Which scriptures does Satan frequently use to cause believers to stumble?

When Satan aims to destroy a believer, he doesn't simply attack them at a low point. Instead, he "lifts them up" to a high place—a spiritual pinnacle—because he understands that if a believer is low, even if they fall, the injury is minor and recovery is possible (Proverbs 24:16). However, if they are raised high, a small slip can lead to a catastrophic fall, spiritually speaking.

This tactic is seen in the temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:5-7; Luke 4:9-12). Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and challenged Him to throw Himself down, quoting Psalm 91:11-12 as a "proof text" for God's protection. Psalm 91 promises God's unique protection for those who "dwell in the shelter of the Most High" (Psalm 91:1), emphasizing divine guardianship by angels.

Psalm 91 says:

> *"No evil shall befall you,*
> *Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.*
> *For He shall give His angels charge over you,*

> *To keep you in all your ways.*
> *They shall bear you up in their hands,*
> *Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*
> *You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,*
> *The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.”*
> *(Psalm 91:10-13)*

Psalm 91 highlights God’s providential care and protection over those who trust Him, reflecting God’s covenant faithfulness (cf. Deuteronomy 32:10-12). It speaks to God’s intimate guardianship, but does not give a license for reckless testing of God’s promises.

Jesus’ response to Satan, “It is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test’” (Luke 4:12; quoting Deuteronomy 6:16), emphasizes obedience and trust without presumption. This shows that God’s protection is to be received in faith and humility, not manipulated or challenged presumptuously.

Satan’s misuse of Psalm 91 as a temptation tactic reveals his strategy to sow spiritual pride and presumption. Many Christians today may hear comforting sermons about God’s acceptance and protection—rightly emphasizing grace and security in Christ (Romans 8:38-39)—but may neglect the call to holiness and sober

vigilance (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16).

When believers believe they are untouchable or “immune” to sin’s consequences simply because of God’s love, they may fall into complacency or sin, deceived by false assurance (James 1:14-15). This false confidence is a tool of the devil to lead believers away from repentance and sanctification (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Hebrews 12:14 commands:

> *“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”*

This underscores that eternal fellowship with God requires holiness, not just comfort in God’s acceptance. In the last days (2 Timothy 3:1-5), it is crucial to maintain a balanced faith that combines assurance in God’s grace with a serious commitment to holy living.

Summary and Application:

- God’s protection (Psalm 91) is real but must be received with humble faith, not presumptuous testing (Luke 4:12).
- Satan uses God’s promises out of context to lure believers into spiritual pride and careless sin.
- Believers must pursue holiness diligently (Hebrews 12:14) and not rely solely on comforting assurances.
- True security in Christ includes both grace and obedience (John 15:10; James 2:17).

May the Lord grant us wisdom to walk in this truth, standing firm against the devil’s schemes (Ephesians 6:10-18).

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