

Title: Ways of Avoiding Satan's Snares

Scripture: I Peter 5:8-9

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*I Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."*

Sober: self-controlled

Adversary: One who opposes

The devil will do anything he can to cause you to pull away from Christ. When Christians begin to sleep spiritually, it allows Satan to come in and take control. He will use other people and anything else available.

There are four ways of avoiding Satan's snares:

1. Don't Stray: Psalms 119:67, *"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."* When we have struggles Satan tries to get us to drift away from the things that please God. Straying from God does not happen overnight. It is a process. We are letting our afflictions stick around. If we leave them around, neglected, we will stray. Our prayer life can be affected. We should read the Bible daily. When we stray we begin neglecting the house of God. When we don't go to church it causes us to miss out on the teachings of God. If we stray from these three things, it will pull us to the world.
2. Don't Strut: Proverbs 16:18, *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."* Don't be so proud. Some people love themselves so much that they can't stand not being the center of attention. John 12:43 says *"For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."* Many Christians fall because they thought too highly of themselves. Pride destroys an individual. Ministers are always in the spotlight. Most people focus on the negative of a message rather than the positive. Never think that you can't be replaced. The opposite of being humble is arrogance.
3. Don't Stoop: Romans 12:21, *"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."* Christians have bowed down to sin and have started to accept it. We have compromised. Our stance is weakened so much that people can't tell the difference in the world and Christians. Compromising is stooping. Bowing down. When people sin and genuinely repent, we should forget it just as God does. Don't hold it against them and keep bringing it up. Galatians 6:1 *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."*
4. Don't Stop: Matthew 10:22, *"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."* Paul has men in his life that he commends twice in his writings. Colossians 4:14, *"Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."* Philemon 1:24, *"Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers."* There's a 2<sup>nd</sup> place that one of them is mentioned, but he isn't spoken of in high regards. In II Timothy 4:10, Paul describes this. Demas abandoned him. It is better for someone else to commend you than for you to commend you.

There are three words that Satan uses to catch you:

1. Attract
2. Distract
3. Attack

We should always persevere. James 4:7 says *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* Charles Spurgeon said *"By perseverance the snail reached the ark."*