

Becoming Skillful Swordsmen

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Becoming *Mighty in Spirit* is being able to “take the helmet of deliverance; along with the sword given by the Spirit, that is, the Word of G-d.” (Ephesians 6:17) Scripture urges us to be good swordsmen, able to fully utilize the Sword of G-d against the enemy of G-d (Satan). *Yeshua* illustrated the proper use of the Father’s Word (Abba’s Sword) by quoting precise Scriptures (He quoted from Deuteronomy!) in defeating Satan in Matthew 4:1-11. In order to win the battle with the enemy, we must first purify our hearts from secret desires which are evil in the sight of the L-rd.

“Rather, each person is being tempted whenever he is being dragged off and enticed by the bait of his own desire.” (James 1:14)

“I, ADONAI, search the heart; I test inner motivations; in order to give to everyone what his actions and conduct deserve.” (Jer 17:10)

What hidden desires, motives, ambitions, longings, and lusts, which altogether give Satan permission and the freedom to bring related temptations, are we guilty of? Here are the BIG three.

- I. The Love of the “world”: *“Do not love the world or the things of the world. If someone loves the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, then love for the Father is not in him; because all the things of the world—the desires of the old nature, the desires of the eyes, and the pretensions of life—are not from the Father but from the world.” 1 Jo 2:15-16*
- II. The Love of wealth (money) *“For the love of money is a root of all the evils; because of this craving, some people have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves to the heart with many pains.” 1 Tim 6:10*
- III. A desire for revenge *“But if you do not forgive others their offences, your heavenly Father will not forgive yours.” Matthew 6:15*

Satan uses ‘Hidden Desires’ to Defeat Us

Satan uses our hidden desires as the basis to plant his suggestions and reasoning in our minds and make us think that they are our own ideas. Our *double mind* or secret longings, also make our prayers for deliverance ineffective. *“But let him ask in trust, doubting nothing; for the doubter is like a wave in the sea being tossed and driven by the wind. Indeed that person should not think that he will receive anything from the L-rd, because he is double-minded, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-8)*

It is not easy to purify our hearts because *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9, KJV)* For this reason we must spend time before the L-rd and ask Him to search our hearts. *“...Then all the Messianic communities will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and that I will give to each of you what your deeds deserve.” (Rev. 2:23)* Our heart attitude in the presence of the L-rd will tell Him how sincere we are in purifying our double-mindedness. This is why He instructs us to *“Wail, mourn, sob! Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into gloom! Humble yourselves before the L-rd, and he will lift you up.” (James 4:9-10)*

If we are sincere, the Holy Spirit will reveal the secret desires of our heart which Satan is using as the basis for our temptations. These desires will be related to our love of the things of this world. *“You adulterers! Don’t you know that loving the world is hating G-d? Whoever chooses to be the world’s friend makes himself G-d’s enemy! Or do you suppose the Scripture speaks in vain when it says that there is a spirit in us which longs to envy?” (James 4:4-5)* When the Holy Spirit reveals our hidden motives, *Adonai* will give us the grace (desire and power) to purify our hearts as we humble ourselves. *“But the grace he gives is greater, which is why it says, “G-d opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace.” (James 4:6)*

Satan's Temptation	Satan's Deception	Our Secret Motives	It is Written:
1. Look on a woman with lust	You are only fulfilling a G-d-given desire.	To fulfill the lust of the eyes (1 Jo 2:15-17)	<i>"And I tell you that a man who even looks at a woman with the purpose of lusting after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart"</i> Matt. 5:28
2. Look at pornography	What is wrong with having a "lust" for life?	To make provision for the lust of the eyes and of the flesh. (1 Jo 2:15-17)	<i>"Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Yeshua the Messiah; and don't waste your time thinking about how to provide for the sinful desires of your old nature"</i> Ro. 13:14
3. Study false teachings	You can't be effective in witnessing unless you fully understand what the other person believes. (cf 1 Cor. 15:12-58)	To fulfill the pride of learning. To be like G-d, knowing good and evil. (cf. Genesis 3:5)	<i>"My son, if you stop heeding discipline, you will stray from the principles of knowledge."</i> Pr 19:27 <i>"For everyone has heard about your obedience; therefore I rejoice over you. However, I want you to be wise concerning good, but innocent concerning evil"</i> Ro 16:19
4. Learn false philosophies	You won't be educated unless you know them.	To fulfill the pride of knowledge. Being ashamed of the simplicity of the Good News (2 Cor. 11:3)	<i>"Keep clear of a fool, for you won't hear a sensible word from him"</i> Pr 14:7 <i>"Watch out, so that no one will take you captive by means of philosophy and empty deceit, following human tradition which accords with the elemental spirits of the world but does not accord with the Messiah"</i> Col. 2:8
5. Give your parents a look of disgust	Your parents need to be reminded that you are old enough to make your own decisions.	To reject authority and be your own boss. (cf. 1 Samuel 15:23)	<i>"The eye that mocks his father and scorns obeying his mother will be pecked out by the ravens in the valley, and the vultures will eat it"</i> Prov. 30:17
6. Envy sinners	Look at all the fun you are missing.	To find "acceptable" ways to enjoy the pleasures of sin. (cf. Heb. 11:25)	<i>"Don't envy sinners, but follow the example of those who always fear God. For then you will have a future, what you hope for will not be cut off."</i> Prov. 23:17-18
7. Tell a lie	You will lose respect if you tell people the truth about yourself.	To get the praise of men rather than the approval of G-d. (cf. Eph. 6:6)	<i>"Never lie to one another; because you have stripped away the old self, with its ways"</i> Col. 3:9 <i>"You belong to your father, Satan, and you want to carry out your father's desires. From the start he was a murderer, and he has never stood by the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is speaking in character; because he is a liar - indeed, the inventor of the lie!"</i> Jo 8:44

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8. Murmur about your work	Cause change by expressing discontent	To get your own way. (cf. Phil. 2:5-9)	<i>"Do everything without kvetching or arguing" Phil. 2:14</i>
9. Complaint about a physical handicap	Let people know what you must live with. (He does not love you because He let it happen.)	To get sympathy and attention at the expense of His glory. (cf. 2 Cor. 12:8-10)	<i>"In everything give thanks, for this is what God wants from you who are united with the Messiah Yeshua" 1 Thes. 5:18</i>
10. To give a bad report about another believer.	You need to warn others about this person.	To fulfill the pride of appearing to be better than others. (Matt. 18:15)	<i>"Brothers, stop speaking against each other! Whoever speaks against a brother or judges a brother is speaking against Torah and judging Torah. And if you judge Torah, you are not a doer of what Torah says, but a judge." James 4:11</i> <i>"Brothers, suppose someone is caught doing something wrong. You who have the Spirit should set him right, but in a spirit of humility, keeping an eye on yourselves so that you won't be tempted too." Gal. 6:1</i>
11. Judge another person	You can't change them, so why try?	To condemn in others what you cannot conquer yourself. (cf. Romans 2:1-3)	<i>"Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. For the way you judge others is how you will be judged - the measure with which you measure out will be used to measure to you" Matt. 7:1-2</i>
12. Gossip about someone who falsely accused you.	You must teach him what it feels like when someone damages your reputation.	To get revenge for what they did to you. (cf. Ro. 12:21)	<i>"Not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult, but, on the contrary, with blessing. For it is to this that you have been called, so that you may receive a blessing" 1 Peter 3:9</i> <i>"Never seek revenge, my friends; instead, leave that to God's anger; for in the Tanakh it is written, "ADONAI says, 'Vengeance is my responsibility; I will repay.'" Ro. 12:19</i>
13. Use profanity	You need to use that language to get your point across	To express anger and reestablish your won authority. (cf. 1 Peter 3:10)	<i>"You are not to use lightly the name of ADONAI your God, because ADONAI will not leave unpunished someone who uses his name lightly" Ex. 20:7</i> <i>"Let no harmful language come from your mouth, only good words that are helpful in meeting the need, words that will benefit those who hear them." Eph. 4:29</i>

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14. Question the accuracy of the Scriptures	You can't be sure about a book that written so long ago and by Jews!	Freedom from the authority of Scripture and especially its standards for morality. <i>A man's morality dictates his theology</i> (2 Thes. 2:10-12)	<i>"All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living"</i> 2 Tim. 3:16 <i>"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away"</i> Mark 13:31
15. Become too busy to get into G-d's Word daily	It won't hurt to miss a few days.	To avoid the fact that you have lost your first love for the L-rd and His Word. (cf. Rev. 2:4)	<i>"But he answered, "The Tanakh says, 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of ADONAI'"</i> Matthew 4:4
16. Put off memorization	You don't need to memorize. You can get just as much out of a verse by reading it.	To excuse mental laziness and lack of diligence in seeking G-d. (cf. Prov. 22:17-18)	<i>"I treasure your word in my heart, so that I won't sin against you"</i> Psalm 119:11
17. Neglect meditation	You have other things to think about before you meditate. <i>'I can't even remember a verse I meditate on.'</i>	To exercise pride in deciding what you will use your mind to think about. (cf. 1 Tim. 4:15)	<i>"Yes, keep this book of the Torah on your lips, and meditate on it day and night, so that you will take care to act according to everything written in it. Then your undertakings will prosper, and you will succeed."</i> Joshua 1:8
18. Despise the restrictions of your parents or rabbi.	You are entitled to your own opinion on personal matters.	To be your own boss and enjoy the things of the world. (cf. James 4:1-6)	<i>"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your lives, as people who will have to render an account. So make it a task of joy for them, not one of groaning; for that is of no advantage to you"</i> Hebrew 13:17
19. Satisfy curiosity in learning about the occult.	It won't hurt you to learn about it. Maybe you can use your knowledge to counsel others to avoid it.	To be like G-d knowing both good and evil. (cf. Gen. 3:5)	<i>"There must not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through fire, a diviner, a soothsayer, an enchanter, a sorcerer, a spell-caster, a consulter of ghosts or spirits, or a necromancer. For whoever does these things is detestable to Adonai, and because of these abominations Adonai your God is driving them out ahead of you"</i> Deut. 18:10-12
20. Plan to profit at another's expense	You have the right to make all the money you can. You must look out for 'No I'	To gratify the love of money. (cf. 1 Tim. 6:9-11)	<i>"Do not steal"</i> Ex. 20:15 <i>"No good comes from ill-gotten wealth, but righteousness rescues from death"</i> Prov. 10:2 <i>"Rather than wealth, choose a good reputation, esteem over silver and gold"</i> Prov. 22:1

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21. Worry over financial pressures.	You can't count on G-d to help you. If He was concerned, He wouldn't let things get so bad.	To be able to depend on your resources rather than on G-d's resources. (cf. 1 Tim. 6:6-10)	<i>"so if we have food and clothing, we will be satisfied with these" 1 Tim. 6:8 "Don't worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving" Ph. 4:6</i>
22. Be discouraged with being a Believer.	You have failed so many times, why bother?	To try to please G-d with what you can do, rather than draw strength from what He has done through <i>Yeshua</i> (cf. 1 Cor 15:10)	<i>"So let us not grow weary of doing what is good; for if we don't give up, we will in due time reap the harvest" Gal. 6:9</i>
23. Fear the future	It is normal to fear the unknown.	To assume that G-d will punish you in the future for past sins. (cf. 1 John 1:9)	<i>"For God gave us a Spirit who produces not timidity, but power, love and self-discipline" 2 Tim. 1:7 "Bless Adonai, my soul! Everything in me, bless his holy name! Bless Adonai, my soul, and forget none of his benefits! He forgives all your offenses, he heals all your diseases, he redeems your life from the pit, he surrounds you with grace and compassion, he contents you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's." Ps. 103:1-5</i>
24. Feel inferior	You would be much happier if you looked like someone else.	To gain admiration of people rather than the approval of G-d. (cf. Matt. 5:16)	<i>"We don't dare class or compare ourselves with some of the people who advertise themselves. In measuring themselves against each other and comparing themselves with each other, they are simply stupid" 2 Cor. 10:12 "I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well" Psalm 139:14</i>
25. Resent G-d's correction	If G-d really loved you, He wouldn't allow so much trouble to come into your life.	To blame G-d for the consequences of violating His principles. (cf. Prov. 19:3)	<i>"Also you have forgotten the counsel which speaks with you as sons: "My son, don't despise the discipline of ADONAI or become despondent when he corrects you. For ADONAI disciplines those he loves and whips everyone he accepts as a son." Heb. 12:5-6</i>

Heavenly Father, I ask you, in the name and through the Blood of Messiah *Yeshua*, to rebuke Satan for tempting me to _____ (for example, get angry) _____. For it is written: "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of G-d."