

## **Enemy At The Gate**

By Joe Crews

Book Review by Elena Brugnera

I've heard from friends that Joe Crews was a dynamic speaker. It was years later that I stumbled upon his radio sermons online. And subsequently, I was impressed to read his books. Fortunately for me, I had a copy of "Enemy at the Gate" in my library. With my personal study of the Bible and the last day events, the premise of this book became even more intriguing.

While this book's intended audience is the Seventh-day Adventist Church, its content is equally applicable to the Christian Church at large. As a Bible student – and hopefully deeply rooted in the Bible truth – it becomes even more imperative *to know* the Enemy and his standard operating procedures.

If you are one of those who truly seek to do God's will, and want to guard against the enemy, here's your opportunity to discover the various methods and means Satan employs in securing our will. Consider this statement by the author, "The clamor of fleshly desires will turn every life into a battlefield. Satan will take the opportunity to display before the senses those physical attractions which six thousand years of experimentation have proven to be the most powerful in securing the consent of man's will." It should come as no surprise how zealous Satan is in causing us to sin. Therefore, what are we doing to guard against it?

From the moment I opened this book till I finished it, I was hooked. Not only did I like the straightforwardness of the author in telling like it is – you can even say he is politically incorrect – he challenges us to think. For example, he writes, "Satan would be more than delighted if we simply relaxed and waited for God to extract us from every dangerous circumstance of temptation. Thousands have made no effort of their own, feeling that it would be stealing some honor away from God to put forth any kind of resistance in the flesh against sin. When total victory doesn't come through such a passive program, they are comforted that God has deliberately ordained that some sin remain in the experience of the saints. On an alarming scale, Seventh-day Adventist Christians have been assured that such sin, though wilfully practiced, cannot take away their security in Christ. This is probably one of the most deadly doctrinal errors now permeating the remnant church at all levels. Because it is so subtly woven through many of the popular books of Adventism, it has produced an almost permissive slackness concerning the practice of sin." (See James 2:14).

James 1:27 states, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this...to keep himself unspotted from the world." It's a fine line between what one considers doing God's will and being legalistic. Here the author alludes to my all-time-favorite Bible Hero – Daniel. He states, "The sobering truth is that this church is being sifted right now over issues that may seem small and inconsequential in preparation for the Sabbath test which will involve one of the Ten commandments...Certainly it would have been easy for Daniel to convince himself that conformity to cultural requirements at the king's table was more important than being so rigidly legalistic about eating one meal. But he did not make the mistake of adjusting his conscience to accommodate a little deviation from recognized principle." Is that being legalistic?

The most important facet of our being is our "will" – the capacity to make free choice. I fully concur with what the author says. "Somewhere in that soft mass of miracle cells [Brain], God buried deeply and securely the power of free choice. In that center of reason and will, no outside force is permitted to intrude. Here the final decisions are made as to what the eyes will gaze upon, the ears listen to, and the tongue speak. In this cloistered sanctum of the mind, the deliberate choice will ultimately be made as to whether this brain and body will receive immortal existence or suffer an everlasting death. Can't you imagine how Satan exulted when he understood for the first time how God's defense hinged entirely upon man's free-will choices?...With delight Satan recognized that God had left the way open for him to have equal access to the avenues of the mind."

What avenues of the mind does Satan employ? In order to fully appreciate the enemy's tactics and guard yourself against his operating procedures, this book becomes a must-read for every Christian.