



Side By Side - Chapter 14
“Be Alert to Satan’s Devices”
February 11th-15th

Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon (Genesis 37):

1. What is an important truth that stood out to you in Genesis 37 that you will commit to thinking and praying about this week?
2. What do you feel that the Lord has been teaching you about yourself, Jesus, and/or the gospel through His Word and through the sermon on Sunday (February 11th)?

Prayer

As you begin your study this week, spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to equip you with the armor of God, “that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil” (Ephesians 6:10-18). Ask the Lord to reveal to you any areas you may currently be falling prey to Satan’s devices and for the wisdom to counteract them. As you pray, consider the following words of this Puritan prayer taken from The Valley of Vision and make them your own before the Lord.

*“O Lord, I bless thee that the issue of the battle between thyself and Satan
has never been uncertain, and will end in victory.
Calvary broke the dragon’s head, and I contend with a vanquished foe,
who with all his subtlety and strength has already been overcome.
When I feel the serpent at my heel may I remember him who whose heel was bruised,
but who, when bruised, broke the devil’s head.
My soul with inward joy extols the mighty conqueror.
Heal me of any wounds received in the great conflict;
if I have gathered defilement, if my faith has suffered damage,
if my hope is less than bright, if my love is not fervent,
if some creature-comfort occupies my heart,
if my soul sinks under the pressure of the fight.
O thou whose every promise is balm, every touch life,
draw near to thy weary warrior, refresh me, that I may rise again to wage the strife,
and never tire until my enemy is trodden down.
Give me such fellowship with thee that I may defy Satan, unbelief, the flesh, the world,
with delight that comes not from a creature, and which a creature cannot mar.
Give me a drink of the eternal fountain that lieth in thy immutable, everlasting love...
Then shall my hand never weaken, my feet never stumble, my sword never rest,
my shield never rust, my helmet never shatter, my breastplate never fall,
as my strength rest in the power of thy might.”*

***The following content is directly copied from the Study Guide for**

Side by Side

Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love

Edward T. Welch

Prepared by
Lydia Brownback

 **CROSSWAY**
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

14

Be Alert to Satan's Devices

Overview

Satan is a defeated foe, but we still need to be aware of his tricks. His goal with believers is to wreck their faith, and during times of hardship, he moves in to tempt, accuse, and confuse. How do we recognize Satan's tactics and counteract them? This chapter seeks to answer those questions by examining in God's Word what happened in four different gardens.

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

1. God tests, but Satan tempts. How was that played out in the garden of Eden? See Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–5. Welch writes, “Remembering what happened in Eden will help us be alert to how a sufferer is being tempted or accused by Satan” (p. 125). How does this work out?
2. How specifically did Jesus refute the lies of Satan?
3. On page 126 we read, “Since we have the Spirit, the Word, and prayer, we can be hopeful and stand firm against Satan as we go through our daily wildernesses.” How can we live this out practically?
4. Why does suffering tend to summon Satan? How does Ephesians 6:10–18 equip us to counter his attacks?

5. Studying what happened in the garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32–38) helps us know what to do when we see a spiritual battle raging in someone's heart. How exactly does knowledge of the Gethsemane incident help us?

6. Review the list of strategies we can employ against Satan's strategies (pp. 128–29). Which ones speak most loudly to you at present? Are there any additional strategies you could add to this list?

7. In 2 Corinthians 2:11 Paul makes clear that knowledge of Satan's designs keeps us from being outwitted by him. What from this chapter has aided your understanding of and therefore your ability to withstand Satan's schemes?

Recap

Review your answers to the questions on page 130 and then consider them afresh below.

1. How can you identify a spiritual battle going on in the life of a friend or loved one? If you have identified one recently, how have you addressed it?

2. Review Ephesians 6:10–18. Using the words of this passage, write out a prayer that addresses a particular battle going on either in your life or in the life of a friend.