# STAND FIRM AGAINST SATAN’S SUBTLE LIES

### Liz Naumann and Sarah Sellnow

1. **Introduction**
2. **Satan’s Subtle Lies**
   * **Subtle Lie #1:**
     1. Truths in this lie:
     2. Dangers in this lie:
     3. What does God say in response to this lie that helps us to stand firm against it and encourage others by speaking that truth in love?

##### Subtle Lie #2:

* + 1. Truths in this lie:
    2. Dangers in this lie:
    3. What does God say in response to this lie that helps us to stand firm against it and encourage others by speaking that truth in love?

##### Subtle Lie #3:

* + 1. Truths in this lie:
    2. Dangers in this lie:
    3. What does God say in response to this lie that helps us to stand firm against it and encourage others by speaking that truth in love?

##### Subtle Lie #4:

* + 1. Truths in this lie:
    2. Dangers in this lie:
    3. What does God say in response to this lie that helps us to stand firm against it and encourage others by speaking that truth in love?

##### Conclusion

**Subtleness of Satan – Resource Recommendations**

The purpose of a Bible study is to grow spiritually. We are told in 2 Peter 3:17-18 to “be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” … Using material that contains errors, is weak or is flawed in its presentation can be dangerous. God has warned us in Romans 16:17 “I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.”

As we purchase or write Bible study material, we must be discerning of the content or we may inadvertently weaken our faith rather than strengthen it. Following are some points to be considered.

##### Negatives to watch for:

1. I pursue God and/or find him, rather than vice versa
2. Personal experience or opinion is the criterion for truth rather than Scripture alone
3. Living a perfect life is possible this side of glory
4. I can make myself worthy to God
5. I can find God aside from his written Word (e.g. intuition, experience, meditation)
6. I can find God through 10-step or other self-help plans popularly used to overcome bad habits
7. Man-made standards that burden the conscience
8. Scripture is reduced to a formula to secure earthly success, health or happiness
9. The focus is on me and how I feel rather than on God and what he has done for me
10. God is limited to what I can understand or reason

##### Positives to look for:

1. Proper distinction between law and gospel, and inclusion of both
2. Justification is by grace—God alone declares us righteous and changes our status from condemned to acquitted; justification is complete and universal (available to everyone); justification is a free gift, given to us through faith
3. Sanctification (holy living) is possible only as a consequence of our justification
4. We are all sinful by nature and unable to reach out to God apart from the Holy Spirit
5. Grace is always the unmerited favor and forgiving love of God
6. Incarnation, redemption, forgiveness and reconciliation are central to the message
7. Faith and the fruits of faith are created and maintained by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace (the Bible, baptism, and holy communion)
8. The relationship I have with God, through the merits of his Son, is the foundation for all other relationships

Through our study of God’s Word, God changes our attitudes, ethics, relationships and even our character. With joy we read Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve

what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Whenever and wherever the Word of the Lord is expressed and accurately reflected, we trust that the Holy Spirit will bless us.

##### Suggested Resources

* + **Personal Bible Study Resources**
    1. Sunday Morning and Midweek Bible Class at your church (if you need childcare in order to attend, ask!)
    2. Luther’s 4 Strands (see following page)
    3. Luther’s Catechism
    4. BibleGateway app - EHV available, Reading Plans with notifications
    5. *People’s Bible* and *People’s Bible Teachings* series from NPH
    6. Bible Study Journal - take questions to your pastor each week!

##### Devotional Books

* + 1. General
       1. *Christian Worship: Hymnal*
       2. *Treasury of Daily Prayer* by CPH
       3. On Giving Advice to God by Daniel Deutschlander
    2. For Families:
       1. *Jesus, Our Family Guest* by Jocelyn Molstadt
       2. *5-Minute Bible Studies for Families* by Jay W. Bickelhaupt
    3. For Mothers:
       1. *Moments in the Word for Moms* by Melissa M. Berg
       2. *Cherished Gifts* by Katie Martin
       3. *Tend to Me: Devotions for Mothers* by Emily Cook

##### Other Books:

* + 1. *Broken: 7 “Christian” Rules That Every Christian Ought to Break as Often as Possible* by Jonathan Fisk
    2. *The Narrow Lutheran Middle* by Daniel Deutschlander
    3. *Grace Abounds* by Daniel Deutschlander
    4. *Family Trees and Olive Branches* by Christina Hergenrader
    5. *LadyLike: Living Biblically* by Rebekah Curtis and Rose Adle
    6. *God Makes Me His Child In Baptism* by Janet Wittenback
    7. Children’s books from Kloria Publishing

##### Online Resources:

* + 1. WELS Daily Devotions (wels.net/serving-you/devotions/daily-devotions)
    2. WELS Family Devotions (wels.net/serving-you/devotions/family-devotions)
    3. Women’s Ministry Devotions and Bible Studies (wm.welsrc.net)
    4. Time of Grace (timeofgrace.org)

##### Music:

* 1. Koine
  2. Branches Band
  3. The Lutheran Celie Orchestra
  4. Choir CDs from WLS, MLC, LPS, MLS, and area Lutheran high schools
  5. Lutheran Public Radio (free app; Sacred Music 24/7)

##### Podcasts:

* 1. Two Steps Forward
  2. Let the Bird Fly
  3. That You May Believe

#### LUTHER’S 4 STRANDS

*One Way to Study Scripture*

Martin Luther’s barber, a good friend named Peter Beskendorf, once asked him for suggestions concerning prayer. Luther asked for a few days to think it over and then responded with a 21 page paper on the subject of prayer. The basic conclussion was to pray the small catechism. In giving examples of how to pray the small catechism, Luther gave an incredibly useful suggestion while covering the 10 Commandments. He said ”I divide each commandment into 4 parts, thereby fashioning a garland of four strands. That is, I think of each Commandment as, first, instruction, which is really what it is intended to be, and consider what the Lord God demands

of me so earnestly. Second, I turn it into a thanksgiving; third, a confession; and fourth, a prayer.” (“A Simple Way to Pray”– Martin Luther). Over the years, Luther’s suggestion for how to study the 10 Commandments has been applied to the study of Scripture as a whole. Let’s give it a try!

##### Breaking down Luther’s 4 Strands

* **Truth** – What teachings are in this section?
* **Confess** – How does this teaching lead me to confess my own sinfulness?
* **Give Thanks** – For what does this teaching lead me to give thanks?
* **Pray** – For what does this teaching lead me to pray? The Light of Christ in the Family

*The above resources and description were taken from* Discernment in Selecting Bible Study Material *by Marilyn Miller, retired Staff Minister and former member of WELS Women’s Ministry Commitee. Find full presentation notes and links to resources at* [www.tinyurl.com/StandFirmInGrace](http://www.tinyurl.com/StandFirmInGrace)