

The Slanderer

His Slick Tricks and How to Slay Him (Pt.3)

Knowing God through His Word

1. We are taken in and destroyed by the slanderer because we do not know God. One way to know God is by knowing His Word – Hosea 4:1-6 (Isa. 5:1-16)
 - a. (NLT) *My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. It is all your fault, you priests, for you yourselves refuse to know me. Now I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children.*
 - b. Knowing the Scriptures helps us to know God. When we know God then we know His character – Jer. 9:23, 24
 - c. When we know God’s character we can make a distinction between Him and Satan’s counterfeit of Him, *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”* (2 Cor. 11:14)
 - d. 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Characteristic of the Slanderer	Characteristics of God
Self Focused	Other Focused
Tearing Down Others	Building Up Others
Disrespect for authority	Submission to Authority
Self Exaltation	Exalt Others
Look for Fault	Look for Good Qualities
Unforgiving	Gracious, Forgives and never brings up a wrong done
Victim	Victor
Controlling	Allows freedom to decide
Divisive	Seeks unity
Condemns one who has sinned	Seeks to restore one who has sinned

Wants only his/her way	Listens to others to understand alternatives
Blaming others	Takes Responsibility
Flattery (to weaken)	Speaks the truth in love

2. Not Distinguishing between God's Character and Satan's destroys us

- a. Eve was deceived because the devil slandered God. She accepted this slander because of ignorance. – Gen. 3:1-7
- b. The reason that Jesus was able to resist the devil was because He knew that Scripture revealed God's true character – Matt. 4:1-11
- c. We must understand that the underlying nature of the temptation was Satan's desire to slander God.
- d. The devil wanted Jesus to believe that the Father would not supply His needs, would not exalt Him in due time, and attempted to move the Lord to test God's faithfulness in unrighteous ways.

3. One way to resist and overcome the Slanderer is to stop yielding to him by slandering others.

- a. When we know God's character, we align our character with His and we act like Him. Just as he does not slander or receive slander about others (see Job 1-2), we are to be just like Him.
- b. *So place yourselves under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. Come close to God, and he will come close to you. Clean up your lives, you sinners, and clear your minds, you doubters. Be miserable, mourn, and cry. Turn your laughter into mourning and your joy into gloom. Humble yourselves in the Lord's presence. Then he will give you a high position. Brothers and sisters, stop slandering each other. Those who slander and judge other believers slander and judge God's teachings. If you judge God's teachings, you are no longer following them. Instead, you are judging them (James 4:7-11; God's Word Translation).*
- c. If we follow the ways of the devil we become his possession (1 John 3:8).
- d. Do not receive slander and accusations about church leaders or anyone else for that matter.
- e. Do not encourage or engage in gossip with a slanderer but rebuke that person. Don't even listen to them in silence.