

## The Reality of Satan and Demons

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### Scripture References

John 10:10	Revelation 12:7-11
Ephesians 6:10-12	1 Peter 5:8
2 Corinthians 10:4, 5	1 Peter 5:8, 9, <i>AMPC</i>
Proverbs 23:7	James 4:7
Matthew 16:21-23	Luke 10:19
Matthew 16:23, <i>AMPC</i>	1 John 4:4
Matthew 16:23, <i>NLT</i>	

### Summary

*We are presently seeing a proliferation of evil around the world. This is not happening in a vacuum; there is a spiritual world in existence that is just as real as our physical world. Everything going on in the supernatural realm impacts our natural environment. This is nothing the believer has to fear; although demonic activity is present, we have authority over it. The devil would like nothing better than for us to believe he does not exist; this would allow him to work undetected. With this in mind, we must examine ourselves to discern if we are unknowingly under the influence of unclean spirits in any area of our lives. The devil suggests lies to us that contradict God's Word; we defeat the enemy by submitting to the Word of God and actively resisting every lie thrown at us. A deep knowledge of the Word heightens our awareness of the subtle way Satan makes suggestions designed to move us away from God, and gives us the advantage in our spiritual fight.*

#### **A. The devil's main objective is to destroy our lives, defeat us, and make us miserable.**

1. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).
  - a. "The thief" refers to Satan. As Christian people, we have an adversary whose mission is to bring destruction into our lives.
2. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:10-12).
  - a. We can be strong in the Lord by maturing in His Word; an understanding of His Word is the key to victory in our spiritual fight. The armor of God is the Word of God.
  - b. Making the Word a priority in our lives enables us to withstand the enemy's strategies against us.
  - c. Our enemy is not other people, but the demonic spirits controlling them.
  - d. Principalities, powers, rulers of darkness in this world, and spiritual wickedness are the four classes of demon spirits arrayed against us.
3. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5).

- a. The enemy uses the power of suggestion against us. Unclean spirits get involved in our thought lives by making suggestions; if those thoughts are not confronted and dealt with, they will be like lumber delivered to a construction site to be used to build a fortress in our minds. Once completed, those thoughts will seem correct.
- b. The mind is the arena of faith and the place where the battle is waged; our minds are under attack.
- c. For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he... (Proverbs 23:7).
- d. When a thought pops up in our minds that contradicts God's Word, we must speak the Word to pull down the contradictory thought.
- e. Once we can see something in our imagination, the potential for it to be manifested increases. This works for good or for bad; therefore, we must be good custodians of our thought lives.

**B. The enemy is sneaky and deceptive; he works on the sly, hoping we don't notice him.**

1. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men (Matthew 16:21-23).
  - a. The devil can slide in his suggestions so subtly we might not even notice what he's doing. Peter thought he was being noble in rebuking Jesus, but he was unknowingly contradicting the plan God had laid out beforehand for Jesus to finish.
2. But Jesus turned away from Peter and said to him, Get behind Me, Satan! You are in My way [an offense and a hindrance and a snare to Me]; for you are minding what partakes not of the nature *and* quality of God, but of men (Matthew 16:23, *AMPC*).
  - a. Peter did not recognize what Satan was doing, but Jesus *did*. Jesus responded, not to Peter, but directly to Satan.
3. Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's" (Matthew 16:23, *NLT*).
  - a. We must be aware that any voice, no matter how sweet-sounding, that goes against the Word of God is from the devil.
  - b. This mindset is prevalent today; the accepted worldview is not from God's perspective, but from a human perspective. Letting human beings, instead of God, tell us what's right and what's wrong gives Satan inroads to move in on us.

**C. God has defeated the devil. However, Satan is still lurking and prowling, waiting to attack.**

1. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they

- overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (Revelation 12:7-11).
- a. The dragon and his angels refer to Satan and his followers. There is a real, live devil loose in the world; although he has been defeated, he still works through others to influence them.
  2. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).
    - a. The devil cannot devour everyone, only those who do not thoroughly know God's Word. The enemy is going door-to-door; we are to be vigilant that he does not stop at *our* door.
  3. Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant *and* cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon *and* devour. Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world (1 Peter 5:8, 9, *AMPC*).
    - a. We must avoid an intoxicated mind that does not line up with God's Word. Caution is necessary; our enemy is looking for an opportunity to enter into our lives and either possess or oppress us.

**D. We win our fight by resisting Satan while simultaneously submitting to God's Word.**

1. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).
  - a. Although we have an adversary, we also have the ability to defeat him. We do this by submitting to God while actively resisting the devil.
2. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19).
  - a. Jesus stripped the devil of all the authority he once had and gave it to the believer. We have the same authority that Jesus has.
  - b. Authority is the right to command. "To tread on" is to have absolute mastery over something. The only authority Satan now has is the power to suggest, but we have authority over his power of suggestion.
  - c. ...Because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Category: righteousness/salvation

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