

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Another name for Satan is Devil, which comes from a Greek verb meaning "to slander" or "to falsely accuse." Even though Satan has been kicked out of heaven, he still is allowed for now to slander believers before God. What we have going for us, is Jesus Christ, who is our advocate. Satan never tires of slandering or falsely accusing every one of us before our Heavenly Father; remember, Satan is not required to provide truth before he is allowed to slander, anymore than any of us are when we slander one another. Truth or facts are rarely a requirement, which is why newspapers such as "The Star" or "Enquirer" sell millions of copies a day. What is so shocking is that so many Christians practice this demonic character assassination without little if any remorse. I was talking to a young man who attends a local denominational church recently, and he said that gossip was the single greatest issue in their church. One of the things that I believe to be true in general, is that if the leadership gossips, then the body gossips. What amazing arrogance and ignorance it takes to betray a fellow believer by sharing with others whatever it is that you know; especially if it was shared in confidence, and even more so if you are doing it to intentionally slander them! No wonder so many people are afraid to go to church today. You would think that this would only take place with men and women who are lost and drowning in moral decadence; but it is just as real and alive within the church. Look at what is happening to former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer. This man made his way to the top by slandering other people; but like so many before him, when his day of reckoning called, it was nothing short of devastating, not only to himself, but to his wife, children and his political party.

I know personally, what it is to be on the receiving end of gossip and slander. What is so shocking is that most of it has originated from within the church. When it all began to surface, the Lord told me not to defend myself, and I obeyed. I continued to be quiet and sought to live peacefully with those around me, but the slander and character assassination only spread. Why? Because most people are unfaithful to live according to God's Word, and rather than seeking the truth, they simply spread whatever it is that they are told. If that is our pattern, then we are more like sons and daughters of Satan, rather than sons and daughters of God!! Truth is the paramount objective here, not reputations. Sometimes we become afraid or intimidated by a new person or leader in town, so we quickly look for a way to discredit them. A good friend of mine, worked at Bath Iron Works for over twenty years; he said that once a person got a reputation, good or bad, that it was almost impossible for it to ever change, even when it was false. I would dare say that the same thing is true for most in the church! We stab one another in the back with one hand, and then lift the other one up to God asking why revival hasn't come to the church. If we are truly serious about the things of God, then we need to do it God's way. If our brother has ought with us, then we need to go to them. If we have ought with them, we need to go to them. If we know that they are in sin, then we need to also go and see if we can't win them back to the Lord. The bottom line is that there is much that we are required by God to do, and slandering one another is not in any of those lists. If this is your pattern, then I exhort you to repent, today.