

Chapter Six

When God permits the Devil

Why doesn't Jesus stop Satan from tempting all faithful Christians? This is the question many believers ask. Why do some Faithful believers fall into sin when Jesus is there watching? Why can't Jesus stop the devil from tempting God's servants who have brought many souls into God's Kingdom?

Do you realize that after Jesus had warned his disciples in Luke 22:31-32, he did not bar Satan from tempting Simon Peter? Simon was tempted and he denied the name of Jesus not only once but three times! The answer to all these questions is simple. It is God our Father who either grants or denies Satan permission to tempt believers. When God the Father permits Satan to tempt a believer, Jesus Christ cannot disallow.

Jesus said that:

"I and my Father are one"

When God the Father allows a temptation to take place, Jesus has allowed also. Jesus further said that:

Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. Matthew 12:25

Everywhere he went, Jesus exalted the Father. He talked of his Father's house or business (Luke 2:49), his Father's glory (Matthew 16: 27), his Father's revelations (Matthew 20:23), and his Father's Kingdom (Matthew 26:29). God the Father and Jesus Christ act in unison. However, in everything Jesus proclaimed that the Father was always greater (John 14:28). This is the reason why Jesus instructed us always to direct our prayers not to him but to our Father in heaven.

Jesus has never contradicted the Father. When the Father says, 'YES', Jesus cannot make a contradictory action to stop Satan by saying 'NO'. When the Father permitted Satan to tempt Simon Peter, Jesus could not make a contradictory action

to stop Satan. Jesus could have used his powers to bar Satan, but the best he did was to pray. This continues today. When Jesus was instructing his disciples about prayer he instructed them to direct their prayers to the Father in heaven because he is the source of all authorization in the heavens and on earth. Currently Jesus himself is seated on the right hand of our Father continually interceding for us.

Why does our Father tolerate Satan?

Our God is a God of plans; everything that happened in the past, whatever is happening now, and all what will happen in future is according to God's plans, made before the earth was created. Did you know that God knew you, and had plans for you before you were created in your mother's womb? If you are unsure then read Psalm 139:15-16:

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

In the same way God already has plans for the devil. But I am afraid this plan is not good. This plan will be fulfilled when God's appointed time comes in the End Time. To know this plan open the book of Revelation 20:10:

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Our Father is not in a hurry to fulfill his plans. He is a God of time, with each event in our lives having its own appointed time. If God was in a hurry, then he would have already sent Jesus to back to take us out of this wicked World! God's power is above every other power in the heavens and on earth. There is no way Satan may be difficult to our God. Time is soon coming for Satan's total destruction.

The main reason God allows Satan into his heavenly presence, listens to his accusations and even permits him to tempt God's faithful children is that he wants Satan to prove for himself that God's children love the Father from the bottom of their hearts. When Satan succeeds in tempting you, our Father remains sad (Genesis 6:6). But if you overcome sin there is rejoicing in heaven, just as there is for one sinner who repents and turns to Christ (Luke 15:7).