

## **EXPECT OPPOSITION Part 2: WHAT THE THIEF COMES TO STEAL**

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### **What the Thief Comes to Steal**

Part 2 of the Series "Expect opposition"

A thief cannot steal what we do not *have*, therefore we must *have* some things in order for the thief to rob us of them. Discover the exciting truths that so many Christians have not yet learned regarding what the thief comes to steal - and how to prevent him from taking it.

#### **Get it on CD:**

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#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
[John 10:10 NIV]

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#### **UNDERSTANDING THE ENEMY:**

John 10:10 is one of the most familiar verses in the Gospels to the born-again Christian. Unfortunately it is also one of the most *misunderstood*.

When we pay close attention to the verse we see that the verse does NOT say that the thief CAN steal from us, or kill us, or destroy us. It only states that his PURPOSE in coming is to steal, to kill, or destroy. And, the Good News is that he can't do anything if we don't allow him to do it.

Scripture affirms this in more than one place. 1Peter 5:8 exhorts us to: "**Be sensible and vigilant, because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone he can devour**" [MKJV]

James 4:7 tells us: "**Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**"

Notice that our adversary seeks someone whom he *can* devour. In other words, if we don't *allow* him to devour us (our health, our finances, our family, our business, etc) - he CAN'T!

Furthermore: The Apostle James tells us to **RESIST** the devil when he comes to steal, kill, or destroy! And, when we RESIST him he FLEES from us. In other words he is afraid of Christians and the power that resides IN us as born-again children of the most-high God!

Keep in mind that we would NOT be told to resist the devil if we were not *able* to resist him successfully.

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#### **WHY THE THIEF COMES:**

Have you ever considered the fact that a thief would NOT try to steal something if there was NOTHING to steal? Thieves don't risk the possibility of being caught and punished by trying to steal something that has no value, or by breaking into homes and businesses where there is nothing to steal.

No! When a thief comes to steal, it is because he KNOWS that the rightful person or business possesses something TO steal. That is WHY he comes. If there was nothing to steal - he wouldn't bother.

- You cannot steal what one does not have
- You cannot destroy what does not exist

That means that YOU and I must already have the things that he is coming for!

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## **WHAT THE THIEF COMES TO STEAL: *continued...***

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### **PROVING IT:**

The average Christian has little or no *understanding* of *everything* that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross - and even less understanding of the things that we already possess as "heirs of God and joint-heirs WITH Christ" [Rom 8:17]

This is because the average Christian has more *religious* and *traditional* doctrine than they have **BIBLE knowledge**. Consequently, what they believe for the most part is NOT New Testament teaching based upon *Scripture* - but rather Religious *interpretation* of the Bible and *denominational* doctrine. This is why the enemy is able to freely come and go as he pleases to steal, kill, and destroy.

But! Once the Christian becomes knowledgeable about their rights, privileges and possessions as "heirs of God, and joint-heirs WITH Christ" the enemy can no longer successfully steal, kill and destroy because the knowledgeable Christian will RESIST him when he comes!

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### **THE DEVIL WANTS TO STEAL YOUR HEALING:**

Pay close attention to what the BIBLE says about your healing.

• **Isaiah 53:4-5:** "SURELY he has bore (He TOOK) our griefs (Hebrew = sickness - disease) - and carried our sorrows (Hebrew = anguish - pain - affliction): yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we ARE healed."

• **1Peter 2:24:** "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you WERE healed."

The average Christian is waiting for the Lord to heal them, when in truth the WORD OF GOD states clearly that we HAVE ALREADY BEEN HEALED! We were healed on the same day that Jesus took our sins upon himself. That day was the day He went to the cross.

The word says clearly that we WERE healed! Not "*going* to be healed": WERE healed. And that healing is accessed the SAME way that our salvation was accessed: BY FAITH (believing in what Christ already accomplished for us and receiving it BY FAITH).

And this is why the devil comes to steal it - because he *knows* what most Christians do not yet realize: that we have already been healed - and he wants to take it from us *before* it manifests in our body. He steals it the SAME way he stole Adam's inheritance: By deception. He convinces those that *lack* Bible knowledge that it has NOT been done yet because they can't *see* it. And the gullible Christian swallows the lie because they do not understand what the Scripture means when it says: "for we walk by faith, NOT by sight" [2Corinthians 5:7]

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### **THE DEVIL WANTS TO STEAL YOUR DELIVERANCE:**

Pay close attention to what the BIBLE says about our deliverance.

• **Colossians 1:12-14:** "Giving thanks unto the Father, who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (And) Who HAS DELIVERED US from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"

Continued....

## WHAT THE THIEF COMES TO STEAL: *continued...*

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The average Christian is *waiting* for the Lord to deliver them from whatever has come against them, when in truth the WORD OF GOD states clearly that we HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED! We were delivered from the power of the devil and ALL his attacks on the same day that Jesus gave us our redemption. That day was the day He went to the cross.

This passage tells us that we HAVE redemption AND that we HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. If we *believe* that we HAVE redemption - shouldn't we believe that we HAVE been delivered?

Yet the average Christian waits, and waits, and waits, for deliverance when the Bible states clearly that we HAVE BEEN DELIVERED and like our redemption we ACCESS that deliverance BY FAITH!

**The thief KNOWS this and this is why he comes to steal it.** You can't steal what one does not HAVE! So he puts forth the same lies, the same deceptions, the same tricks trying to convince you and I that God has not, or will not deliver us from whatever we are facing - and the gullible Christian swallows the lie because they can't see the promised deliverance and forgets that it is accessed BY FAITH. "For we walk by faith, NOT by sight" [2Cor 5:7]

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### THE DEVIL WANTS TO STEAL YOUR PROVISION AND PROSPERITY:

Pay close attention to what the BIBLE says about the supernatural provision that belongs to you and I as "heirs of God and joint-heirs WITH Christ":

- **2 Corinthians 8:9:** "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might be made rich (Fully supplied)."
- **2 Corinthians 9:8 AMP:** "And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]."
- **Philippians 1:19:** "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Supply: Greek = epichoregia: "Contribution / bountiful supply")
- **Luke 12: 22-32:** "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat; neither for the body, what clothes you have.... your heavenly Father knows that you have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

The average Christian sits around *hoping* that the Lord will see fit to provide for them the things they need to live, to provide for their family, to conduct business, to fulfill their call to ministry etc, etc,....

Yet, the Bible States clearly that Lord HAS and will CONTINUE to provide for us - making sure that EVERYTHING we need is available and *accessible* to us and for us. 2 Corinthians 8:9 tells us clearly that everything we will ever need, want, require or desire was provided for us on the SAME day that Jesus took our sins allowing us to become citizens of heaven as sons and daughters of God.

**The thief KNOWS this and this is why he comes to steal it.** You can't steal what one does not HAVE! So he puts forth the same lies, the same deceptions, the same tricks trying to convince you and I that God has not, may not, or will not provide what we seek - and the gullible Christian swallows the lie because they can't *see* the promised provision and forgets that it is accessed BY FAITH. "For we walk by faith, NOT by sight" [2Cor 5:7]

## **WHAT THE THIEF COMES TO STEAL: *continued...***

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### **DISCOVER THE TRUTH:**

I encourage you to listen to the entire message and discover for yourself the truth about this subject. Discover what you HAVE in Christ and how to RESIST the enemy when he comes to steal or destroy it.

### **LISTEN ONLINE FOR FREE:**

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**About the Author:** In addition to his contributions to this website Pastor WC Slyde Moran also has a weekly television show • Online Audio Studies • And an ever-increasing outreach ministry providing free Audio teachings to over a quarter million people worldwide contributing to the growth and maturing of the body of Christ.