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## Nothing to Fear

By Teresa Hampton

With no streetlights in the wooded countryside, nighttime was very, very dark. It was not uncommon for us to imagine a boogie man behind a tree, in the shadows, or even lurking in our bedroom in the stillness of night. Mom assured us there was no such thing as a boogie man. We had nothing to fear. As we matured we realized that truth. However, we eventually came to understand there was a *real* someone, hard to detect, who would use any cunning device to take us captive. We were taught to beware of Satan.

Since the dawn of time, the devil has amassed quite a repertoire. He perfected the art of twisting scripture into error (Matthew 4:4, 6). When one hears the word but doesn't understand it, Satan quickly snatches away what has been sown in that heart. (Matthew 13:19). The wicked one sows tares or weeds among God's people (Matthew 13:38-39). He has been known to use a good person, even a friend, to persuade one to do something contrary to the will of God (Matthew 16:22-23). He blinds people spiritually (2 Corinthians 4:4). He is the originator of false teaching (1 Timothy 4:1-6). As a lion skillfully hunts its prey, Satan seeks to devour believers (1 Peter 5:8). He puts roadblocks in good works, and uses his devices to hinder God's will in the lives of His children (1 Thessalonians 2:18). He tempts us, deceives us, and if we let down our guard, he will take us captive.

Satan is certainly not the boogie man. He is real and his devices are cunning. But there is good news! He is successfully rebuffed when we're *clothed with spiritual armor* and *engaged in prayer* (Eph. 6:10-20). Our steadfast faith will help us *resist him* (1 Pet. 5:9). And if we resist him, *he will flee* (James 4:7).

God gives us everything we need to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Our Father assures us we have nothing to fear!

**Today's Verse:** "*But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one*" (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

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