

Does the Devil Have a Hold of You?

A little boy was creating quite a disruption in his Sunday school class. In exasperation, the teacher finally grabbed him by the shoulders and shook the fear of God into him while exclaiming, "Young man, I think the Devil's got hold of you." The little rebel rouser shook his head in agreement and replied, "I think so too!" (Preacher's Joke a Day Calendar, Oct. 9, 1998).

There are many ways in which it could be said that "the Devil has a hold of you". The most common way, which we often tend to ignore, is doing nothing. If Satan fails at keeping you from becoming a Christian his "plan B" will be to make you worthless to the church. "*Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*" (Mat 12:30). The basic principle here is simple. If we are not helping the cause of Christ we are most definitely hurting it. We each need to ask ourselves this very important question, "What am I doing to help the cause of Christ?"

Having been created in the image of God we are blessed with a host of various individual talents that we could and should use to further the cause of Christ. Each member of the Lord's church is needed no matter the talent (1Corinthians 12:14). When we decide not to use our abilities to help spread the Gospel we place ourselves in Satan's grip. Peter warns us that Satan is out there when he said, "*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*" (1Pe 5:8). Does he have a hold on you?