

Satan is a Slithering Snake
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Satan's a deadly snake. Take my word for it. Be on your guard. He's crafty and cunning. He lurks in every dark corner. He prowls in the darkness. He worms his way into every life and he strikes without abandon. No one is immune. Young, old, rich, poor – it doesn't matter.

Be alert. Be very alert. We never know when he will creep up and strike next. All we see are the results of his poisonous bite. All we see is "snake-sign". Hollow faces, broken hearts, tear filled eyes, empty lives. Victims of Satan fill the world around us. A child with eyes swollen shut – beaten by his father. A woman with bruised cheeks and a bloody nose – victim of a family feud. People with limited income who have to make a choice between medicine or food each month when the funds run out because no help is available. An elderly man or woman struggling to make it all alone. A fatherless child. A rebellious youth. A struggling alcoholic. Victims of Satan. Look around and you will see them.

Jesus saw the victims of Satan, too. He saw a leper one day. Face covered, flesh decaying, untouchable by society. Jesus got angry. Not "lose your temper" type angry, but a holy, "have to do something" type anger. It moved him to action. It moved Him to reach out and touch the untouchable. It moved him to do something to respond in a positive way to all of the negatives around Him. Because of His actions, some of the snake-signs of Satan were wiped out.

Several years ago, Americans rose up with a holy anger. We were moved into action by what we saw and experienced in the atrocities that happened on September 11th. Victims of Satan filled our screens and the news around us. We responded with love and caring to those victims. We came together for a common cause, and because of our actions some of Satan's snake-sign were wiped out.

But since then, the snake has been busy. You can see where he has slithered -- causing hunger in Somalia, travesties in Iraq, suicide bombers in Israel, egotism in our government, and questionable moral ethics within the leadership of some of our churches. Perhaps the most deadly snake-sign however, shows itself in the poison of complacency that has manifested itself in many Christians.

We have become comfortable and have reached a point where we either don't see the need to go into action or can't see what good it would do if we did. We are living and doing the best we can in our own lives – and the Lord knows we have problems enough of our own. We may not be happy with what we see, but for the most part we remain calm in the midst of the violence, sexual exploits, and questionable morals and ethics that surround us.

The truth is that if something tragic happens, most of us respond. Look at what happened immediately after September 11th. But also look at what's happening now. A question that was going around recently is, "Are you currently a September 10th person, or a September 11th person?" Have you gone back to life as normal as it was before September 11th or are you still actively involved in opportunities to wipe out Satan's snake-sign whenever it appears?

When we become complacent, Satan smiles. May we never grow so complacent that we can see the snake-sign of Satan and not respond.