



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

Last week we considered the reality that although the devil has been defeated by Jesus' death and subsequent exaltation as the victorious Son of God, the devil is still present and "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). He still schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11), stalks (1 Peter 5:8), deceives (Revelation 12:9), ensnares (2 Timothy 2:26), hinders (1 Thessalonians 2:18), harasses (2 Corinthians 12:7) and attacks us with fiery darts of temptation (Ephesians 6:16).

I know there are currently several individuals and couples in our body who are experiencing unique Spiritual Warfare that stems from this adversary. Of course, in Christ, we can "resist the devil," and we have the promise that "he will flee" from us (James 4:7), but to do this consistently and faithfully, I believe Thomas Brooks was correct when he wrote, "Christ, the Scripture, your own hearts, and Satan's devices are the four prime things that should be first and most studied and searched."

Today and next week, I would like us to consider Satan's devices. Recently, I was reading Joel Beeke's *Systematic Theology* and he has a section on Satan's strategies. Beeke offers ten. Today I will look at five of those and next week, we will consider the other five.

First, Satan promises that disobedience will make us happy, but obedience will ruin our lives. Of course, that very strategy is what cast a sinless man and woman down into sin and depravity (Genesis 3:1-4). Stephen Charnock warns, "Satan paints God with his own colors, represents him as envious and malicious as himself." Thomas Brooks adds, "Satan promises the best but pays with the worst... He promises pleasure and pays with pain, he promises profit and pays with loss, he promises life and pays with death..." A key to resisting the devil with this common method is in believing in the goodness and wisdom of God and the trustworthiness of his promises.

A second strategy of the devil is that he attacks at the point of our greatest personal vulnerability. Like a good coach, who studies the opponent's tendencies and vulnerabilities, Satan has studied and knows ours. William Jenkyn wrote, "He has an apple for Eve, a grape for Noah... and a bag for Judas." Because he knows our struggles, tendencies, and vulnerable areas, his evil suggestions are almost indistinguishable from our corrupt desires. Satan is skilled at matching his suggestions with our corrupt reason. One way to resist the devil in this strategy is to have godly people speaking into your life who can help you discern the areas where you are most vulnerable — blind spots, if you will.

A third method of the devil is that he can use one sin as a beachhead in the believer's soul. Ephesians 4:26 "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil." The principle here is that we must wage war against the smallest temptations.

Fourth, Satan clouds our fellowship with God by igniting lusts for this world. Remember when Balaam taught the Moabites to draw Israel away from the Lord by sex and idols (Numbers 25:1-2; 31:16), so Satan entices us by worldliness (2 Peter 2:14-15; Revelation 2:13-14). The only antidote for worldliness is to love God in Christ more than you love his creation. It is to trust that he will provide everything for the believer that magnifies his glory and promotes your good.

Fifth and finally, (we will finish the list next week), Satan intimidates believers by the frightening persecutions he incites through believers. A very helpful and revealing way to resist the devil here is to know "that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world" (1 Peter 5:9). Indeed, it is to trust that "after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." (1 Peter 5:10). Indeed, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10). Samuel Rutherford wrote, "The devil's war is better than the devil's peace.... When the dog is kept out of doors he howls to be in again." I hope this is helpful. Keep remembering every day that Jesus "disarmed

(Pastor's Pen continued) the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame by triumphing over them" (Colossians 2:15). Indeed, the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



congregational CARE UPDATE

THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

I hope to see men of every age on Thursday, March 12th, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from Noon–1 PM. Bro. Al will interview Buck Baxter, who ministers in India in some troublesome areas. After "retirement," our Lord gave Buck an exciting ministry to a faraway land of children with great needs. It is an amazing life. He comes back to tell us more of his story of how physical water can turn into living water for a people. Come and bring a friend. It is also a great way to get to know more men in our church. See you soon! Our next meeting will be April 9th, 2026.



cliff's notes ON FAMILY MINISTRY

MEN'S BEAST FEAST 2026

Please mark your calendars for our annual Men's Beast Feast on Saturday, April 10th, at 6:00 PM. After a year away, we are excited to gather again for an evening of great food, fun, fellowship, and an encouraging message to strengthen our faith.

SPANISH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

For the past several years, we have hosted a successful Spanish-speaking Sunday School class, ministering to an average of 20–25 people each week. We currently have an opportunity for someone with Spanish-speaking ability to help support this vital ministry. If you are interested in learning more about what this role looks like, please contact me directly.



the world IN AUBURN

ESL TRAINING | APRIL 24TH-25TH

Big news! On April 24th – 25th, we will offer training to teach English as a Second Language. More information to come later, but if you have questions, email Jerry Ferguson at jferguson@lakeviewbaptist.org or Marie Foshee at mfoshee@lakeviewbaptist.org.



children's CHATTER

SCRIPTURE MEMORY DEADLINE

Attention Parents: Sunday, March 15th, is the last day for children in grades 1–6 to earn Scripture Memory medals! The Scripture Memory banquet will be Sunday, April 26th, following the morning service. A free pizza lunch will be provided for all scripture memory medalists and their families.

VBS VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

VBS plans are underway and we still need more adult helpers! If you are available to help with this gospel-saturated, community event, we would love your help! VBS is June 22nd-26th from 8:00 –12:00. Childcare/preschool VBS is available for all workers with preschool aged children. Please email jvail@lakeviewbaptist.org if you have any questions.

Adult volunteer positions still needed (we will fill youth positions later):

- Kindergarten — (2) Music/Missions, (1) Rec adult, (1) helper for decorations
- 1st grade — (1) helper for decorations
- 2nd grade — (2) group leaders (1) helper for decorations
- 3rd grade — (2) adult leaders
- 4th grade — (2) adult leaders
- 5th grade — (2) games leaders (2) group leaders (1) decorating planner/helper

Thank you so much for volunteering to help with Bible school! We are so grateful for our faith family and the many ways you love and shepherd children's hearts to Jesus.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS THIS SUNDAY



fellowship MEAL

SERVING MEALS 4:45 UNTIL 5:35 PM; CLEARING TABLES AT 5:45 PM.

MARCH 4

Chicken Sandwich, Roasted Baby Potatoes,
California Veggie Blend, Salad, Oreo Dessert

MARCH 11

*SPRING BREAK | NO Fellowship Meal

Fellowship Meals are open to everyone and cost \$5 per person with a \$20 cap per family. Cash or Check only. Menu subject to change.

OUR *newest*

ELIJAH CARTER WILLIAMS

Born: February 23rd, 2026

Parents: Samuel & Izabell Williams

sympathy

From the pastor, staff, and church family to:

Gretchen Hood and family in the death of her mother.

stay connected

      @lakeviewauburn



REMEMBER IN *prayer*

ARBOR LAKE

Nancy Brownfield
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

AZALEA PLACE

Barbara Blankenship
Susan Lazenby

ARBOR SPRINGS REHAB

Jackie Cooper

BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

Ira Hayes

CAMELLIA PLACE

Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Dean Baker

EASE HOUSE

Anne Dodge

MONARCH ESTATES

Bill Thornton

THE PHOENIX AT OPELIKA

Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Charles Knause
Jerry Knause

AT HOME

Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Dennis Clark
Nelda Kennedy
Jane Parker
Janice Powers
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Ilze West

MARCH 1 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,218

EVENING SERVICE _____ 520

MARCH 1 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$81,849.87

RESTRICTED _____ \$11,853.81

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“ WE BELIEVE THAT GOD’S PURPOSE FOR
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO
LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY
MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ”



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