



Nuggets 44: Father of Lies, Father of Fear

When Jesus called Satan the “father of lies” he named him well. When Satan spots one of us who is more susceptible to worry and doubt, he loves to keep suggesting fearful thoughts to our minds. When we begin to realize that most of our fears are not rational but are coming from the cosmic liar, we take a step toward emotional freedom.

Satan especially loves to create despair by making a person believe he/she has gone beyond the reach of God's grace. He wants us to think, “Is my sin too great to be forgiven? Have I committed the unpardonable sin?”

Satan also loves to discredit God in our minds and distort our view of God. To our first parents the devil intimated, “God is not really as good as he seems. You can't trust him. He is holding out on you, trying to keep you down. He knows that if you eat that forbidden fruit you will know as much as he does.”

Thanks be to God that God is greater than Satan and greater than our confusion. God is perfectly good and cannot harm his children. That is a cornerstone of our faith. When we are committed to him, he walks behind us the way an earthly father follows his toddler, ready to intervene in a moment if we misstep or wander.

John 8:44; 2 Timothy 1:7; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Romans 8:15,16; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; Genesis 3:1-5; 1 John 4:4; 3:8,19,20; Ephesians 4:8-10; Colossians 2:15; Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 3:15; James 1:5.

TO SUBSCRIBE free, email subscribe@shbi.org **TO UNSUBSCRIBE** send a blank email to unsubscribe@shbi.org To communicate with us directly, email nuggets@shbi.org

Past issues of Nuggets are archived at www.shbi.org/content/nuggets/nuggets.htm.

Copyright 2006 by G.B. Shelburne, III. May be freely reproduced or forwarded for non-commercial purposes provided content is unchanged and this copyright notice is included. These shepherding messages are sent to members and friends of New Beginnings Church (www.nbchurch.com), to students and alumni of South Houston Bible Institute (www.shbi.org), and to other interested persons.

Any scripture quotes, unless otherwise indicated, are from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © 1978 and 1984 by the New York International Bible Society, used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Tuition-free evening classes: www.shbi.org

Free Distance Learning Bible courses: www.shbi.org/content/distance/distancelearn.htm

To support SHBI's ministry: www.shbi.org/content/finances/finances.htm