

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

There is a form of spiritual warfare so subtle, so personal, and so utterly exhausting that it often goes completely unrecognized. It's the attack that doesn't come with a frontal assault, like a sudden loss or a tragic illness. No, this attack comes with a smile. It comes with charm. It comes in the form of a relationship that, at first, feels like the answer to your prayers, only to slowly, methodically, and painfully dismantle your peace, your sanity, and your very sense of self. It is the experience of loving, or being loved by, a narcissist. It is the dizzying, crazy-making dance of being idealized one moment and devalued the next. It is the perpetual "walking on eggshells," the fog of confusion, and the soul-deep exhaustion that leaves you wondering, "Am I the crazy one?" And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because you are not losing your mind, and you are not alone in this battle.

The Bible may not use the modern psychological term "narcissism," but it is filled with vivid, detailed portraits of this very spirit and the relational devastation it causes. This is not just a "personality disorder"; it is a spiritual strategy. The title of this message is a hard, but deeply validating truth: When the enemy cannot destroy you with a direct attack—when he can't get you to curse God through hardship, when he can't break your faith through loss—he changes his tactics. He sends a person. He sends a vessel, often a person you are called to love, to do the work for him. This is the "Saul assignment" against your "David." It is the "Jezebel assignment" against your "Elijah." It is an attack designed to get you so entangled in confusion, offense, and emotional exhaustion that you are completely neutralized and silenced, all while believing you are just in a "difficult relationship."

Today, we are going to pull back the curtain on this demonic strategy. This message is not intended as a weapon to label people, but as a light to expose the tactics of the enemy so that you can find your freedom. We are going to look at the seven spiritual strategies that the demonic spirit behind narcissism uses to wear down the saints. This is not about psychology; this is about spiritual warfare. This is about recognizing the battle you are really in. The enemy has sent this assignment because he sees the anointing on your life. He sees your calling. He sees the light in you, and his entire goal is to extinguish it by any means necessary. But the Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil, and the truth, when you see it, will set you free.

Number 1: The Root of the Assignment - The Spirit of Pride

To understand the spiritual root of narcissism, we must go back to the very first sin. Before there was sin on earth, there was sin in heaven. It was the sin of Lucifer, the most beautiful, anointed, and powerful angel. His heart became corrupted, and the Bible records his five "I will" statements

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

in Isaiah 14:13-14: "You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly... I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'" This is the DNA of the spirit behind narcissism. It is not just confidence; it is self-worship. It is the core desire to dethrone God and enthrone the self.

When this spirit operates through a person, it creates a grandiose sense of self-importance. The person genuinely believes, in their core, that they are superior, that they are special, that the rules do not apply to them, and that they are the ultimate authority in their own lives. This is why a person operating in this spirit cannot receive correction. They cannot genuinely apologize. They cannot be wrong. To do so would be to step down from the imaginary "throne" they have built for themselves. Their entire false identity is built on this foundation of "I am like the Most High."

Now, why is this spirit so drawn to you? Because you, as a genuine, light-bearing, God-worshipping believer, are a direct threat to its throne. Your very existence is an affront to its false divinity. When you walk in a room, the God in you—the Holy Spirit—shines a light that exposes the darkness. Your worship, which you direct to the true Most High God, is worship that the spirit of pride craves for itself. It cannot stand to see someone else be the center of attention. It cannot stand the anointing on your life. It cannot stand your joy, your gifts, or your peace.

And so, its assignment is to attack the God in you. It will try to co-opt your worship, making the entire relationship revolve around them, their needs, their feelings, their drama, until you are so busy managing their emotions that you have no time or energy left to worship God. The spirit of pride wants to be your god. It demands your focus, your energy, and your service. The conflict you are feeling is not just a personality clash; it is a spiritual war over who will be worshipped. It is the spirit of Lucifer raging against the Spirit of Christ in you. And recognizing this is the first step to taking your power back. You are not fighting a person; you are fighting a spiritual prince of pride.

Number 2: The Primary Weapon - The Spirit of Deception (Gaslighting)

Once the spirit of pride has established its goal—to be worshipped—its primary weapon to achieve this is deception. Jesus called the devil "the father of lies" (John 8:44). He does not just tell lies; he is the very source of them. A person operating in this stronghold is often a pathological liar. They lie when it's necessary, and they lie when it's not. They create a completely false persona, a mask of charm, spirituality, and kindness to draw you in. This is the "love-bombing" phase. They are masters of illusion.

But their most insidious and powerful form of deception is the tactic we now call "gaslighting." Gaslighting is a demonic strategy straight from the Garden of Eden. The very first act of spiritual warfare against humanity was a gaslighting campaign. Eve was standing in a perfect world, in

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

perfect communion with God, who had given her a clear and direct command. And the serpent, the father of lies, slithered up and whispered, "Did God really say...?" (Genesis 3:1). He did not deny God; he simply caused her to doubt the reality she knew. He made her question what she had heard with her own ears. He twisted God's command to make God look like a restrictive tyrant and to make her look like an enlightened victim.

This is the exact tactic of the narcissist. You will have a conversation, and five minutes later, they will deny it ever happened. "I never said that. You're misremembering. You're crazy." You will express your hurt over something they did, and by the end of the conversation, you will be the one apologizing to them. "You're too sensitive. You're the one who caused me to act that way. You're the real problem here." This is the spirit of deception at work. Its goal is to systematically, over time, dismantle your confidence in your own mind. It wants you to doubt your memory, doubt your feelings, doubt your perceptions, and even doubt your sanity.

Why? Because if the enemy can make you doubt your own mind, he can sever your connection to the Holy Spirit. If you can't trust what you think or feel, you definitely can't trust that "still, small voice" you hear in prayer. The lying spirit's goal is to empty you of your own God-given discernment and then install their voice as your new reality, your new "truth." This is how the stronghold is built. The only antidote to this is to become so anchored in the written, unchanging Word of God that it becomes your only reality. You must let God's Word be the plumb line that exposes their crooked walls. You must keep a journal, write things down, and trust what God says about you over the fog of their lies.

Number 3: The Social Tactic - The Spirit of Isolation

No predator, in nature or in the spirit, attacks its prey in the middle of a strong, healthy herd. A lion will always spend its energy trying to cut one sheep, one gazelle, off from the flock where it is weak, vulnerable, and has no one to defend it. This is a primary strategy of the spirit behind narcissism. It cannot operate in the light of a healthy, accountable community. Its greatest fear is exposure. Therefore, its primary social tactic is to isolate you from your "herd."

The most vivid and perfect example of this in the entire Bible is Absalom, King David's son, in 2 Samuel 15. Absalom wanted to usurp his father's throne, and he did it not with an army, but with charm and manipulation. The Bible says Absalom would stand at the city gate. When anyone came to the king for justice, Absalom would "love-bomb" them. He'd say, "Oh, your claims are right and just... but there is no one from the king to hear you." Then, he would say, "If only I were judge... I would give you justice!" The Bible says he would then "take hold of him and kiss him." And the result? "In this way Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel."

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

This is the narcissistic playbook, step-by-step.

Intercept: They get between you and your "king" (your pastor, your mentor, your parents, your godly friends).

Sow Discord: They subtly criticize that authority. "Your pastor doesn't really understand you... Your friends are a bad influence... Your family is just holding you back."

Position as Savior: "They don't get you... but I do. I'm the only one who truly sees how special you are. I'm the only one you can trust."

Steal the Heart: They "love-bomb" you with attention and flattery until your allegiance shifts from your community to them.

This spirit will methodically cut every healthy "rope" in your life. They will get offended when you go to small group. They will start a fight right before you're supposed to meet a friend for coffee. They will make you feel guilty for spending time with family. They will create an "us against the world" mentality until, one day, you wake up and realize you are on an island, and they are the only other inhabitant. You are completely isolated, with no outside voices to give you a reality check, no one to say, "The way they are treating you is not normal." This isolation makes you 100% dependent on them, which is exactly where the spirit of control wants you.

Number 4: The Emotional Weapon - The Spirit of Envy (and Narcissistic Rage)

At the core of the narcissist's being is not the superiority they project, but a hollow, barren emptiness. They have no internal sense of value. They are a "black hole" that must be filled with external validation, which the psychological world calls "narcissistic supply." Because they are empty, they are consumed by a tormenting spirit of envy. They cannot stand the light, the gifts, the joy, or the anointing in other people, because it reminds them of the goodness they do not possess.

This is the spirit that drove Cain to murder Abel. Why? "Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous" (1 John 3:12). It was pure envy. This is the spirit that tormented King Saul. Saul loved David when David was just his private musician, playing his harp and being his armor-bearer. David was "supply." But the moment the women came out and sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (1 Samuel 18:7), everything changed. The Bible says, "Saul was very angry... and from that time on Saul looked at David with suspicion." A spirit of envy was birthed.

And what is the child of envy? It is rage. The very next thing that happened was that "an evil spirit

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

from God rushed upon Saul" and as David played the harp, Saul "hurled his spear... thinking, 'I will pin David to the wall.'" This is the biblical portrait of "narcissistic rage." It is a sudden, terrifying, and completely disproportionate explosion of anger that comes when their fragile superiority is threatened. You got the promotion they wanted. You received a compliment they felt they deserved. You expressed an opinion that challenged their authority. You, simply by existing in your God-given light, triggered their envy, and they must extinguish that light.

This is why you will subconsciously "dim your own light" around them. You will stop sharing your victories. You will stop talking about your breakthroughs. You learn, very quickly, that your good news is a trigger for their bad mood. This spear-throwing rage—whether it's verbal, emotional, or, God forbid, physical—is a weapon of intimidation. Its goal is to punish you for outshining them and to terrify you into becoming small, dim, and non-threatening once again. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week.

Number 5: The Defense Mechanism - The Spirit of Accusation (Projection)

A person operating in this stronghold has an impenetrable defense system, because their false self must be protected at all costs. Their primary defense mechanism is what the Bible calls accusation and what psychology calls projection.

Revelation 12:10 gives Satan one of his most famous titles: "the accuser of our brethren, who accuses them before our God day and night." The spirit behind narcissism is a spirit of relentless accusation. But it does so in a very specific, crazy-making way: It projects its own sin onto you. A person operating in this spirit will literally accuse you of the very things they are doing.

The unfaithful partner will suddenly accuse you of being secretive or cheating. The person who is pathologically lying will call you a liar and demand 100% transparency from you. The one who is the most controlling and manipulative will call you "controlling" for simply asking for a boundary. The one who is filled with rage will accuse you of having an "anger problem." It is a demonic tactic that is as bewildering as it is brilliant. It accomplishes two goals at once: First, it deflects all suspicion from them. Second, it puts you on the defensive, forcing you to spend all your energy trying to prove your own innocence, leaving you no energy to ever point out their very real sin.

The clearest biblical example of this is Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39. She tried day after day to seduce Joseph. When he righteously refused her, she flipped the script. She "caught him by his garment, saying, 'Lie with me!' But he left his garment in her hand and fled." And what did she do? She used projection and accusation. She "cried out... 'See, he has brought in a Hebrew to insult us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out.'" She accused Joseph of the very thing she was guilty of. This spirit will try to destroy your reputation. It will slander you to your friends, your

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

family, your pastor, and your boss, all while painting itself as the innocent victim. You must stop trying to defend yourself in their court. Their "accuser" has no legal standing. You must take your case to the only Judge who matters and rest in His vindication.

Number 6: The Ultimate Goal - The Spirit of Exhaustion (The Elijah Assignment)

We have seen the root (pride), the weapons (deception, rage, envy), and the tactics (isolation, accusation). But what is the goal? What is the "end game" of this entire assignment? The goal is not just to make you sad. The goal is to make you quit. It is to wear you out until you are so depleted, so confused, so spiritually and emotionally exhausted, that you have no strength left to fulfill your God-given destiny.

The prophet Daniel, speaking of the antichrist spirit, says, "He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people..." (Daniel 7:25). The original language for "oppress" means "to wear out," "to harass," "to afflict." This is an assignment of attrition. It is a slow, methodical draining of your spiritual battery. It is the constant "walking on eggshells." It is the chaos, the circular arguments that go nowhere, the sleepless nights, the anxiety, the drama. It is a spirit of vampirism that attaches to your life and drains your joy, your peace, your anointing, and your will to live.

The most powerful biblical example of this is the "Elijah at the broom tree" effect. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah is at the peak of his anointing. He is indestructible. He has just faced down 450 prophets of Baal, called down fire from heaven, and single-handedly ended a drought. He is God's champion. He has not been destroyed by a direct attack. So, the devil sends his narcissist. In 1 Kings 19, Queen Jezebel—the embodiment of the narcissistic, manipulative, controlling spirit—doesn't even send an army. She just sends one messenger with one threat.

And what happens to the mighty prophet who just called down fire? "Elijah was afraid and ran for his life." He runs for a day into the wilderness, sits down under a broom tree, and begs God to kill him. "I have had enough, LORD... Take my life." How did he go from Mount Carmel to the broom tree? How did he go from supernatural victory to suicidal depression? The answer is that he was worn out. He was exhausted by the relentless, demonic opposition from one controlling, narcissistic person. This is the goal of the assignment against you. It is to get you to your "broom tree." It is to make you so tired of the fight that you abandon your calling, you give up on your ministry, you walk away from the church, and you say, "I have had enough."

Number 7: The Path to Victory - Discernment, Boundaries, and Identity

If you are at that broom tree, if you are exhausted and ready to quit, I have good news. God did not leave Elijah at the tree, and He will not leave you there. He has a clear, biblical path to freedom.

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

But it is not the path you think. You cannot "fix" this person. You cannot "love" them into changing. You cannot "pray" them into becoming a good person. Your path to victory is not about changing them; it is about freeing you.

Step 1: Discernment. Your first step is to stop wrestling "flesh and blood." You must see the spiritual nature of this battle (Ephesians 6:12). Stop seeing this as a "relationship problem" and see it as a "spiritual assignment." This one shift moves you from being a victim to being a warrior. It moves you from "Why are they doing this to me?" (hurt) to "I see what you are trying to do, enemy" (strategy).

Step 2: Boundaries. This is your primary weapon. You must stop "casting your pearls before swine" (Matthew 7:6). Your "pearls" are your love, your empathy, your energy, your time, and your spiritual insights. A person operating in this spirit will trample those pearls and then "turn and tear you to pieces." A biblical boundary is not an act of hate; it is an act of wisdom. It is you saying, "My soul belongs to God, and I will no longer allow you to defile it. Your access to me is now revoked." This may mean "low contact" (strict, emotionless boundaries) or, in most cases of abuse, it means "no contact." This is not un-Christian. This is spiritual self-preservation. You are separating yourself from the assignment.

Step 3: Identity. The enemy's entire campaign has been to re-define you. To make you believe you are "crazy," "unlovable," "selfish," "the problem." Your final victory comes from rejecting their every accusation and rooting your identity only in what God says about you. You must wash your mind with the Word. When they call you "unlovable," you declare, "I am the beloved of God." When they call you "crazy," you declare, "God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind." When they call you "weak," you declare, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This is how you reclaim the ground. You rebuild your broken-down walls with the stones of God's truth, until the voice of the accuser is nothing but a faint echo, and the voice of your Father is the only one you hear.

Conclusion

We have walked through the darkness, but we are ending in the light. We have exposed the enemy's assignment. We have seen that this "narcissist" in your life is not a random, difficult person, but a spiritual weapon sent with a purpose.

We saw its root in the Spirit of Pride, the "I will" of Lucifer. We saw its weapon in the Spirit of Deception, the "gaslighting" of the serpent. We saw its strategy in the Spirit of Isolation, the "Absalom" tactic of stealing your heart to cut you off from help. We saw its emotional violence in the Spirit of Envy and Rage, the "Saul" assignment to spear your anointing.

If the Devil Can't Destroy You, He'll Send a Narcissist

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

We saw its defense in the Spirit of Accusation, the "Potiphar's wife" projection that blames you for its own sin. We saw its ultimate goal in the Spirit of Exhaustion, the "Jezebel" assignment to get you to the "broom tree" and make you quit. And finally, we saw the clear, three-fold path to victory: Discernment (see the spirit), Boundaries (stop the access), and Identity (rebuild on the Word).

If you are in this battle, do not be discouraged. Be encouraged. The very fact that the devil has sent this high-level, targeted assignment against you is proof of the high-level calling on your life. He is terrified of you. He is terrified of your destiny. He is terrified of the light in you. This fire has not come to destroy you; it has come to refine you. God is using this very battle to forge an unshakeable, unbreakable, and absolutely free warrior of Christ. The enemy overplayed his hand. He meant it for evil, but God is turning it for your good.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's Word.