

If I Were the Devil
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Introduction: What if you heard this kind of announcement?

- A. "I wish to introduce a famous guest in our audience!"
 - 1. He is a murder and a liar. (**Jn 8:44**)
 - 2. He is bent on human misery and endless torment for everyone.
 - 3. Will our guest please stand up? But he will not because he works through others!
- B. We need to see whose side we are on! Jesus' disciples went through this kind of examination. (**Mt 26:21-22**)
 - 1. Satan works even in this audience!
 - 2. He may even be working through the preacher. Would you know? (**2 Cor 11:14**)
 - 3. Satan is a powerful and a ruthless adversary. (**Rev 12:12**)
 - 4. He knows you personally and has a plan of attack. Are you ready? (**Lk 22:31**)
 - 5. Knowing the goals of Satan here are some things I would do if I were he.

I. I would make you think I was a myth.

- A. I would have you listen to the wisdom of this world. (**Jn 12:31; 14:30; 1 Cor 1:20-21**)
 - 1. The world will only believe what it sees. (Ex. Two boys see a sunrise.)
 - 2. We by our father can see the unseen. (**Heb 11:1**)
 - 3. Is Satan a product of human imagination? No, he is an unseen reality. (**Eph 6:11-12**)
- B. I would not want you to know the truth about my character.
 - 1. He is called **Satan**, an accuser and slanderer. (**Job 1:6-11**)
 - 2. He is called the **Devil**, he pretends to be for us but is our vicious enemy. (**Rev 12:9; 2 Cor 11:3**)

"Satan fails to speak of the remorse, the futility, the loneliness, and the spiritual devastation which go hand in hand with immorality."

- 3. He is called "**Belial**," a worthless one of extreme wickedness. (**2 Cor 6:15**)
- 4. He is call the dragon, a howler or jackal that is noisy and abusive. (**Rev 12:3,11**)
- 5. Have you know others who hide their character? (Ex. Politician, one dating.)

II. I would have you minimize sin and its consequences.

- A. I would develop pride in your heart. (**1 Tim 3:6-7**)
 - 1. Through pride Satan will blind you. (**Gal 6:3**)
 - 2. In pride you can call yourself a Christian and justify you own sins! (**Lk 16:15**)
 - 3. Pride causes you to join Satan in fighting God! (**Prov 8:13; Prov 16:18-19**)
- B. I would substitute men for God.
 - 1. I would have you seek the approval of men first. (**Gal 1:10; Mt 7:13-14**)
 - 2. I would have you look to the "weakness of men" for comfort. (**Heb 12:1-4**)
 - 3. I would justify sin because of the sin of others. (**Rom 3:4; Rom 12:17-21**)

"He who will fight the devil with his own weapons must not wonder if he finds him an overmatch." - Robert South (1634-1716)

- 4. I would be satisfied in my growth by what I see around me. (**2 Cor 10:12,18**)

- C. I would deny hell or just not think about it. (**Mk 9:43-46**)
 - 1. I would make you think everyone will be fine! (**1 Thess 5:2-3**)
 - 2. I would not want you to have a concern for the lost. (**2 Cor 5:10-11**)
- D. I would not want you making things right. (**Jn 8:21**)
 - 1. This is why pride is so important to Satan!
 - 2. I would make it a personal issue so that you will never admit wrong!
 - 3. If that failed then I would give you a false plan of salvation.

III. I would separate you from your brethren.

- A. I would promote bitterness and suspicion. (**Jas 3:8, 14-16**)
 - 1. I would have you use your tongue to say whatever you feel.
 - 2. I would always justify your actions while never checking reports out to see if they are true! I would always believe the worst. (**1 Cor 13:5-7**)
 - 3. I would never, never have you apologize!
 - B. I would make you too busy for essential things. (**Lk 10:40-42**)
 - 1. I would have you miss all the occasions to be with other Christians.
 - 2. I would make you cold and isolated.
- “Satan watches for those vessels that sail without a convoy. - George Swinnock (D. 1673)
- C. I would make you self-centered. (**Phil 2:3-4, 3:18-19**)
 - 1. I would only get and never receive.
 - 2. I would be very sensitive to what others do.

IV. I would make you fruitless.

- A. I would “plant weeds” in your life. (**Mk 4:19-20**)
 - 1. I would make you blind to the many time wasters in your life.
 - 2. I would encourage “covetousness.” (**1 Tim 6:9-10**)
 - B. I would make you think that the work is another’s responsibility. (**1 Cor 15:58**)
 - 1. I would have another who is “hired” to do it.
 - 2. I would have you complain about what is fair and then do nothing.
 - 3. I would have you complain about past hurts and have you withdraw.
 - C. I would fill you will worry and fear. (**Jas 1:6-8**)
 - 1. I would have you filled with guilt. (**2 Cor 2:7-11**)
 - 2. I would have you so miserable that there is no joy in serving God.
 - D. I would teach you not to worship. (**1 Cor 11:27-30**)
 - 1. I would have you demand the speaker to keep your attention.
- “The devil doesn’t know how to sing, only how to howl.” - Francis Thompson
- 2. I would have you think about other things.
 - 3. I would never have you spend TIME in worship at home.

Conclusion: We do not have to give in to the plans of Satan.

- A. Jesus came to destroy his plans. (**Heb 2:14-15**)
 - 1. His death provides a full forgiveness and access to God.
 - 2. His death shows us the love and character of God.
 - 3. Who will you trust, the slick liar, Satan, or the God of heaven?
- B. We need God’s word to help us see and stand! (**Eph 6:11-16**)