

# REAL SNAKE HANDLING

# and other SURVIVAL TIPS

## The TRI-TRIPLE THREAT against the people of God.

1. The WORLD: The place where people are trying to be happy without God; the great POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, and RELIGIOUS system constructed by fallen mankind as a substitute for GOD. The world is always opposed to the FATHER because they are interested in the same thing—our AFFECTION: “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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

2. The FLESH: Man’s nature, corrupted by sin; the HEART does not naturally LOVE God, the MIND does not naturally KNOW God, the WILL does not naturally OBEY God. Though the Christian is no longer “in the flesh,” it is possible to “walk after the flesh” (Rom. 7-8), providing a fifth column traitor within the gates who conspires with Satan to continue the long war against God. The flesh is opposed to the SPIRIT because they are interested in the same thing—our ACTIONS: “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh [fights] against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Gal. 5:16-17).

3. The DEVIL: The arch-fiend who in the last great conflict will form a triumvirate of evil with the Beast (Antichrist) and the False Prophet. The Devil will put himself in the place of the Father (see Jn. 8:42-44); the Antichrist obviously in Christ’s place; and the False Prophet mimics the Holy Spirit who takes of the things of Christ and shows them to us. He even has a false “bride,” the “Mother of Harlots.” The Lord Jesus is always opposed to the devil because they are interested in the same thing—our ALLEGIANCE: You either follow the false god of this world or the true God as revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ. “...The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:4).



**“Thanks be unto God,  
which always causeth us  
to triumph in Christ”  
2 Corinthians 2:14**

## Some OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES.

1. Moses was given three object lessons at Horeb (Ex. 4). He had victory over the serpent through the courage of faith: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (Jas. 4:7). He had victory over the corrupt flesh by full disclosure: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:8-9). And he had victory over the parched earth through the water and the blood: “the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14).
2. The three battles of Benaiah (2 Sam. 23:20-21). Like the two lion-like men of Moab (like the roaring lion, but Moab points to the flesh), the flesh has two extremes—think you’re wonderful, or terrible, both are self-occupation. The lion was defeated in a pit (no quarter) when it was slippery underfoot. The good looking Egyptian (the world) was defeated with his own spear. We must resist the devil and fight the flesh, but just leave the world alone. It is passing away and has the seed of its own destruction already in place. So Benaiah was “more honorable.”

## TRICKS from the DEVIL’S bag.

1. The MIN-MAX trick: While a Christian contemplates sinning, the devil minimizes it. You are told that the sin is of little consequence. It won’t hurt anyone (go to the Cross and dare to say that!). Then if the believer yields to the temptation, the enemy maximizes it. How can you be a Christian and do such a horrible thing? he asks. No use for you to pray. (He doesn’t mind quoting Ps. 66:18—“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”) You keep doing the same sins over and over, he says. A truly repentant sinner would forsake his sin. No use you confessing it; it’s just a sham, he says. The solution? Turn the tables on the devil. See sin-to-the-max before you yield. Think what it did to Christ, what it does to your joy and confidence toward God, what it could do to your testimony, and will do to your character. Sin is never “min.”
2. The OUT-IN trick: You’ve been a very good boy, says the seducer. You have resisted this temptation for several days (or weeks). But of course you can’t do this for ever. Sooner or later you will have to give in. So why don’t you do it and get it out of your system, he tempts. But is that true? No! You don’t get it out of your system, you get it *into* your system. You become a slave to it. The solution? Remind yourself that the Lord doesn’t ask us to resist the temptation forever. “Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Mt. 6:34). But His grace is sufficient to get us through the day as well (2 Cor. 12:9). Every morning a fresh supply of daily mercies awaits me to be applied to the daily need. And if the Lord can get me through this day, I am confident He can get me through every day.
3. The BACK & FORTH trick: We are pendulum people. How difficult it is to have a balance. Most error, after all, is truth, but truth out of place or out of proportion. All grace and no truth is limpid sentimentality and leads to Corinthianism. All truth and no grace is hard, unfeeling Galatianism and leads to spiritual pride of the worst kind. When we turn from one sin, how quickly we can be ruthless with those still entrapped by it. If we excuse our sin, how easy it is to accuse serious Christians of being legalists when in fact they are simply being obedient to the Lord. The solution? “Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” Balance is Christlikeness.