**Get Behind Me Satan! [5-14-18, Chapman Highway church of Christ] -** It is an honor for me to speak during your gospel meeting. I hope to add to the good things that occurred yesterday. I hope my lesson is helpful, encouraging, and pleasing to God. The title of the Lesson tonight is “**Get Behind Me Satan!**”

The sun provides the light we need to see the world around us. However, when we look directly into it, the sun can be a hindrance to our seeing clearly. For those of us who drive, have you ever had trouble when you are driving directly towards the sun? Sometimes it becomes almost blinding and makes it hard to see the potential dangers ahead. When you look toward the sun, colors also seem to be washed out. But if you turn around, with the sun at your back, you can see your way clearly. In fact, with the sun at your back things look totally different. Everything is more colorful and beautiful. You can also drive with more confidence because you can see potential dangers like potholes and other cars. This creates a positive outlook; where things look beautiful, colorful, and inviting. We might say we are “**seeing things in the best possible light**”.

* Here are examples of how having the sun at your back helps see things the way they really are.

Another way to understand this point is with glasses.

* Some speak of “rose colored glasses”. The thought is some only see the things they want to see.
* What about sun glasses? Some are tinted brown and some are tinted gray. When you look through these, everything seems to be shaded either brown or gray.
* Glasses for people who are color blind: You may have friends or loved ones or even suffer from color blindness yourself. Maybe you cannot see particular colors such as red or green. They have special glasses to help you see colors as they really are.

***\*The best glasses are those that are the clearest and show things as they really are.***

In our spiritual lives we can have an outlook that is full of anxiety, stress, disappointments, and lots of negativity. Sometimes we also fail to see the potential dangers that are right in front of us. It seems that when our outlook is bleakest is when Satan has a hand in what we see. But when we get Satan behind us, we can take those same situations and see them as they really are. Viewing things with the positive outlook God wants us to have, where we can see potential dangers and the beautiful potential He has given us for each day. Satan tried to get our Lord to see things his way in **Luke 4:1-13**.

**Luke 4:1-13 (NKJV):** Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, *'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "*Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "*Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: *'He shall give His angels charge over you,* *To keep you,'* "and, *'In their hands they shall bear you up,* *Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "*And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, *'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' "*Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Satan wanted Jesus to focus on physical things rather than the spiritual (**1 John 2:15-17**).

***Now let us consider some common situations when we need to “Get Satan Behind Us”!***

**(1) When we are tempted to have a worldly focus rather than a spiritual focus**: Peter wanted to follow Jesus but let physical distractions around him lose his focus on Jesus (**Matthew 14:26-31**). He, like many of us, struggled to keep a spiritual outlook (**Matthew 16:21-23**). The rich young ruler also had a problem with a worldly focus (**Mark 10:21-22**). He let worldly, physical possessions be more important than taking the unbelievable spiritual offer Jesus had for him. To literally follow the Savior of the world!

Farmers used blinders for mules and horses: Blinders help keep work animals focused on where they are going and limit the distractions they may see. We need to keep the Lord’s blinders on our eyes and our hearts so we can maintain a focus on the spiritual purpose of God in our lives and the goal of heaven!

**(2) When folks do not want to study**: Satan wants us to get depressed and feel like it is not worth trying anymore. But the Lord wants us to be thankful we have brethren who want to study God’s Word and grow in that knowledge (**Hebrews 10:24-25, 2 Peter 3:17-18**). The early disciples experienced the same trials and found comfort in assembling with one another (**Acts 2:41-42, 5:41-42, 16:40**). ***This helped them to keep their focus on spreading the gospel of Jesus, even in the midst of severe trials!***

**(3) When our jobs are not going well**: Satan wants us to fret, grumble, complain, and focus on being discontent. But the Lord would have us take a different approach. First we can be thankful we have a job (**Psalm 128:2, Proverbs 13:11, 14:23, Matthew 6:33**). Second, if we focus on being thankful we have a job, instead of spending time fretting, we can use that time to find opportunities to shine the light of Jesus more. Remember Joseph in prison (**Genesis 39:21-23**) and Paul and Silas singing while in chains (**Acts 16:25**)? Notice what Paul says in **Philippians 2:14-16, Colossians 3:22-25**. And these verses are from a man who spent much time in trials!

**(4) When we have loved ones far away and we are lonely**: I believe that each of us here tonight miss someone. It does not matter if they are 100 miles away or 3,000 miles away, many times we miss our loved ones. It may be family members or dear close friends in the Lord. Sometimes we get lonely to be with them. Those are natural feelings that I can relate to easily. Satan would love us to focus on being lonely and becoming depressed. In these times we can rejoice that we have a Father in Heaven to pray to (**Philippians 4:6-7**); rejoice we have a Lord who will always stand by us (**2 Timothy 4:16-18**); rejoice we have a Savior who will never leave us (**Hebrews 13:5-6**); and we can rejoice we have our dear Christian family that can help us. Many times we can enjoy even closer relations with our Christian family than with our physical family (**Matthew 12:47-50**).

If we can get Satan behind us, we will see the potential for good that the Lord wants us to see rather than the discouragement Satan wants us to focus on. God has given Christians many things to look forward to and a wonderful outlook for our lives. Let us be determined, like Jesus, to put Satan behind us! We will see things in the best possible light and be more productive for Him. Then we will be able to clearly see the path the Lord has for us that avoids spiritual danger and leads to eternal life (**Matthew 7:13-14**)!

If you are not a child of God today, your outlook for the future is very grim. Without Jesus you will struggle on your own. You will have trials with no assurance that the Lord is watching out for you. And your life will be only for the moment, without the hope of eternal life in Heaven. **Why not get Satan behind you tonight?** He wants you to be content in your sins. **Why not come to Jesus and repent and be baptized to wash away those sins that hinder you? And get Satan behind you for good!** If we can help you now, please let us know while we stand and while we sing!