You may be wondering—Are we really called to perform?
The answer is yes, but not in the way the world defines performance. As believers, we are not called to dance on worldly stages or pursue applause for entertainment. Instead, we are called to “perform” lives of holiness and righteousness before an audience that includes both angels and fellow human beings.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

> *“For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings.”*
> — 1 Corinthians 4:9, NIV

Paul uses powerful imagery here. The word *“spectacle”* in Greek (*theatron*) literally means a theater or stage performance. Our lives are like a divine drama being watched by heaven and earth. Everything we do is under observation—not for entertainment,

but for eternal evaluation.

Every believer is, in this sense, a performer—not for fame or financial gain, but to demonstrate the power of God’s grace through a life of obedience. And just like a stage performer is evaluated based on their act, so too will we be judged by how faithfully we lived out our calling in Christ (Romans 14:10-12).

Let’s consider an unusual but enlightening example: snake charmers.

In the past—and even today in some cultures—certain performers train themselves to handle venomous snakes, like cobras. They play flutes or use sounds that seemingly mesmerize the snakes, making them appear harmless. Crowds gather, amazed at how these men stand calmly before danger. Because of the risk and rarity of such an act, the performers are often rewarded with more money and attention than typical dancers or musicians.

But this performance is incredibly dangerous. If the charmer loses focus for even a moment, the snake may strike—and the show ends in tragedy.

King Solomon, in his earthly wisdom, wrote:

> *“If the serpent bites before it is charmed, there is no advantage to the charmer.”*
> — Ecclesiastes 10:11, ESV

While this may seem like a secular observation, it holds deep spiritual truth. The Holy Spirit ensured this verse was recorded for our instruction. It reminds us that wisdom and vigilance are essential in spiritual warfare.

As Christians, we are spiritual performers. Our enemy—the serpent, Satan—is always present, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). The world is watching. Heaven is watching. And the question is: Will we finish our race victoriously, or will we fall because we lost focus?

If we allow Satan to strike us—if we fall into sin and compromise—there is no reward for a performer who fails in the most critical moment.

So how do we, as believers, spiritually “charm” the serpent? How do we neutralize the enemy’s attacks?

In the same way that charmers skillfully play their flutes to confuse the snake and prevent attack, we must continually “play” our spiritual instruments with skill and focus.

These “flutes” or spiritual disciplines include:

1. Holiness
   “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” — Hebrews 12:14, NIV
   Holiness sets us apart and protects us from spiritual compromise.

2. Prayer
   “Pray without ceasing.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:17, ESV
   Prayer keeps us alert, connected to God, and strengthens us against temptation.

3. The Word of God
   “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” — Psalm 119:105, ESV
   Scripture equips us with truth, helping us recognize the lies and schemes of the enemy.

4. Evangelism (Witnessing)
   “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” — Mark 16:15, NIV
   Sharing our faith keeps our hearts engaged in the mission of Christ and exposes the works of darkness.

When we commit ourselves to these disciplines, Satan becomes powerless—like a confused serpent with no target to strike. He will have no foothold in our lives (Ephesians 4:27), and we will finish our race victoriously.

The reward for such a life is not fame or fortune on earth, but eternal glory and honor in the presence of God (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Let us not reduce or neglect these spiritual practices. If we

decrease in holiness, prayer, the Word, or witnessing, we give the enemy clarity—and a chance to strike. And if he succeeds in taking us down, the fall can be great, and the reward lost.

So keep playing. Keep performing—not for man, but for the One who called you.

Maranatha—The Lord is coming!

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