

## SATAN'S SOPHISTRY

After attending the temple the other day, I came away a little more enlightened about life and what this world is all about. This time I was struck by the sophisticated technique Satan will use to tempt or otherwise lead astray the children of our Heavenly Father.

An overall strategy that the devil employs is to first attempt to put his victims at ease, off guard. He tries to lure them into a sense of security prior to laying the temptation or misinformation on the table. If he can win someone's confidence first, then, they are going to be more susceptible to his nefarious suggestions.

For example, the "you don't understand" approach - you haven't learned about what I'm going to tell you yet. It suggests that the person who knows more, has more learning, is right and can help you in your ignorant state. The victim will give the tempter or propagator of false information credence because they have been trained and educated - they wrote a book, they have a doctorate degree, they have years of experience. The point is simply this, the victim trusts the person because of their "higher intellectual" status. So many times we are taught what the world believes to be truth because of the mountains of "fact and research" that exist. Balderdash! The Lord expects us to determine truth through personal study and evaluation, common sense, prayer, feasting on the words of Christ and listening to the prophets. That is the most accurate standard available to each of us.

Another approach is the "I'm your brother (sister)" approach. The strategy here is to show concern and interest because of the biblical injunction that we be "our brother's keeper". It is an approach that preys upon the lonely and the insecure. It is an attempt to win an individual's confidence through a false demonstration of charitable concern. How many times have we heard "christian" TV evangelists appeal to the concept of everybody is a member of God's family? How many people have given heed to their false messages because they were lonely and felt they could trust their brother?

Another example is the "I hear you" approach. The strategy here is to provide a sympathetic ear to the confused and those searching for the truth but do not know where to find it. How many people have been sucked into the drug scene or cult-like and extreme groups because the promoters of those life styles have simply said, "you're lost. I'll listen to you. We will accept you"?

Satan is a very crafty enemy to God. He is ever present and has a host of devils at his command to aid him in his devious plan of destruction for you and I. Let us stay loyal to the royal and enjoy a full victory!