



Satan's Strategies Against Us ... And God's Solution

Inspired by the works of Dr. Charles Stanley

How does sin enter our lives?

1. First, there's the entrance of a thought.

This is neutral ground because there's no control over an initial thought.

But Satan and his helpers put *their* ideas in **I, Me, or You** form so we're likely to believe the ideas are *ours*: "I am not good enough." "No one understands **me**." "You will never get it right."

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in [Luke 4:1-13](#), He used Scripture to rebuke him. In the same way, we can use Scripture in response to Satan's schemes (see [I John 4:4](#), [Romans 8:1](#), [Philippians 4:13](#), and [Philippians 4:6-8](#)).

2. However, if we start to consider a sinful thought instead of rejecting it immediately, we're no longer on neutral ground. We buy into Satan's ideas and believe they're our own ([Romans 7:15](#)).

3. As the thought lingers, we mull it over.

We consider how it would feel to act on the idea; we decide we "have the right" to take that step. We justify our beliefs: "Everyone has faults and secret sin." We coddle the idea, getting comfortable with it. We start to question whether God's Word is true.

4. We act on what was previously only a thought, and the destructive process begins. Satan disguises the full extent of our sin and the spiritual erosion it causes, so we're often deceived about the devastation.

5. We justify the action, behavior, and/or thinking. We're swallowed up by sin and don't intend to change, no matter how painful the consequences.

6. Over time, we're consumed by guilt, resentment, bitterness, and anxiety. Sin's destructiveness takes its toll.

What's the solution?

Despite our sinful ways, God has provided a remedy in His Son, Jesus Christ. He calls us to:

- Confess. ([1 John 1:9](#))
- Repent and honestly assess our situation. ([Psalm 32:2](#))
- Ask for forgiveness and accept it. ([Ephesians 1:7](#))
- Reject sin. ([Acts 3:19](#))
- Commit to follow Him. ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)).

No one can go back and reclaim what's been lost. But the future *can* be changed through the Lord's help as we turn to Him.