

SATAN'S DEVICES

In **2 Cor. 2:11**, Paul said, “...lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices.” Satan’s device in the immediate context is to cause too harsh treatment of the penitent brother. Paul tells them to (1) forgive him, then (2) comfort him (**v.7**), then (3) affirm their love for him (**v.8**). Paul’s concern is that the penitent brother would be so overwhelmed with sorrow for his wrong that he would lose the motivation to do right.

Paul also mentioned the work of Satan in blinding people to the truth. **2 Cor. 4:4** says the “god of this world” blinds them from seeing the light of the gospel. They were blind to the end of the old law (**3:12-16**). Moses veiled his face after speaking so they could not see the shining of his face *disappear*. **Exodus 34:29-35** says that Moses showed the shining of his face to Israel after he received revelation of the law and veiled it *afterward*.

Another deception Satan uses is to make his ministers to appear as ministers of righteousness (**11:12-15**). For those who walk by sight instead of faith, it becomes easy to deceive them. Satan can also transform himself into an angel of light. No wonder Paul warned that if they or an angel from heaven bring a different gospel, let him be accursed (**Galatians 1:8-9**).

You would think all the problems mentioned in **1 Corinthians** would prompt the warnings about Satan. Paul rebuked them, and they responded so well that Paul praised them in his second letter. This makes it all the more interesting that Paul says more about Satan’s devices in **2 Corinthians** than he does in **1 Corinthians**. The lesson here is that when things are going well, it is time to remain alert and diligent.