

Becoming offended at the Devil's Ploys

Many seemingly good-hearted Christians have become derailed in their Christian lives. They had no intention of becoming deceived, but because things didn't work out the way they hoped or believed (*a minister failed them, a church let them down, they gave money and were taken advantage of*) they became bitter and hard hearted toward God. The worst thing is they often become un-teachable, and they won't fellowship with the rest of the body of Christ.

Your Christian life is going to be severely tested and tried in every way. Satan is going to use everything he has in his arsenal to get you off course. No matter how long you've been saved, or how much Bible you know, it's how hard of a hit you can take from him that's going to determine if you're going to stay in the good fight of faith. **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.** 1 Timothy 6:12

There will be physical tests, emotional tests and spiritual tests - everything from a head cold to a church split, to your kids not serving God, so think it not strange when you're going through what you're going through. **Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.** 1 Peter 4:12,13

1 Corinthians 10:13: **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

Someday you're going to wake up and realize you've got an enemy, named Satan, who takes his job real seriously: his job is to eliminate you. **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom**

he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1 Peter 5:8,9

There are many kinds of manifestations of deception, but the first sign is usually that a person will stop doing the Word. They quit tithing, they don't walk in love, they're angry and *'know it all'*... You try to help by sharing the Word with them, but they don't want to hear it.

How to Believe God for Offended Believers

About all you can do for offended Christians is pray for them. A good way to pray scripturally is to pray the Ephesians prayers for them: Ephesians 1:16-23: [I]... **Cease not to give thanks for you, (*insert the person's/people's name(s) that you are praying for here, then continue*), making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

Ephesians 3:14-21: **For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the**

fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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