

Lies of Satan

1- Objectives

- ❖ Know about Satan and the lies of Satan.
- ❖ How to oppose Satan and not to be deceived by him.

2- References

- ❖ Holy Bible
- ❖ Many years with people's question by HH Pope Shenouda III (Volumes 2 and 4)

3- Scriptural Verse

- ❖ "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7)

4- Lesson outlines

Characteristics of the Devil

- ❖ Satan was likely the highest of all angels, the most beautiful of all of God's creations, but he was not content in his position. Instead, he desired to be God, and to take over the rule of the universe (Isiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-15).
- ❖ His kingdom is formed of principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness (Ephesians 6:11).
- ❖ More cunning than any beast of the field, which the Lord God had made (Genesis 3:1); we cannot win an argument with him (only through the Lord who conquered him).
- ❖ A murderer ... there is no truth in him... a liar and the father of it (John 8:44).
- ❖ The devil is very active and not lazy "comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts" (Mark 4:5).
- ❖ The real enemy of mankind "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15).
- ❖ The wrestler of mankind "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" (Ephesians 6:12).

We cannot win arguments with the devil – he is "cunning"

- ❖ "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1).
- ❖ He makes us doubt the word of God; His promises, His love, His power and His knowledge.
- ❖ He beautifies the sin in front of us and makes it delightful and not harmful "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate" (Genesis 3:6).
- ❖ He hide the reality from us until complete fall "she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate" (Genesis 3:6).
- ❖ He then reveals the sin in its worst form "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10).

- ❖ He makes us fall in despair “Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood’ ... Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself” (Matthew 27:3-5).

Deceiving Lies of the Devil

Lie #1: Satan Does Not Exist

- ❖ The devil does not want recognition to be able to deceive people without being noticed or blamed as why someone would go to war if they believed their enemy does not exist.
- ❖ The Bible says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Lie #2: God’s Word should not be Trusted and blindly obeyed

- ❖ The Lord God commanded man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:15-17). Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:4).
- ❖ The devil made God out to be a liar and attacked His character, not just His words
- ❖ Satan makes us believe that our senses reveal reality more than the Word of God and science is more accurate than Religion.
- ❖ He deceives saying that if God’s Word doesn’t make sense to me, it must be wrong, I will do what I feel is right.
- ❖ The Devil wants to be our friend and can give everything in rewards “All this authority I will give You ... if You will worship before me, all will be Yours” (Luke 4: 6-7).

Lie #3: Sin Carries No Consequences

- ❖ There was only one command in the Garden, “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17). The Devil said you shall not surely die, but that is exactly what they received.
- ❖ Our mental state changes before committing a sin. We feel convinced that it will be OK. It’s not as bad a sin as we thought.
- ❖ Devil’s thoughts dominate us: I’m under a lot of stress, God will understand, I am not hurting anyone, it won’t hurt me or my relationship with God, I can’t be expected to be holy all the time, God will forgive me...
- ❖ The Bible states clearly: “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23) and this would be beside the earthly consequences “the murderer shall surely be put to death” (Numbers 35:16).

Lie #4: God is holding out on you

- ❖ The devil makes us believe that he is looking out for our best interest, while God just wants to control us and keep us from enjoying our lives.
- ❖ God does not want to give you the best “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” (Genesis 3:5).
- ❖ God’s commandments are too strict; we are missing out on our whole lives.
- ❖ We can’t be expected to pray and go to Church as much as He is expecting us to.
- ❖ Why hasn’t God given me the blessings I have asked for?
- ❖ Why does God not fix my problems and answer my prayers?

Lie #5: You can be like God

- ❖ Not only is God withholding blessings, but we can be just like Him “you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:5). This is how the devil fell from heaven.
- ❖ Mankind has become a god unto itself. We want to have full understanding and control through science and technology.
- ❖ Science has researched human genetic engineering, cryogenic freezing to preserve life, cloning, saving the earth from catastrophic asteroid impact, colonizing other planets.
- ❖ Man believes that he can achieve immortality without God’s help: “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:3-4).

Lie #6: You Cannot Resist Temptation

- ❖ When tempting us, the devil makes us feel that we have no choice but to give in “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate” (Genesis 3:6).
- ❖ The devil deceives us to feel that the fall is inevitable, the longer I struggle, the harder it will be, even if I overcome it this time, the temptation will come again.
- ❖ “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- ❖ We can defeat temptation before it begins by regular prayer and Bible reading, regular confession and self-examination and a constant desire for holiness.

5- Conclusion

- ❖ “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).
- ❖ Remember God’s plan for salvation “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15).
- ❖ God has not abandoned us, but continues to care for us and accept our repentance if we remain faithful in our struggle “be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

6- Activities / Discussion Points

- ❖ Read together and discuss all the incidents of the great miracle performed by St. Basil, Bishop of Caesarea, Cappadocia, to abolish a decree between a young man and the Devil (Synexarium of the 13th of Tute).