

Have you ever experienced unwarranted, unsolicited events in your life that just did not make sense? As I write this, I hear a news report about 21 year old Dylann Storm Roof, a young man who walked into Emanuel African Methodist Church, sat with the church members for an hour during Bible study, then suddenly opened fire and killed nine people, six females and three men. What would make a young man, one who could have been doing any other productive task, walk into a church and kill nine people? The adversary, the one who roams about as a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour, that is the real reason Dylann did what he did. Christians must be clear about who their adversary is. Satan's mission to destroy you is real. Too often Christians negate the powers of evil forces which permeates spiritual amnesia about fighting principalities. The horrific actions of Dylann is a painful reminder of how clever the adversary is; he uses the young as well as the old, the educated and the ignorant to accomplish his mission.

Perhaps you are acutely aware of satan's strategy to destroy you or perhaps you are ignorant of the strategy as well as his origination; maybe you have heard about satan but you do not really know about him. Here is what I believe every new Christian should know about the adversary: He was in close communion with God before his fall. God made him beautiful and melodic but pride over his personal beauty caused him and his comrades, other fallen angels who are commonly known as demons, to be ejected from heaven (Ezekiel 28:12-14). Lester Sumrall puts it this way, "The devil is not an influence or an idea or some abstract design. He is a person and Jesus dealt with him as a person" (Rev. 20:2). Personal acts and attributes are ascribed to him (Isa. 14:12-15). The adversary knew God, was created by God, yet chose to want to be God. He's cunning and smart and often devours non-believers. Dylann was influenced by the prince of darkness—devoured by evil. Clearly it was not enough for Dylann to kill nine people, people who were Christians. No, the adversary does not work that way. The mission to destroy includes destroying Dylann too; everybody goes down. So, as I progress in writing this book, I hear that Dylann has been arrested. Paul puts it plainly, "It is not flesh and blood we wrestle against but against evil principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6: 12). Demonic spirits manifest themselves in human bodies and influence people to do ungodly acts. Be ever mindful of the Christian's battle because you are now part of God's army.