Adam had it all! And Satan was so jealous that he hated him. Therefore, he plotted a way to take it all away from him. You may wonder why God allowed Satan to tempt Adam. It was in order to test his loyalty. Our Creator had already lost one third of His heavenly angels, due to the mutiny. Would His new creation, man (Genesis 1:27), love Him enough to trust Him, and remain faithful? Now this is something that all Christians need to know so they can avoid falling into the same trap. Satan looked for Adam's one weakness, a vulnerability that he would be able to exploit, as he does with all of us. It is the thing you love more than you love God.

The devil knew that he would not be able to deceive Adam directly (1 Timothy 2:14). Adam was smart enough to know what he would be giving up to obey Satan. He was aware that doing so would separate him from God. He knew that it would not only affect him, but all the descendants who would be born through his bloodline! Yet he did it anyway! Why? What could Satan tempt him with? Adam already had it all! He controlled the whole world system, which God had given to him (Genesis 1:27-30). Satan didn't have a thing to offer Adam

at that time. So bribery couldn't work. Satan was a doomed former angel who was destined to burn in Hell forever, along with his fellow mutineers (Matthew 25:41). The Devil had nothing, except cunning and audacity. Satan knew how powerful Adam was, and all that God had given to him. So he was too shrewd to go to Adam directly. However, he knew how much Adam loved his wife, Eve. Therefore, he went to her instead.

Since he didn't have a solid body anymore, Satan entered into the body of a snake (Revelation 12:9). His plan was to tempt Eve. *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"* (Genesis 3:1 NIV). Notice that Satan, the serpent, started out by questioning Eve's understanding of the instructions. The implication was that maybe she didn't hear God correctly. Or maybe she didn't comprehend what He meant. Satan's question also seemed to add a shock value to the Lord's words. It was as if to say, "God couldn't have really meant that. Why would He stop you eating from any tree in the garden? He couldn't have said that. That would not be fair. You must be wrong."

*"The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that*

*is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die'"* (Genesis 3:2-3 NIV). Eve probably looked confused. She did not know who was talking to her through the snake. She didn't know that any evil existed. She had never known anything but blessings. That tree was already beginning to look more enticing to her. It was the one thing she was not supposed to have, the forbidden fruit. And it seems like wanting something that we are not to have just makes it seem more appealing. Even today, the advertisers use this technique to lure people to buy a product. They use terms like "sinfully delicious" or "wicked good." How often have you seen a product labeled with this technique, such as a "devil's food"

or "decadent cheese cake." There's even a perfume named "My Sin" and another one called "Taboo." The devil isn't very original. He uses the techniques that work for him over and over. So Satan planted the next seed of doubt in Eve's mind. *"'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'"* (Genesis 3:4-5 NIV).

Satan implied that, if God really told her not to eat that fruit, He must have an ulterior motive. It was as if the devil was saying, "God doesn't want you to be as powerful and knowledgeable as He is." So, essentially, Satan was telling her not to trust God. Now if Eve had thought this through logically, she would have realized that, if God wanted to deprive her of anything good, He wouldn't have given her so much. There was nothing that she lacked. She had a husband who loved her dearly and a beautiful garden to live in. There were cute and friendly animals to play with. And God had promised that she would be the mother of a whole new population of people (Genesis 1:28-28). However, Satan had sufficiently worn her down with his cockeyed logic. Therefore, *"when the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it..."* (Genesis 3:6 NIV).

Now if that was the end of the story, it would have only affected Eve. Eve's body, like Adam's, was made out of the *"...dust of the ground..."* (Genesis 2:7 NIV). In other words, plain dirt from the



earth, the type that you can grow things in. That is born out in science. Ninety-nine percent of the human body is made up of [six elements consisting of oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus](#). So Eve was to be the original mother of all human life. She was the one in whom, Adam's seed would be planted. However, without any seed, she could grow nothing. Adam's body contained the sperm, the seed of human life. But, without a woman to plant the seed in, they could not grow new life. So, without Adam, the sin could not grow. But then we continue the rest of the verse, "...She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it" (Genesis 3:6 NIV).

So, Adam was with her the whole time. He knew that the forbidden fruit would separate him from God, and doom him eternally. But he ate it anyway! There's no indication in scripture that he even tried to talk her out of it! So why did he do it, and know full well what it would cost him? When Adam saw Eve eat the forbidden fruit his thinking should have been "I will ask God what we can do to make it right." Instead, his thinking seemed to be, "I cannot lose Eve! When the Lord finds out what she has done, He will separate us. I don't care what happens to me as long as I don't lose her. I will eat the forbidden fruit as well. That way, we will suffer the same fate and be together!" After all that God had done for him, Adam was willing to turn his back on his Creator in order to keep the gift God had given him (Genesis 2:20-24). He valued the gift more than the Giver!

I don't know how many times people have said to me, "I don't care what happens to me a thousand years from now. I only care about what happens to me now. I don't care about another world. I only have this one to live in, and I want to enjoy it." That was Adam's thinking. He was willing to sacrifice what was eternal for the sake of what he had at the moment. And, speaking of stupid decisions, that reminds me of the biblical story of Jacob and Esau.

Esau was a hunter, who liked to live in the "here and now," instead of being concerned about his future. As the first born of twin brothers, Esau inherited the birthright, and the blessings that went along with it. The birthright was the privilege of the firstborn son. It meant that, after his father died, he would become the head of the family. That also meant that he would control the family property and be responsible for the welfare of the younger sons, the widow, and any unmarried daughters.

However, as with many people who get something that doesn't cost them anything, he took it for granted. Esau didn't value his birthright. I remember when I was about nineteen years old, I wanted a car of my own. I worked, at low wages, scrimped, and saved sparingly for about a year. Then, when I was twenty years old, I purchased an old, red Mustang with extensive damage in the front, for \$700. It had been damaged in a collision. I didn't have the money to get it fixed, so I just left it that way. That car meant a lot to me, because it had taken me such a long time to save up the money for it. By contrast, I heard about other young people my age who were given expensive new cars for birthday presents or such. And some of them had gotten into accidents with them because the cars came so easily to them.

Esau was like that! The blessing of the birthright meant nothing to him. So he ended up losing it. This is how it happened. "Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, 'Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!' (That is why he was also called Edom.) Jacob replied, 'First sell me your birthright.' 'Look, I am about to die,' Esau said. 'What good is the birthright to me?' But Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank,

and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright" (Genesis 25:29-34 NIV). Esau's appetite meant more to him than something of much greater value. Of course, I think it was rotten of Jacob to demand the birthright in exchange for some stew for his very hungry brother. I don't mean to compare Jacob with Satan, but sometimes Satan can put us in a difficult situation like that.

I believe there have been those who were told, "Curse Christ, or we will crucify your child," and similar examples. Imagine having to make a decision like that? Think of what it would mean to have someone hold a hot poker next to your child's eyes and say to you, "Renounce Christ or I'll blind your son or daughter?" I believe there have been times in history that such a test probably happened. It very likely occurred during the Roman Empire before they claimed to be Christian, or just prior to the Protestant Reformation. What do you love more than you love God? My husband used to have a friend who once told him, "I could never put God before my family. They mean too much to me." It wasn't long after that his wife left him, and got custody of their daughter. Satan will dangle something you want in front of you. But if you give up your relationship with God, and grab at it, you may lose that thing as well!

God gave up the one thing He loved the most for your salvation (John 3:16). He watched His Own beloved Son tortured and die a horrible, slow, agonizing death because He loves you so much. Even the angels were amazed that the Almighty would go that far. Jesus

didn't die for them! Only for humans. So if there's anything you put before God, you will have no salvation! Jesus said, "But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My Father in heaven. Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father; a daughter against her mother; a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' 'Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever

finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the one who sent Me'" (Matthew 10:33-40 NIV).

Christians in the western world today, have had it easy. Their counterparts in other parts of the world have not! In the "From Us To You" section of our Spring 2017 issue, we wrote the following. "A recent article by Perry Chiaramonte in Fox News World states that '...Open Doors USA recently released the latest edition of its annual World Watch List, which ranks countries based on the treatment of their Christian populations. The group said the increase in incidents considered persecution was alarming and only getting worse. And that 'it is appalling that Open Doors has to report that persecution has increased again in 2016 and we are still at the worst levels of persecution in modern times,' David Curry, president and CEO of Open Doors USA, said to Fox News. 'The spread of persecution has gotten worse, now hitting nearly every continent in the world. There were 23 Christians killed in Mexico specifically because of their faith.'" The article goes on to say that "...nearly 90,000 Christians were killed for their faith in 2016 and that as many as 600 million were prevented from practicing their faith through intimidation, forced conversions, bodily harm or even death."

Christians in America and other western nations, tend to take their faith too casually. Speaking of today's Laodicean church, Jesus warned, "I know your deeds, that you are" (Continued On Page 4)



## **Satan's Subtle Tricks And Deception (Continued From Page 3)**

neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of My mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent" (Revelation 3:15-19 NIV).

Many people are Christians in name only, but don't even know Christ. They consider themselves Christians because that's what their parents claimed to be. Many others think that if you attend a church regularly, you must be a Christian. They have churchianity, not Christianity (Acts 7:48-51). People, your church cannot save you! "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6 NIV). These days most churches in western culture are not holy (see 1 Peter 1:16), and too many are run by hirelings (John 10:12-13) or "wolves in sheep's clothing" (Matthew 7:15). Some of them may have been full of the Holy Spirit at one time. But Satan always aims his worst attacks at church leadership. That way, when they fall by the wayside, they will drag the rest of the flock with them. God's Spirit does not haunt church buildings. He lives in the hearts of those who love Him (Psalm 119:11)!

Eric and I used to go to a Christian church when we were first married. It was not much more than a big room and some closets. It didn't even have a restroom. The pastor had been redeemed out of a show business background. He truly loved the Lord and had the Holy Spirit in him. As a result, the church was really on fire for Christ. Many new people accepted Jesus there, and the church was growing from all the new converts. Then one day, the church received a very large donation from someone. I think it was in the will of a woman who died. Suddenly the building started to grow. Not only did they get public restrooms, but the pastor had his own private one in his own office suite. The church quickly began to change. As the building grew bigger so did the congregation. But it wasn't from new people accepting Christ. It was from the first birth, not the second (John 1:12-13, 3:3).

It wasn't the Holy Spirit who was influencing the church anymore. It was the pastor's unsaved wife and children! All they seemed to care about was who was pregnant, and who had just had a baby. Many childless couples, feeling left out, left the church. They weren't hearing about Christ anymore, just the gossip and talk about babies. A few years later, long after we left that church and started our own ministry, we began hiring employees to work at our office. One of them was a former prison inmate, whom God had delivered out of a life of crime and drugs. He had been to several churches in the area. He told us that the church we had gone to wasn't there anymore. The pastor had been involved in a scandal after having an affair with his church secretary. Sometime after that, I happened to pass by where the church used to be and it had been totally knocked down and had become a vacant lot.

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..." (Isaiah 53:6 NIV). And, like sheep, Christians often follow the wrong shepherd! However, Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he

sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me" (John 10:11-14 NIV).

Before he left the leaders of the church he started in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul gathered them together for a strong warning. He said, "For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:27-32 NIV).

So who are the true vessels of God? The ones who have a strong knowledge of the Word of God and are led by the Holy Spirit! Most ministers these days preach a social gospel, good works, or politics. They often buy books of sermons because they don't hear from the Holy Spirit themselves. The Apostle Paul wrote, "...who

among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us" (1 Corinthians 2:11-12 NIV). In other words, you don't have the right to speak for God if your message is not coming from Him! How will anyone know your thoughts unless you reveal them to someone? Likewise, God wants His Spirit to preach sermons through His chosen vessels.

After Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ, the apostles got together and chose another man to take his place. "So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two You have chosen'" (Acts 1:23-24 NIV). "Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26 NIV). However, Christ chose His Own disciples, and He was determined to choose His Own replacement apostle too. He chose the Apostle Paul (see Acts 9:1-17). Still today, God chooses His Own prophets and ministers through whom His Spirit can speak. And He doesn't necessarily choose the ones this world considers important.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians saying, "Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him" (1 Corinthians 1:26-29 NIV). God chose a small shepherd boy named David to kill a giant. And He chose fishermen, like John, James, and Simon Peter, to spread the good news of Christ's gospel in the Bible that we still use today. It's because God wants to get the glory for what He has done, not the human vessel He is using!

