

# Wings

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*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## Satan's Dirty Tricks

Politicians and Satan have (at least) one thing in common: they love to use dirty tricks to make their opponents look bad. Unlike the politicians, we have a more noble recourse.

“. . . Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11).

Every election season, we are treated to another round of what we call “dirty tricks” from our politicians. The expression refers to “unethical, duplicitous, slanderous or illegal tactics employed to destroy or diminish the effectiveness of . . . opponents.” Dirty tricks come in all shapes and sizes, but they all have one goal in mind: to make the opponent look bad.

As despicable as the politicians may be in their use of these scurrilous tactics, they have nothing on Satan, the ultimate dirty trickster. His very name means “the accuser,” one whose chief aim is to entice humans to fail. He will do whatever he can to destroy or diminish us in the sight of God.

Do a quick review of sacred history and it's easy to see all the dirty tricks Satan has employed during his busy career.

For example, in the Garden of Eden he dangled before Eve the false hope of becoming like God, thus deceiving her

into eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-6). That disaster drove a wedge between God and man that resulted in man's expulsion from paradise.

He used beautiful women to trip up Joseph and David (Gen. 39; 2 Sam. 11). Joseph recognized the trap and fled; David did not, and went down a path that was totally out of character for him. In his case, the Accuser ended up with plenty to gloat about before God.

Some of Satan's tricks are more than just dirty—they're direct frontal attacks designed to turn us against God out of bitterness and anger. He unleashed a series of horrible tragedies and physical suffering upon Job to turn him against God (Job 1-2). Job's faith wavered, but never broke, proving that humans have the capacity to resist even the worst of Satan's schemes.

Satan pulled out all the stops when God's Son came to this earth. Jesus' career began with a series of temptations from Satan intended to divert Him from His appointed mission (Matt. 4:1-11). Throughout his career, Jesus again and again encountered the work of Satan in

the form of rejection, ridicule, disappointment, and personal attacks. Some of these dirty tricks were administered (unwittingly) by Jesus' closest friends, such as Peter's rebuke when Jesus informed the apostles of His impending death (Matt. 16:21-23). (Ironically, Satan later used Jesus' betrayal and trial as a tool to entice Peter to commit a terrible mistake, Matt. 26:69-75. You have to give Satan credit for ingenuity; he never passes up an opportunity.)

Politicians usually respond to dirty tricks with a few of their own. That's not an option for us. As the stories of Job, Joseph, and Jesus attest, the only way we can avoid being victimized by Satan's tricks is to stay close to God. We must keep our faith burning strong, feeding on God's word and continually pouring out our hearts to Him in prayer.

Satan is always lurking in the shadows, looking for an opportunity to spring another one of his tricks on us so he can make us look bad. Our best response is to make *him* look bad by recognizing the trap and avoiding it. Dirty tricks work only if we let them.

– David King