

## Lesson 138 - Watch Out for Traps – Part 1

1. What did Jesus command to watch and pray about? **Matthew 26:41, Mark 13:33, Luke 21:36**

**EGW:** The admonition of the Saviour is, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." If Satan cannot prevent persons from exercising faith, he will try to lead them to presume upon the willingness and power of God, by placing themselves unnecessarily in the way of temptation. Presumption is a most common temptation, and as Satan assails men with this, he obtains the victory nine times out of ten. Those who profess to be followers of Christ, and who claim by their faith to be enlisted in the warfare against all evil in their nature, frequently plunge without thought into temptations from which it would require a miracle to bring them forth unsullied. Meditation and prayer would have preserved them from these temptations by leading them to shun the critical, dangerous position in which they placed themselves. {HS 133.4}

Although the promises of God are not to be rashly claimed by us when we recklessly rush into danger, violating the laws of nature, and disregarding prudence, and the judgment with which God has endowed us, we should not lose courage when temptations come upon us. If we do not knowingly place ourselves in the way of temptation, it is our privilege to claim the promise of the inspired word: "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." {HS 134.1}

2. What are we to be on the look out for? **Ephesians 6:11**

**EGW:** Christ has said, "Without me ye can do nothing." The resolutions you may make in your own finite strength, will be only as ropes of sand; but if you pray in sincerity, surrendering yourself, soul, body, and spirit, unto God, you put on the whole armor of God, and open the soul to the righteousness of Christ; and this alone,--Christ's imputed righteousness,--makes you able to stand against the wiles of the devil. The work of every soul is to resist the enemy in the power and might of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promise is that the devil shall flee from us. But let all realize that they are in peril, and there is no assurance of safety except as they comply with the conditions of the text. The Lord says, "Draw nigh to God." How?--By secret, earnest examination of your own heart; by childlike, heart-felt, humble dependence upon God, making known your weakness to Jesus; and by confessing your sins. Thus you may draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. {YI, February 8, 1894 par. 4}

3. What is Satan's goal? **1 Peter 5:8**

**EGW:** A relentless and determined foe has prepared his wiles for every soul that is not braced for trial, and guarded by constant prayer and living faith. We cannot individually, or as a body, secure ourselves from his constant assaults; but in the strength of Jesus every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted. Remember that “your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” Therefore “be sober, be vigilant.” {HS 136.1}

4. What is a person considered who falls for one of Satan’s snares? **End of 2 Timothy 2:26**

**EGW:** (no comment)

5. But what is the hope for the person who is held captive? **Beginning of 2 Timothy 2:26**

**EGW:** (no comment)

6. Who ought not reign because the result is that people are ensnared? **Job 34:30**

**EGW:** (no comment)

7. What will a bird, representing human beings, do when there is gin or bait? **Amos 3:5**

**EGW:** (no comment)

8. In addition to dangling riches to ensnare people, what are many other traps of the devil considered? **1 Timothy 6:9**

**EGW:** Conformity to the world and worldly attachments are forbidden by the word of God. Paul says: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living

sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." The Holy Spirit with the cleaver of truth has separated men from the world, that they may go forth as missionaries for God into all the highways and byways of life. They are not only to seek and to save those that are lost, but they are also to minister to the wants of suffering humanity. Jesus says to them: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." This is the reason that they that will be rich, lay up their treasures on earth. They love the world, and the love of the Father is not in them. They decide to risk the consequences of disobeying Christ's words and fully resolve to lay up treasure upon earth. "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." "The wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth." {ST, July 9, 1894 par. 6}

9. What do people have in their lives causing them to be ensnared? **Psalms 106:36**

**EGW:** (no comment)

10. What ought a person have so that a person in leadership is not taken in a snare of the devil? **1 Timothy 3:7 [Hint: It means reputation.]**

**EGW:** (no comment)

11. What is lacking or missing that allows for the wicked to hunt down even their brother with a net? **Micah 7:2, Habakkuk 1:15-17**

**EGW:** (no comment)

12. Who are reprimanded for using snares and nets? **Hosea 5:1 [Comment: It is symbolic of the leadership. Think on the three items listed what they represent.]**

**EGW:** (no comment)

13. What does a person not realize while they are ensnared in an evil net? **Beginning of Ecclesiastes 9:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3**

**EGW:** Paul speaks of a class to whom the Lord's appearing will come unawares. "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, ... and they shall not escape." But he adds, to those who have given heed to the Saviour's warning, "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness." [1 Thessalonians 5:2-5.] {GC88 371.1}

14. What two things do the enemies of our souls trying to ensnare us happen to do? **Psalms 38:12**

**EGW:** (no comment)

15. What is a snare to a wicked or fool's soul? **Proverbs 18:7, 12:13, 6:2**

**EGW:** (no comment)

16. What must we have so as to escape the snare of the second death? **Proverbs 14:27, Revelation 14:7**

**EGW:** (no comment)

17. What else must we have so as to escape the snare of the second death? **Proverbs 13:14, Revelation 22:14**

**EGW:** By transgressing God's commandments a curse fell upon Adam and Eve, and they were deprived of all right to the tree of life. Christ died to save man, and yet preserve the honor of God's law. He says "Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the City." The Son of God here presents the doing of the commandments of God as the condition of a right to the tree of life. The transgression of God's commandments deprived man of all right to the tree of life. Christ died, that by virtue of his blood, obedience to God's law might make man worthy of the heavenly benediction, and grant him a right again to the tree of life. {3SG 88.1}

18. What ought we not err from so as to avoid the well laid out snares? **Psalms 119:110**

**EGW:** (no comment)

19. What ought we to pray in this day and age? **Psalms 141:9**

**EGW:** (no comment)

20. What ought to be the desire of the righteous? **Psalms 141:10, Psalms 124:7**

**EGW:** (no comment)