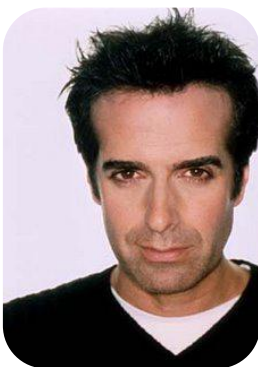


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The 3 Tricks of the Devil



Magic is a performing art that entertains audiences by **staging tricks or creating illusions of seemingly impossible or supernatural feats using natural means**. These feats are called *magic tricks, effects, or illusions*. One who performs such illusions is called a **magician** or an **illusionist**. Some performers may also be referred to by names reflecting the type of magical effects they present, such as prestidigitators, conjurers, mentalists, or escape artists.



There are many famous magicians who could make people astonished with their talented and strategic performance. Some of the Greatest historical magicians are:

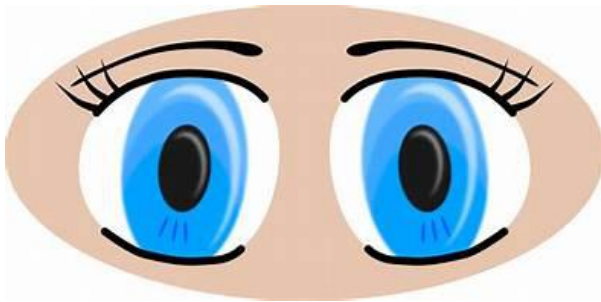
- **David Copperfield** is the famous magician and illusionist. His famous magic tricks are: the disappearing Statue of Liberty, flying, levitating over the Grand Canyon and walking through the Great Wall of China.
- **Harry Houdini** started his career with card acts and later became famous for his escape acts. He is thought to have the power of picking any lock in the world.
- **The Devil** is believed in many religions, myths and cultures to be a supernatural entity that is the personification of evil and the enemy of God and humankind, and he is known as *'the deceiver'* that leads humanity astray. He is sometimes called *The Devil, Satan, Lucifer, The Fallen Angel, The Prince of Darkness* and many other names. His being is often applied to an angel who rebelled and fell out of favor with God, seducing humanity by deception into the ways of sin, and who now has power to rule over the fallen world.



Many magical routines use combinations of effects like producing something from nothing, making something disappear, levitation, prediction.... The methodology behind magic is often referred to as a science (often a branch of physics) whilst the performance aspect is more of an art form. Understanding **the methodology and the magician** behind the tricks will let you see **what is real and what is not**. In this lesson the methodology of the **master magician, the devil**, shall be discussed in detail.

Knowing the Enemy

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8



The devil is a fallen angel (*with a host of lesser demons*) that has a limited amount of power in this realm of time on Earth (*see Job Chapter 1*). I believe that he too ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (lesson 9) against the instructions of his Creator, the Almighty God. And for **his rebellion** in Heaven and **unrepentant heart**, he was expelled from heaven until the time of his final judgment. He seeks to destroy the works of God and His Most Precious Creation, Mankind. **He is not to be praised, served, played around with, listened to, or taken lightly.** And those **believers** in the Savior of the World **have nothing to fear** from the devil. **He has no power over the believers.** He cannot beat you, **but he can and will try to get you to beat yourself** by leading you astray with his tricks. He is extremely good at this **deception** and has **thousands of years of experience** in **redirecting** the thoughts and hearts of Mankind against the instructions of the Creator. He doesn't care how he **redirects** your thoughts and heart as long as he does it. **He wants your will to be against God's will for you.**

ENEMY



Although he is skilled at his magic and illusions, he has several weaknesses. His weaknesses are: **No power over believers; His time and power are limited; He does not like to share power; His methods are extremely consistent throughout humanity's history.** Let's discuss **The (3) Methods** of this most famous *magician, trickster, and deceiver* so that **you can be aware** of the enemy's tricks and not be **deceived or led astray** into painful wasted time loops of sin.

Trick 1) 'The Front Door' ...Temptation of The Flesh



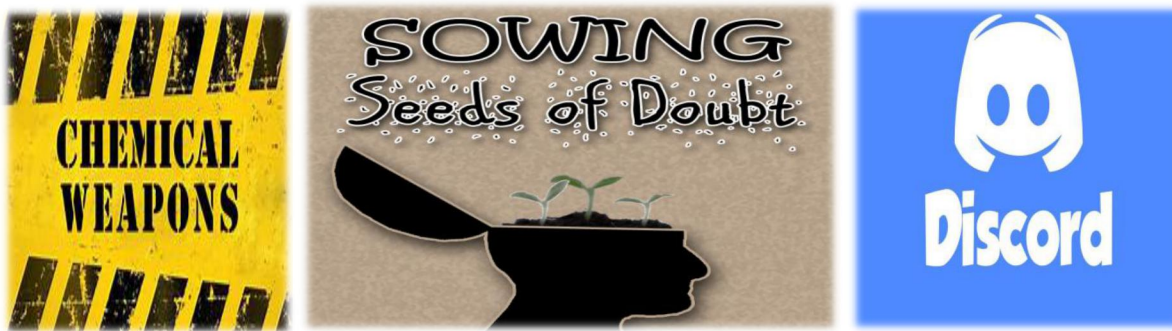
“Woman, did God really tell you that you must not eat from any tree in the garden?”....The woman could see that the tree was beautiful and the fruit looked so good to eat. Genesis 3:1 & 6

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert. He was taken there to be tempted by the devil. Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and nights. After

this, he was very hungry. The devil came to tempt him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread.” Mat. 4:1-3



The devil's **first approach** toward Mankind is simple and straight forward. There is **not much deception involved** in this method. He comes right to **our front door** and **tempts Mankind in the natural flesh**. He and his **demons have a file on every human** that was ever born. He knows what we like, say, dislike, desire, do & have done. His data is both accurate & comprehensive. If you like chocolate cake, he won't tempt you with coconut cake or pecan pie. There is a chocolate cake coming your way at some point. **This first method of temptation deals with the human weakness which is the natural flesh**. As mentioned in earlier lessons, 'the natural flesh is weak, but not inherently sinful.' It is this **natural weakness** that **the devil exploits** in humanity.



Let's look at the biblical examples above from both the Old Testament and New Testament. The devil's approach with Eve in the Garden of Eden started with him sowing seeds of **doubt and discord**. **Doubt and discord are like Chemical Weapons**. They just have to be implanted and if not immediately removed, they will spread like wildfire. Once they

spread over your being, they **impair your ability to reason properly based on Truth**. We see natural examples of this approach in athletics; it is called “*trash-talk*”. One athlete will talk to the other opposing athlete with insults or personal facts that try to **shift their opponent’s focus away** from the current game. The devil’s seeds with Eve were based on a **small hint of realism**, but the **seeds of doubt** that were **not dispelled** are what **created her discourse**.



Thousands of years later the devil used the same exact approach with Jesus. Fully knowing who Jesus was, the devil sowed this **seed of doubt**: “*If thou be the Son of God...*” The seeds of **doubt and discord** are a part of the **evil magician’s handbook**. After sowing the doubt seeds, the devil **continues his attacks** on the fleshly weakness **with temptation**. With the example of Eve the temptation was: ***the tree was beautiful and the fruit looked so good to eat***. With the example of Jesus the temptation was: ***he was very hungry and was tempted to make rocks into bread and eat***. The human body must eat to stay alive. So eating was not the problem in the temptation. **The problem is departing from the instructions of the Creator**. The combination of subtle doubt and natural eating is a **combination trick** by the **evil magician and tempter**.



Falling for this **first method** is a way of life for non-believers, for they do not attempt to follow the Creator's instructions. But at some point **all believers have succumbed to this first method of temptation also.** There are plenty of fleshly menu items (food, sex, wealth, beauty, knowledge, houses, fame, success, clothes, shoes.....) for the devil to tempt Mankind with. Many new and carnal believers are **still blind-sided** by this **Trick 1.** **The difference between the believer and the non-believer is the power to recognize and overcome the trick.**

The answers to overcome this **Trick 1** are revealed in the comments and example of Jesus:



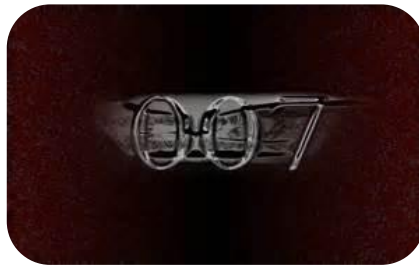
- **Know the CORRECT Instructions and Voice of God Intimately**
- **Do not reason with the enemy**
- **Walk in the Spirit by letting the Spirit guide your actions**

If you do these things with the **power of the Holy Spirit** you can defeat **the enemy** with his combination **Trick 1.** But he will not stop there. He will proceed to **Trick 2.**

Trick 2) 'The Back Door'....Temptation in your Righteousness

The snake spoke to the woman and said, "Woman, did God really tell you that you must not eat from any tree in the garden?" Genesis 3:1

Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put him on a high place at the edge of the Temple area. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, jump off because the Scriptures say, God will command his angels to help you, and their hands will catch you, so that you will not hit your foot on a rock." Matthew 4:5,6



One of the key aspects of the spy genre is trying to detect who are the good guys and bad guys. Often times an agent can work for more than one interest and is sometimes called a **'double agent'**. This complexity is what keeps audiences intrigued with the plots and series. If **Trick 1** does not produce the desired evil outcome, the devil will try **Trick 2**. Like a clever intriguing James Bond spy, **he will blend into the 'Righteous Scene'**.



When sports teams play a game against an opponent, they are required to wear different color uniforms. The uniforms help the players, the fans, and the referees to distinguish one team from the other. The **master deceiver** has your team jersey with your team logo. He is on the bus, in the locker room, present at warm-ups, and in the huddle when discussing strategy. **The devil** has been around Mankind since we were created. He has listened to our conversations with the Creator. He has seen and been a part of our religious ceremonies. He has read and can quote the Bible or any other spiritual document or moment. With this vast store of knowledge and experience, **he appears to be one of the team members.**



Looking at the biblical examples above, the devil's approach with Eve in the Garden of Eden and with Jesus in the desert parallel each other exactly. As he **blends into their Righteous Scene**, he states what God/Scripture said. He probes Eve with *'did God really say....'* Likewise he engages Jesus with *'because the Scriptures say....'* Both comments

from the deceiver offer some **sprinkles of truth**. But both are very much **out of context** and require Eve and Jesus to **act against the Creator's instructions and intent**.



In modern day society and throughout human history, there have been great orators and really smart people. Many of these people have existed inside the known religious circles. Given that most religious people don't want to appear ignorant, they *listen and follow* these leaders *no matter what* often to their destruction. **The devil uses members** sitting right next to you; he uses pastors, priests, rabbi's, ceremonies & traditions... With people and devices **from your inner circle that you regard highly**, he **sprinkles a little truth** (as righteous bait) with a lot of **fleshy seed** to get you **away from the spiritual path and disconnect you from the Creator's intent**. **The devil** desires to **tempt you in what appears to be righteousness**. Believers are not obligated to listen to words of **the flesh** and must **filter them quickly**.



Those in the government who are responsible for finding counterfeit money do not study the counterfeit bills. They study the authentic money in great detail. So when they see a counterfeit bill, they know it is not real. **In a like manner, believers have to study the truths of the**

Creator in context so that they know the difference between **what is real and what is false**. To overcome **Trick 2**, see the example of Jesus:



- Know the Creator's Instructions in Context and True Intent
- Filter Fleshly Words & Works
- Apply the True Word against the enemy Correctly

Trick 3) 'From The Top'....Temptation of Power

But the snake said to the woman, "You will not die. God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree you will learn about good and evil, and then you will be like God!" Genesis 3:4,5

Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all the wonderful things in them. The devil said, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things." Matthew 4:8,9

With **Tricks 1 & 2**, **the devil** merely attempts to get you to beat yourself. And even though **Trick 2** required a little more effort on his part to tempt you, he still did not have to give up anything of his. If **Tricks 1 & 2** don't work, he will as a last resort offer up pieces of **temporary limited control of his limited power** in this earthly realm. **The Temptation of Power is the Greatest Temptation of them All.** It also requires **the devil** to work harder and potentially share something of his kingdom. But he doesn't mind if this temptation will **lead you away from God's instructions.**



Why do some people seek to be the Boss or President or Pastor or General or CEO or otherwise in charge....It surely isn't for the money. It may be that they think they can control their own destiny and the destiny of others. History and contemporary society is filled with

examples, books, commentary on people that rose to power (of some sort) and how you can do it too.



Looking at the biblical example from the Old Testament, the devil mixes powerful words, deceitful knowledge, and the **lure of power** to tempt Eve. ***You will know good and evil and you will be like God.*** Who in their natural minds could resist this kind of power to be like God....The Creator of the Universe? Better yet **the deception** implies that we don't to have to take instructions from anyone including God. **This conflict of The Creator's will vs. our will is the core struggle of all humanity.**

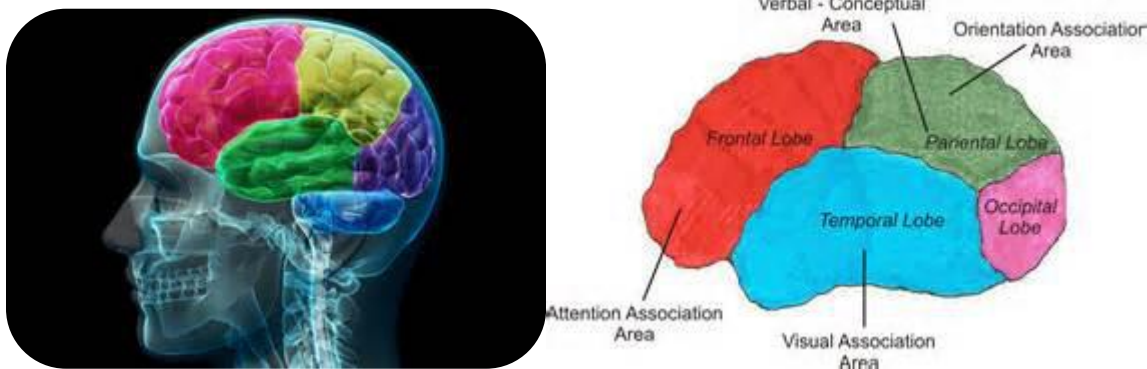


This lie of being able to control our own destiny is the work of the master magician. All one has to do is visit a graveyard. When you arrive there, call out for all those who control their own destiny to rise and see what happens. **It is a combination trick of devastating proportions** and has led many to their **deaths spiritually and naturally.** The original

source of life, **the Creator, is still the only source of life in this realm and the realm to come.**



The same trick that the devil used with Eve, he again uses thousands of years later with Jesus. The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and offered Him the **power to rule** these kingdoms in return for His worship. This approach did not work on Jesus because He was not 'operating' in **the flesh**. His desire was **to please His Father, the Creator** and in this desire he **stayed connected**.



With more than 100-billion nerve cells, each making thousands of intricate connections, the human brain, a lump of tissue small enough to hold in your palm, is so powerful it can contemplate the vastness of the universe. Yet it can be fooled by the simplest coin trick. Our brain actively suppresses the parts of the visual scene that we don't pay

attention to. How the brain controls what we focus on and what we don't is how magicians apply their trade. The same is true with the **master magician, the devil**. **The devil will never show you the whole picture when tempting you**. He attempts to **redirect your focus to only those things that are pleasing to you** but will ultimately lead you away from the Creator.



Throughout the history of Mankind, **the devil** has used the same **3 Temptation Methods** to lead Mankind away from the Creator. But if we can **slow down and see the tricks in slow motion** and we **know the methods used by the magician**, the tricks will not be able to repeatedly fool us. The goal of this lesson for the believer is:

Slow down, Know the enemy and his methods, and Let the Holy Spirit guide you around The 3 Temptations:

- 1) **'The Front Door'....Temptation of The Flesh**
- 2) **'The Back Door'....Temptation in your Righteousness**
- 3) **'From The Top'....Temptation of Power**

The devil has used, is using, and will continue to use these same **3 Tricks** on Mankind. **Believers have the power to overcome** the Tricks if we **stay connected to God** by allowing the **Holy Spirit to guide us daily**.