

# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

### PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

## Unmasking Satan: Mouse Trap (Part 6 of 8)

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A trap is a device or enclosure to catch or retain animals (either a part or their entire bodies), enticing them for entry without an exit. The animals, having natural God-given instincts and defense, can avoid these traps to survive. On the other hand, Christians must know that Satan uses deadlier but subtle traps in their spiritual battle, instincts and defense which aren't as effective as the animals. Therefore, as Christians, we have to carefully watch, protect ourselves, and be aware of the traps of Satan.

#### 1. Ways we can protect ourselves from Satan

"Do not give the devil a foothold" (Eph. 4:27); Christians must not give the opportunity to Satan, and should be like homeowners protecting themselves against thieves. We should:

- **1.1 Get Home Security.** For the Lord is our security; He will keep our foot from being caught in trap (Prov. 3:26).
- **1.2 Get Security Guard.** The best spiritual guard is Jesus Christ; He said, "I am with you always" (Mt. 28:20).
- **1.3 Seek neighbors' help.** Our Christian brothers and sisters keep us with Christ, and they pray for us when asked (Eph. 6:18).
- **1.4 Secure your windows.** We must keep ourselves protected against the roaring lion (1Pt. 5:8).
- **1.5 Install motion lights.** Let us always ask Jesus to be our light in the midst of darkness (Jn. 12:46).
- **1.6 Share perimeter lights.** Our life must be a light of goodness to others (Mt. 5:13).
- **1.7 Install Doorbell Camera.** Our life, like mirrors, reflects God's glory (2Cor. 3:18).
- **1.8 Install CCTV.** God's eyes extend through the world to strengthen his believers (2Chr. 16:9).
- **1.9 Get a front gate.** We are gatekeepers of God; we enter it with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts (Ps. 100:4).

#### 2. Satan's traps we should be aware of

Satan, however, pursues deadlier than any predator. He exploits our weak flesh; and lays traps which delude us. These are:

- **2.1 Trap of suggestions.** He uses cunning ways that make us unsuspicious of his plans; he goes to our natural instinct and our thoughts easily.
- **2.2 Trap of temptation.** He uses our desires (Jas. 1:14-15) though we can always overcome it (1Cor. 10:13). We should remove all forms of media that cause us to sin.
- **2.3 Trap of unforgiveness.** God forgives and forgets, and it is our turn forgive and never recall the past hurts that can withhold reconciliation to each other.
- **2.4 Trap of Division.** Disunity is the devil's way to stop the advance of God's Kingdom, while St. Paul appeals to unity & agreement (1Cor. 1:10).
- **2.5 Trap of Money.** Jesus teaches us to be on guard against money and mammon (Lk.12:15; Mt.6:24; 1Tim. 6:10)

(to be continued...)

#### 3. Conclusion:

In this part 6 of the 8-part series, Satan uses traps to win in every spiritual battle. A Christian must protect himself like a watchful owner of a house and be on guard against every trap set by the enemy. Let us continue our study on the next series on the different ways the devil traps us.

#### Reflection:

- 1. What are the possible openings to Satan do you recognize now in your life?
- 2. What traps have you been a victim of?
- 3. How do you avoid yourself from falling into these traps?

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