

26th of November 2017

The actions of a believer (Pt.7) Live in the knowledge of the devil's device of delay.

This is our seventh study on this topic. We previously covered Satan's device of division, the believer's armour that protects them, and the weapons they use to attack. In this study we establish Satan's device of delay, our armour against delay includes the shield of faith, and having our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel, and our weapons are the pulling down of strong holds, and having a preparedness to revenge all disobedience when our obedience is fulfilled.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Live in the knowledge of Satan's device of delay.

"we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us" (1Thes.2: 18).

Paul "endeavoured the more abundantly" to see the saints in Thessalonica but was hindered by our adversary, and it appears that it was more than once – "once and again" (verse 18). And he was also hindered from going to Rome (Rom.15: 22).

2. Our armour against Satan's device of delay.

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" (Eph.6: 16), and c.f. "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Eph. 6: 15).

We must trust in God, in His timing (Ps.37: 5), and have a **preparedness** to go when the door opens, hence we take the shield of faith, and shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel.

3. Our weapon against Satan's device of delay.

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" (2Cor.10: 4).

If Satan is delaying us, then we need to know it is him, and therefore our primary weapon against this device is to seek God to pull down Satan's strong holds and reveal his deception, and then have a **preparedness** to revenge all disobedience, when our obedience is fulfilled (verse 6).

Additional comments on our three points.

When we have an idea in our heart to do something and we are delayed by our adversary we should also die to our own wants (Paul says – "I die daily"), and through God – "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2Cor.10: 5), otherwise we will get discouraged.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

After I had assayed to go to the Bible College of New Zealand I invited my elder from the Presbyterian church around and he gave me some counsel – "you don't have to go and spend three years full time" – he was encouraging me not to go for training.

Question to think about.

How we discern whether someone's counsel is "the Spirit suffered them not" (Acts 16: 7) or Satan hindering us?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

We are all responsible for discerning the will of God in our lives. The only way to do that is to read the word of God "the sword of the Spirit," – Eph.6: 17, pray "with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Eph.6: 18), wait, "prove what is that...acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom.12: 2), and step out in faith. In my illustration I only knew after the event that the elder's counsel was Satan attempting to hinder me. But we do not live and make decisions with the luxury of hindsight, so let us live in the knowledge of Satan's device of delay, take our armour, and the weapons that God has given us and prove to ourselves whether the Spirit is closing the door or Satan is hindering us.