Satan Part One:
The Tempter

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils (or demons). One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. The (demons) themselves are equally pleased by both errors" (C.S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*, ix)

1) Satan Tempting in the Garden

Genesis 3:1–7: [1] Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" [2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' " [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

2) Satan Tempting Outside the Garden

- ***Satan Tempts through the World and the Flesh***

  Ephesians 2:1–3: And you were dead in the trespasses and sins [2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— [3] among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- ***Satan Keeps People from Seeing Christ***

  2 Corinthians 4:3-4: And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. [4] In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- ***Satan Tempts People to Disregard the Word***

  Mark 4:14–15: The sower sows the word. [15] And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

- ***Satan Tempts the Church through Heresy and False Teaching***

  1 Timothy 4:1–2: [1] Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons…

- ***Satan Tempts Us to Away from Sincere Devotion to Christ***

  2 Corinthians 11:3: I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

3) Satan's Temptation and Christ

- ***Promise of Christ's Victory (Genesis 3:14-15)***

  14 The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- ***Christ's Temptation & Victory (Luke 4)***

  Luke 4:1-2 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness **2** for forty days, being tempted by the devil.
  Luke 4:9–11: **9** And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10** for it is written," 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' **11** and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' " 12 And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

  Psalm 91:11–13 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

- ***In Christ, We Have Victory Over Satan's Temptation***

  i. **We are no longer under the power of Satan…**

  Colossians 1:13: 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

  ii. **We are no longer blinded by Satanic deception….**

  2 Corinthians 4:4…the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. But v 6 then says, 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

  iii. We receive mercy and help in temptation…

  Hebrews 4:15–16: **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

  iv. We have hope in temptation….

  1 Corinthians 10:13 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

  v. We know there will be an end to temptation….

  Romans 16:20: 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.