

only possible through constant study and investigation of the Word of God.

We read in all three of the synoptic gospels how Satan tried to mislead even our Lord Jesus Christ. We read of the temptation he brought to Christ and we can find parallels to all of them to temptations which we have on a much lower scale, smaller scale depending on our smallness in comparison with His greatness. Yet a very real and true experience in our lives. But we find that in every one of them Jesus answered by saying, It is written; the Word of God says. In God's Word we find the answer to all the problems of life. In God's Word we come to understand what the will of God is.

Through God's Word we come to know how effectively to resist the devil, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But then there is a final note that is important for us to know in this connection. God wants us to resist the devil with all our might. He wants us to resist the devil in the power that Jesus Christ won for us at Calvary. He wants us to resist the devil not in our own strength, but in God's strength. Yet He wants us to recognize that He will not always seemingly get the victory. He wants us to realize that no matter how effectively and successfully we resist the devil there may be cases when things will turn out very differently from what we expect or desire.

The book of Job makes this very clear. Job was a man who was close to the heart of God. Yet Job had been suffering. Everything seemed to go wrong. His life seemed to be an utter failure. We are permitted at the beginning of the book of Job to get a glimpse into the heavenly councils and to see it was Satan's effort that God was using for His own purposes that was involved in it. It is never explained to Job in the book. But Job stands true to the Lord and in the end the Lord marvellously blesses Job.

But along in the course of it all, Job just could not understand how things could be going this way. No matter how strongly we resist the devil, in conditions in our country, in world conditions, in conditions in any particular denomination or school or situation in which we find ourselves. No matter how strongly and clearly we resist the devil in the power of God, there may be times when things will go in a way that seems to us to go in a way that seems to be utterly contrary to anything we could wish or expect. When that happens we can realize that God has a great plan. And that even the devil is part of that plan! And that in the end when we seem to make a failure this way, we can know that God has a purpose He is working out.

God keeps us here in this world, I believe, when we are Christians for two purposes. He keeps us here in order to develop us into the kind of people He wants us to be. We go through a process of sanctification all through our lives, if we keep our eyes on Christ. And many things come into that, and God has His purpose for us which may be more important than the particular situation we find ourselves in.