

Behind Enemy Lines Pt. 2
1 Peter 5:8

We have an adversary who **hates** the Gospel, detests the Church and is working relentlessly around the clock to discredit the message of Jesus Christ.

His entrance into the life of a believer is usually by way of **negligence** and uncommitted and unrenewed areas of our mind. He then begins to wage warfare against the mind, flesh and spirit of the saints.

Satan is given many names in the Bible. Each of these names reveals a different facet of the devil's twisted and perverted nature and his modis operandi- or his mode of **operation**.

He is called Abaddon, accuser, adversary, angel of light, Apollyon, Beelzebub, Belial, devil, dragon, evil one, murderer, prince of this world, prince of demons, prince of the power of the air, like a roaring lion, Satan, serpent.

These can be divided into four categories:

- ❖ Satan's destructive **bent** - of the seventeen names, two are devoted to Satan's insatiable desire to destroy. The names Abaddon and Apollyon both mean **destroyer**. Satan comes to kill, steal and destroy. **John 10:10** It is important that we never become confused with his purposes. He makes an utter disaster out of any person, business, church or nation that allows him access.
- ❖ Satan's **perverted** nature – he ruins what is pure, true and lovely. As a serpent he twists what is strait and taints what is to be holy.
 - **Beelzebub** – a name used by the Philistines to describe the god of Ekron. It was originally spelled Baalzebub and meant lord of the **flies**. When the nations worshiped Baal, they were calling the false deity lord. The Jews altered the name to Beelzebub which means lord of the dunghill or manure. As lord of the flies Satan is the leader of demon spirits. By declaring himself lord he demands from the demons all of their devotion, commitment and allegiance. As lord of the dunghill the Jews added a great twist to who he is. Like dirty nasty, biting flies they are attracted to “dunghill” **environments** where rotting, stinking, fleshly carnality pervades. **James 3:16**
 - **Belial** - **worthless** The word is always used in relation to filthiness and wickedness. This word is always used to depict evil people. **1 Samuel 2:12 (KJV & AMP)** Eli's sons were fornicators, thieves and were full of idolatry and rebellion. They were full of Satan himself. There is no value or worth found in Satan at all. There is nothing redeeming or noteworthy or admirable at all in him. This is what his desire is to do to people.
 - **Dragon - Revelation 12:9** The words dragon and serpent are used interchangeably to the devil's **twisted** poisonous and ferociously dangerous and demented nature. He is sneaky, intimidating, fascinating but deadly and stealthy. He is ready to strike and kill.

- Evil one – in the Lord’s prayer we are taught to pray- ‘and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one’. Jesus looked upon Satan as evil. The word evil in the Greek means bad, wicked, slothful and malicious.
- Murderous – **John 8:44** Remember Satan’s nature is to kill; from Cain and Able to the slaying of the Hebrew children during both Moses time and in Jesus day. He is the force behind child sacrifices across idolatrous religions and he is the reason for abortion in our world today. He is the initiator behind all killing and injustice in our world today.

- ❖ Satan’s desire to control - Satan desires to rule and control the spirit realm, the world and every human government and human institution.

Satan is called the prince of this world. By calling him this, Jesus recognized Satan’s temporary control over certain things in this earthly sphere. Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world when He was being tempted in the wilderness. Jesus resisted knowing that Satan made an inferior offer.

Satan is known as the prince of demons. He holds the seat of highest ranking among the wicked spirits. He oversees a highly organized but rebellious system of things.

Satan is known as the prince of the power of the air. Under Satan’s control there are varying degrees of principalities, powers and wickedness in high places. He holds legitimate limited authority over the atmosphere and conditions in nations and communities.

- ❖ Satan is the mind manipulator - there are several names that specifically have to do with his ability to twist, deceive and lie to the mind.
 - Adversary – This is important to understanding the devil’s mode of operation. The Greek word is ‘antidikos’; the word ‘anti’ is a nasty word that means against. It is used to describe someone with a mental condition who is on the edge of insanity. They are so opposed to someone that they have lost all sense of reason. Dikos is the root of the word righteousness. It refers to justice, rightness, fairness and purity. The two words together carry the idea of one who is opposed to righteousness to the point of abject hostility. It is the picture of one who wants to obliterate and pursue any righteous person until they are wiped out. Satan hates righteousness. It is important to know that Satan is so adversely insane with hatred towards righteousness that he cannot be passive. He must openly and vigorously seek to destroy it.
 - Like a roaring lion – **1 Peter 5:8** While Satan is not a lion, he parades like one and tries to strike fear into the heart of a man. A lion’s roar is an unsettling thing. The roar is meant to wear us out and to wear us down and swallow us up in fear or self-pity. Notice he is seeking those who he may devour. The word seek means that not everyone will fall prey to his tactics. Satan is looking for those who are weak in faith, ignorant of God’s Word, those who isolate themselves and those who are not mature enough to stand up and resist him. Just like a lion he desires to swallow up people completely.

- Angel of light – Satan is a master deceiver. One of his tactics is to disguise himself and those who do his bidding as something that they are not.
2 Corinthians 11:14 The purpose is to twist our thinking. He will present us with opportunities that seem good but are really works of darkness. False teaching that has a hint of familiar truth that really leads to devastatingly false believing, many times one degree at a time. Remember, Satan is exceedingly wicked but if we were to look at him, he would appear beautiful; with Satan all that glitters is not golden.
- Devil - Devil is derived from the Greek word diabolos. It is a word picture of something repeatedly being thrown at a barrier until it penetrates and breaks through to the other side. Satan is diabolical because he is relentless. Devil means one who continually strikes over and over and over.
- Satan – Devil describes what Satan does, the name Satan describes who he is. Lucifer means “son of the morning”. Satan means “hate and accusation”. It carries with it the idea of slander and false accusation.

The purpose of knowing the names of Satan is not to glorify who he is. It is a study of how completely opposite of God that he is. Just as our God is completely holy, pure, loving and altogether lovely, Satan is unholy, contaminated, hateful and no good is found in him.

The goal is that, as we stand dressed in the Armor of God, we will not only be able to resist Satan but be completely victorious over him.