

What is Satan’s Greatest Lie?

John 8:44

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **John 8:44** – You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of all lies.”
- B. In section 2D of the Houston Chronicle on 3/23/99, the following lines appeared: David Lieberman is the author of a 1998 book titled *Never Be Lied to Again*. His research shows the average person lies three to four times a day. In marital relationships lies enter the conversation about 10 percent of the time while communication between dating couples involves approximately 20 percent lies. Lieberman suggests making good eye contact when trying to determine if someone is shooting you straight. He notes if you ask a right-handed person where he’s been and he’s telling the truth, he’ll look up and left because that is the side of the brain that’s used to recall visual information. If he’s manufacturing a lie, you’ll see him look up and to the right. Of course it would be a whole lot easier, and far better, if we would all just look down at God’s Word and apply His straight-forward command: “Don’t lie to each other.” (**Colossians 3:9**)
- C. As Christians, we are in warfare against Satan.
1. While it is true that Jesus defeated Satan on the cross, it is also true that Satan never ceases his attack on God’s People.
 2. In this warfare, let us examine five of Satan’s greatest lies he uses against people.

GREATEST LIE #1 – GOD WITHHOLDS GOOD THINGS FROM US

- A. **Genesis 3:4-5** –“You will not surely die, the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”
- B. Satan tempts us to believe God’s goodness obligates Him to gratify our desires immediately, and when that does not happen, it is an indication that God does not care about us.
- C. God’s plans are always aimed at our best over the long haul, and not just for the immediate short-term.

GREATEST LIE #2 – TRUST IN THE DEITY OF SELF

- A. **Psalm 20:7** – “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”
- B. Satan always provides a list of alternatives to choose from in place of choosing to trust in God.
1. Humanism
 2. Materialism . . . Things . . . Stuff
 3. Denominationalism . . . Religious beliefs and organizations that did not come from God.
 4. Numbers . . . Satan tempts us to trust in numbers rather than God’s provision. **1 Chronicles 21:1** – “Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.”
 5. Self . . . Self-reliance
 - a. Satan wants us to fall victim to the lie of self-reliance. **Philippians 4:19** – “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
 - b. God-reliance . . . Not self-reliance.

GREATEST LIE #3 – GOD’S PEOPLE WILL NEVER SUFFER

- A. **Matthew 16:22-23** – “Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ‘Never, Lord!’ he said. ‘This shall never happen to you!’
Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.’”
- B. Satan tempts us to believe nothing bad will ever happen to us as Christians. And, if something bad does happen, it is just a further indication that God is not all we believe Him to be.” Satan would have us believe that.
- C. Satan’s lie sows self-pity that blooms into bitterness of heart.
1. How thankful we should be for the Book of Job.
 2. **Romans 8:28** – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

GREATEST LIE #4 – MONEY BRINGS HAPPINESS

- A. **Matthew 4:8-9** – “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.
‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’”
- B. Greed will take our eyes off God.
- C. Listening to Satan will short-circuit God’s plan for us.
1. **Malachi 3:10** – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

2. God will provide things for us . . . But things will not provide God for us!

GREATEST LIE #5 – FORGIVENESS IS IMPOSSIBLE

A. **2 Corinthians 2:7, 11** – “Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

11 In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

B. Refusal to forgive invites bitterness into our hearts.

C. Unforgiveness divides people and kills fellowship.

D. The road to forgiveness begins with remembering how much we’ve been forgiven.

E. In order to reach Heaven, not only must we be forgiven by God . . . But we must also forgive others. **Mark 11:25-26** – “I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

CONCLUSION:

A. We have examined five of Satan’s greatest lies . . . Lies he uses to destroy our souls when we believe them and follow them.

1. God withholds good things from us. Not true!

2. Trust in the Deity of self. Not true!

3. God’s people will never suffer! Not so!

4. Money brings happiness. Not true!

5. Forgiveness is impossible. Again, not true!

B. We have a choice:

1. We can believe Satan’s lies and be lost.

2 Or . . . We can accept God’s truth and be saved. **John 8:32** – “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

C. God has a plan for your salvation . . . Do you have a desire to accept it and obey it?

D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**