Satan's Plans for 2026

Shawn Jeffries · 1 Peter 5:6–9

INTRODUCTION

- Throughout the Bible, the devil is described as someone who's lurking in the background. He's described as a schemer and a roamer and a planner.
- I want to show you four ways in which the devil plans to get what he wants from me and you this year in 2026.

1 The Devil Wants to Distract Us

Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:4; Mark 10:35–45

- The devil doesn't cheer us on when he watches and observes all this work that's being done here in this place. Instead, he wants to stop us.
- One of the ways in which he will try to distract us is by first causing us to major in the minors.
- We focused on trivial things and we allowed those things to distract us from doing the main work that God has given us to do.
- A second way he wants to distract us is by getting us to focus only on ourselves.
- For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- The way to effectively combat the devil's plan for us to be selfish and solely focus on ourselves is to be like Jesus.

2 He Wants Us to Dwell on Our Differences

Acts 11; Ephesians 4:1–6

- He would love for those differences to divide us.
- He especially would love for politics to divide us.
- Implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you've been called with all humility, and gentleness with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.
- If we are going to effectively combat the devil's desire for us to dwell on our differences, we first gotta be humble.
- What Paul means is I need to accept and accommodate the various trivial differences that are found in the spiritual family.
- The way to combat the devil's desire for us to dwell on our differences is we have to value more the things that make us one in Christ.

3 He Wants Us to Be Quiet About Doctrine

1 John 4:1; Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 4:1–4

- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- Jesus wants all his word preached, not just some of it.
- Preach the word. reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction.
- We combat the devil's desire for us to be quiet about doctrine in 2026 by doing the opposite.
- We be bold. We be courageous. We be zealous about the truth, and we never allow the fear of ridicule and rejection and persecution to cause us to be quiet about it.
- We speak the truth in love. Because we really love God. And we really love people.

4 He Wants Us to Not Take Sin Seriously

1 Corinthians 5:1–13

- It is very clear that these brethren were not taking sin seriously.
- They were actually in fellowship with a brother who was openly practicing sin.
- Verse 13, he says, Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.
- Sometimes you got to pull back fellowship from brothers and sisters who refuse to repent of sin.
- We may have to do that because God tells us to.
- If we don't deal with sin God's way, the entire church could be impacted and influenced to also minimize the seriousness of sin.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I can't think of a better way to start 2026 than finally giving your life to the Lord. Repenting of sin. And being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins. Begin 2026 by becoming a Christian.**

MY NOTES