

# THE THIEF

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## INTRODUCTION:

We have an enemy and he is a thief.

### I. John 10:10

- A. The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy...
- B. His name is satan--the accuser of the brethren; or the devil.
- C. His name was Lucifer, Son of the Morning; his position just under God.
- D. He lost that title and position and he will never get it back, so he uses deception to gain access to OUR title and position.
- E. He is a master deceiver.

### II. I Peter 5:8

- A. He prowls around like a lion, looking for someone whom he may devour.
- B. He's NOT a lion; he's trying to act like a lion. He's deceiving you.
- C. He can only devour you if you fall prey to his deceptions.

### III. I Peter 5:9

- A. Resist him steadfast in the faith.
- B. He can only steal from us if we give him access.
- C. How do we give him access?
  - 1. With our words.
  - 2. By getting into fear, disobedience, strife, unforgiveness...

#### IV. Matthew 13:19-22

A. When we hear the Word, but don't understand it, he comes and snatches it away.

1. Example of kid and bully on playground.

B. The devil will come right away and try to make you believe you didn't really get healed.

#### V. Proverbs 26:2

A. The curse doesn't come unless there is a cause. The thief breaks in because there is a weak area--an open door.

B. To stop him from stealing from you, you must strengthen the weak areas and close the open doors.

C. How do you close the doors?

1. Genuine repentance.

#### VI. Judges 10: 10-16

A. WE HAVE SINNED. Genuine repentance is not mere words. It's not saying, 'I'm sorry'. God refuses to forgive mere words. He's looking for actions that back up those words. He's looking for change.

1. True and genuine repentance begins with confession of your sin. This is the first principle of true repentance.

2. One must confess or acknowledge his sin to be forgiven.

B. DO WHAT YOU WANT TO WITH US. Then there must be whole-hearted surrender to the will of God and a determined decision to obey Him.

C. DELIVER US ONLY THIS DAY, WE PRAY. This was desperation and earnestness for deliverance now, which is also necessary for full consecration.

1. Ask for the Lord's help.

D. THEY PUT AWAY THE STRANGE GODS FROM AMONG THEM. This was proper and necessary restitution and manifested true repentance and sincerity.

1. Here's the action. Do something to change.

E. SERVED THE LORD. The acid test of any true repentance--actual consecration to God and truly serving Him.

1. Live in obedience to God.

2. **Galatians 5:16-26** tells us how to live in Christ. But I say, walk and live habitually in the Holy Spirit, responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the Holy Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are opposed to the flesh; for these are antagonistic to each other; they are continually withstanding and in conflict with each other., so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do. But, if you are guided and led by the Holy Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. Now the practices of the flesh are obvious; they are immorality, impurity, indecency, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger or bad temper, selfishness, divisions, party spirit, heresies, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like, I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Holy Spirit--the work which His presence within accomplishes is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law that can bring a charge. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and appetites and desires. If we live by the Holy Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit. Let us not become vainglorious and self-conceited, competitive and challenging and provoking and irritating to one another, envying and being jealous of one another.

## CONCLUSION

1. There is a thief.
2. His name is satan; he has a strategy and that strategy is deception.
3. He prowls around looking for someone who will believe his lies; someone who will agree with him in thought and/or action.
4. This leads to sin and then he has an opening into your life.
5. True repentance will kick him out and shut the door.
6. Hide your life in Christ and the devil will always be on the outside looking in. No weapon formed against you will succeed. No evil will come near you. You'll watch from the safety of your position in Christ the destruction of the wicked.

7.Obedience is the key to hiding your life in Christ.