

A Snake in the Garden



I confess that I am a tiny bit ophidiphobic--meaning I really don't like snakes. They are fine at the zoo, with their picture and information card tacked to the glass of their enclosure. It's coming across one along the path in the woods that unnerves me! I'm sure my snake-handling friends could help me overcome this fear if I asked them, but somehow I've never found the right time to ask.

Recently a friend shared how the ways of a snake can be instructive of the strategies Satan uses. I found them helpful and asked her permission to pass them along

Snakes camouflage themselves in dense vegetation. Satan often doesn't appear 'evil.' Sometimes we are not even aware that we are in any sort of danger.

Non-venomous snakes will consume their prey whole or constrict to suffocate them. Satan's work is to "kill, steal, and destroy" our souls. He is "looking for someone to devour."

Venomous snakes will strike and consume its prey if they don't fight back. If the prey can fight, they will inflict the wound and then follow the trail of their prey until the venom has done its work and the prey is no longer fighting. Sometimes Satan will introduce a temptation, and if it is resisted the first time, will wait until "an opportune time" to tempt in the same way again. From the numerous injunctions for believers to stand firm, endure, and hold on we can see that our Enemy is waiting for us to *quit fighting against sin and evil*, both within us and around us.

Snakes usually are active at night when their prey are most active, making the most of the opportunity. Satan is opportunistic and waits for when we are tired, weak, or distracted in order to bring us down.

The snake's tongue is crucial for survival! Satan is a whisperer of lies and these form the web of control he exerts. The idiom describing someone as "speaking with a forked tongue" means they are being deceitful and lying.

In the Epistles we are reminded to be alert and aware of Satan's schemes so that we are not deceived, but we are also reminded not to be afraid of Satan because "*Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*" 1 John 4:4