

what he may be able to do. That's very important for us. But what is perhaps more vital for us than to realize his power, is to be aware of his schemes, of his wiles. Because this is something we can do a great deal about. This is something very important in the progress of our lives. It is to be aware of the wiles of Satan.

One of his most of his most successful wiles 30 yrs. ago was to lead people to forget his existence. To deny him. I heard a man on radio say a few days ago. He said 30 years ago in the university campus I attended if anyone referred to the devil the people would howl with laughter that there was such a "crazy" idea of believing there was a devil. Today, he said, there are groups that are worshipping Satan. There is much talk of Satan as a real force and as a force many are giving their support to.

Personally I am not aware of that shift, but I do know the devil is very anxious to have us be unaware of his existence because then his schemes can succeed more easily that way. But if that does not succeed, he will try to lead us to go to the other extreme where we are so aware of Satan's power and wiles that we are constantly talking about him and giving him a larger place in our lives than we should.

As I think of these wiles and schemes Satan uses to transform himself into an angel of light, the figure comes to my mind of a tug-of-war. When I was a boy we often had tugs of war. I haven't heard much about them lately. I'm not sure whether people are still aware of them or not. In those days it was one of the favorite recreations, when you had a large group together. You would get a large group on this side, and a large group on that side and they would putland pull on a rope and each would try to pull the other acrosss the line.

You would put all your strength you could into it and see which group was the most powerful. Once in a while someone would decide that brute force was not sufficient in itself to win and so they resorted to a strategem, a wile, a scheme. They would pull hard, and the other team would be pulling just as hard as they could. All the sudden they would relax their strength and the other team would fall over and thus was completely at their mercy and then it wasn't hard to drag them across the line. I believe that is a figure which illustrates something very important about the wiles of Satan.

He will do his best to lead us into error in this direction and if he does not succeed he will try to pull us in that direction. The Lord does not want us to be extremists in either direction. He wants us to find the point at which Scripture teaches that we should stand. Satan will try in one direction to lead you into gross sin. And do not anyone ~~that~~ think that that is impossible for us.

I have heard great evangelists say that after giving a great message in which they felt as if the power of Christ was flowing through them and they saw tremendous results from