DO NOT GIVE SATAN ANY ADVANTAGE - 2 Corinthians 2:11

Introduction:

A. **2 Corinthians 2:11** (NKJV) ---- 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.
   1. (NKJV) - lest Satan should take advantage of us; . . .
   2. (ASV) - that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan: . . .
   3. (ESV) - so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; . . .
   4. (NASB) - so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, . . .
   5. (NIV) - in order that Satan might not outwit us. . . .
   6. (Bible Basic English) - So that Satan may not get the better of us: . . .
   7. (Youngs Literal Translation) - that we may not be over-reached by the Adversary, . . .

B. **Ephesians 4:26-27** (NKJV) ---- 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.
   1. (NKJV, KJV, ASV) - nor give place to the devil.
   2. (ESV) - and give no opportunity to the devil.
   3. (NASB) - and do not give the devil an opportunity.
   4. (NIV) - and do not give the devil a foothold.
   5. (BBE) - And do not give way to the Evil One.
   6. (WEY) - do not leave room for the Devil.
   7. (MontgomeryNT) - Give the devil no place.

C. Satan is REAL - **(Gen 3; Mat 4:1-11; John 8:44; Eph 6:11; James 4:7; 1 John 3:8-10)**
   1. **Matthew 4:1-11** (NKJV) ---- 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ “ 7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ” 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.
   2. **John 8:44** (NKJV) ---- 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
   3. **Ephesians 6:11** (NKJV) ---- 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
   4. **James 4:7** (NKJV) ---- 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
   5. **1 John 3:8-10** (NKJV) ---- 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
D. Satan is OUR GREATEST ENEMY & he seeks to DESTROY US - 1 Pet 5:8 (NKJV) ---- 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1. Satan is difficult enough to overcome without us helping him out! (Eph 6:10,11; 2 Cor 11:14)
   a. Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV) ---- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
   b. Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV) ---- 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
   c. 2 Corinthians 11:14 (NKJV) ---- 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
      (1) Heath Robertson - “Note to Satan - you lose”

2. What are some things we may do or not do – that gives Satan the advantage he needs to destroy us?

E. How do we give Satan an Advantage?

II. BY Lacking Knowledge and Understanding

A. Ignorance of God’s word – Hos. 4:6; Eph 4:17-18; 6:10-18; 2 Pet 3:14-18

1. Hosea 4:6 (NKJV) ---- 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

2. Ephesians 4:17-18 (NKJV) ---- 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

3. Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV) ---- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

4. 2 Peter 3:14-18 (NKJV) ---- 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

B. Ignorance of Satan’s Devices – 2 Cor 2:11; 11:3,14

1. 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV) ---- 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.
2. *2 Corinthians 11:3* (NKJV) ---- 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

3. *2 Corinthians 11:14* (NKJV) ---- 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

C. Ignorance results in a weak faith & thus helpless against Satan – *2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 6:12-17*

1. *2 Corinthians 11:3* (NKJV) ---- 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2. *Ephesians 6:12-17* (NKJV) ---- 12 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. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

D. “Churches must recover the centrality and urgency of biblical teaching and preaching, and refuse to sideline the teaching ministry of the preacher. Pastors and churches too busy--or too distracted--to make biblical knowledge a central aim of ministry will produce believers who simply do not know enough to be faithful disciples.” Albert Mohler (The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy: It's Our Problem)

1. "We will not believe more than we know, and we will not live higher than our beliefs.”

III. When we are Indifferent In Spiritual Things

A. We will NOT grow spiritually resulting in our fall - *2 Pet 1:5-11*

1. *2 Peter 1:5-11* (NKJV) ---- 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

B. The enemy will sow his tares without resistance – *Mat 13:25, 39*

1. *Matthew 13:25* (NKJV) ---- 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

2. *Matthew 13:39* (NKJV) ---- 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

C. We help Satan rather than the Lord - *Mat 12:30; 1 Pet 5:8*

1. *Matthew 12:30* (NKJV) ---- 30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

2. *1 Peter 5:8* (NKJV) ---- 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

D. We destroy ourselves in the process – *Rev. 3:15,16; Heb 2:1-3*

1. *Revelation 3:15* (NKJV) ---- 15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

2. *Revelation 3:16* (NKJV) ---- 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

3. *Hebrews 2:1-3* (NKJV) ---- 1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we
have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

a. William Osler - “By far the most dangerous foe we have to fight is apathy, indifference from whatever cause, not from lack of knowledge, but from carelessness, from absorption in other pursuits, from a contempt bred of self satisfaction.” Via - izquotes.com

IV. By Being Overconfident

A. Confident we can through Christ, (Phil 4:13; 1 Cor 10:13) -13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. & 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) 13 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. – but take heed – 1 Cor 10:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

B. When we think we can’t stumble – look out - Mat 26:33,34; Rom 11:20

1. Matthew 26:33 (NKJV) ---- 33 Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”

2. Matthew 26:34 (NKJV) ---- 34 Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

3. Romans 11:20 (NKJV) ---- 20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.

C. Pride goes before destruction – Prov. 11:2; 16:18

1. Proverbs 11:2 (NKJV) ---- 2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

2. Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV) ---- 18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

V. By Flirting with Temptation - (You can’t stand next to a wood burning fire without coming away smelling like smoke)

A. Run like Joseph – Gen 39:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

B. If you flirt – you will get burned!!!!! - Prov 6:24-29 (NKJV) ---- 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

1. Flee fornication - 1 Cor. 6:18 (NKJV) ---- 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

2. Flee idolatry - 1 Cor. 10:14 (NKJV) ---- 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

3. Flee the love of money - 1 Tim 6:11 (NKJV) ---- 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

4. Flee youthful lust - 2 Tim 2:22 (NKJV) ---- 22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

---

VI. Making Excuses for Sin

A. Adam & Eve - Gen 3:9-13

1. Genesis 3:9-13 (NKJV) ---- 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” 12 Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” 13 And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

2. Adam blamed God
3. Eve blamed the Devil
4. But the reality is each was guilty!

B. Moses - Exodus 3:11,13; 4:1,10,13,14

1. Exodus 3:11 (NKJV) ---- 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

2. Exodus 3:13 (NKJV) ---- 13 Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

3. Exodus 4:1 (NKJV) ---- 1 Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The Lord has not appeared to you.’ ”

4. Exodus 4:10 (NKJV) ---- 10 Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”

5. Exodus 4:13 (NKJV) ---- 13 But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.”

6. Exodus 4:14 (NKJV) ---- 14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

C. King Saul - 1 Sam 15:13-21

1. 1 Samuel 15:13-21 (NKJV) ---- 13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord.” 14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” 15 And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.” 16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” 17 So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? 18 Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?” 20 And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

D. Making excuses places us in a dangerous place

E. Making excuses keeps us from overcoming sin

1. If _______ hadn’t _______
2. I’m only human . . .
3. I’ve gone too far . . .
4. I can’t - someone else can do it better / I don’t have the strength / I don’t have the ability / no time . . .
5. ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY & DO WHAT I OUGHT!

VII. **In Conclusion:**

A. We Give Stan The advantage When We.....
   1. Are Ignorant . . .
   2. Are Indifferent . . .
   3. Are Overconfident . . .
   4. Flirt With Temptation . . .
   5. Make Excuses

B. Satan is tough enough without us helping him out!!!

C. Satan can be Resisted:
   1. By GROWING in the grace & knowledge of our Lord - 2 Peter 3:17,18
      a. 2 Peter 3:17 (NKJV) ---- 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;
      b. 2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) ---- 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.
   2. By being DILIGENT - adding to our faith – 2 Peter 1:5-10 (NKJV) ---- 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;
   3. By putting on the WHOLE armor God has provided – Eph 6:10-18 (NKJV) ---- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
   4. By FULLY submitting to God & RESISTING the devil – James 4:7 (NKJV) ---- 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

D. Eph 6:10-18