

## 10 Things You Need To Know About the Devil

Satan is your enemy. Therefore, we need to know these things...

### 1. He is real and powerful - 1 Peter 5:8-9.

- C.S. Lewis said: "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our human race can fall about Satan and his demons... 1) Disbelieve, not believe in their existence; 2) to have an unhealthy interest (over interest) in them. They are equally pleased with both errors."
- Known by many names - all of which reveal something about his character:
  - N.T. names: Satan - Matt 4:10 which means the adversary used 36 x's in NT.
  - Devil - Slanderer used 35 x's
  - Evil One - 10 x's
  - Tempter
  - Beelzebub - 7 x's - Lord of Flies - filthy
  - Prince of this world, Father of lies, Serpent, Dragon
  - He is referred to 250 x's in the NT - almost once per chapter
- God lovingly communicates to His family about the reality of our enemy. We are warned to watch out for him, he's like this, here's how he's trying to get access into our lives... This is important.
- Now, he is not everything that some would make of him. Some would see a demon behind every bush; some blame every illness and human inadequacy on the enemy.
- Let's focus on what the word says about him.
- 1 Peter 5:8 tell us that he is a lion, roaring, angry, seeking, deliberate, he wants to ravenously consume: your victory, your faith, your marriage, your family, ....

### 2. He is a fallen angel - Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-19.

- Genesis 1 - There were countless angels created. We don't know specifically when except some were between "in the beginning" and the end of Genesis 1.
- Job 38:4-7 tell us that they were singing and shouting for joy at the time of the earth's creation.
- He created a numberless amount of angels.
- Somewhere after Genesis 1 and prior to the fall of man, Genesis 3, there was a rebellion in heaven. We don't know how long Adam and Eve lived in the garden.
- Satan, filled with pride, amazingly and foolishly tried to overthrow God himself. Then he was cast out of heaven along with 1/3 of all the angels who became demons and now Satan and his demonic host rule this world on a leash within the parameters God has given them.

### 3. He is an angel of light - 2 Cor. 11:14 - He comes in disguise as an angel of light when we are least aware.

- He works on our emotions, spiritual and physical health, etc.
- Comes in a disguise (light) that makes him appear as the opposite of what he really is.
- Everyone who says they are from God, is not necessarily from God. They may be in fact the opposite. We must learn to test everything we hear and everyone we meet against the truth of God's word.
- Example 2 Cor. 11:13-14 - everyone who says they speak for Christ does not, everyone who says they stand for Christ does not. Test the message against the truth of God's word.
- He uses false teachers to lead the church astray; he plants weeds among the wheat.

- We, as believers, are the wheat growing up. In and amongst the wheat would be weeds, not real believers, followers of Christ. Going thru the motions, playing the game but they don't really know Him. Read Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43.... Who sows the weeds? Satan
4. **He hates Jesus Christ our Savior** - The One he is ultimately after is The King - Why? Because he wants to be like God.
- Since he can't get to Christ directly - he goes after the one's Christ loves - us. He is not so much interested in the one's who don't know the Lord, but the followers of Jesus - Satan wants them to live in defeat, discouragement, desperation... apart from the resources of God. So that he can injure the Savior who has provided all and everything we need to live in joy and victory - that's the war in which we are engaged.
  - Use the resources God has given to defeat him! Ephesians 6.
  - Read Matt. 4:1-11.... Satan tried to tempt Christ with lies.
    - We can learn how to battle Satan from Jesus' response.
    - Every time He named the lie and inserted truth. Jesus said, "You say this, but God says this..."
    - We get victory by stating the truth too. It's James 4:7 in action. Submit to God, Resist the devil and he has to flee!
  - Although Satan is powerful, he's a weakling when faced with truth from God's Word. He runs from God's truth - His Word that lives and abides forever.
  - That's why we need to know God's Book. This truth sets people free.
  - When Satan lies to us about spiritual issues that undermine our confidence and security in Christ Jesus, we need to be so familiar with what God has said that we can name his lie and insert God's truth!
    - When you live according to that truth - live in victory
    - When you live according to the lies of the enemy - you live in defeat
5. **He is an "accuser" of God's people** - Revelation 12:9-10. The name "devil" means accuser. He accuses you and me 24/7.
- He comes and appears before God and accuses us.... God turns to Jesus and He says... "I have paid for those and He intercedes and defends us" Romans 8:1. There is therefore no condemnation.
  - Isaiah 54:17 - no weapon forged against me, shall prosper.
6. **He is working very hard** - Read Revelation 12:11-12 - He knows his time is short - He's not just sitting around! He is waiting for an opportunity and will pounce!
- 1 John 3:8 - Origin of sin - the source
  - Mark 4:15 - he opposes the Word of God. When it is sown - immediately he tries to snatch it away.
  - How does this happen? You start to notice how many times when you are leaving church or Bible study where you have heard the Word of God - sown into your hearts - and on your way home or back to work.... There may be an argument or crisis in order to get you to not think about the Word you just heard.
  - Ephesians 4:25-27 - He is looking for opportunities - don't give a foothold - he is looking for a way in... discouragement, anger, un-confessed sin, disobedience, anxiety - as soon as he sees it he jumps on it. Don't let him have those opportunities!

7. **He is a liar** - John 8:44 - No truth in him. Father of lies.
  - Lies to God's people.
  - When we live in the lies of the enemy = defeat
  - When we live in the truth = victory!
  - Remember Jesus as our model. Satan threw lies to Jesus. Jesus named the lies and inserted truth.
  
8. **He is a cunning tempter** - Genesis 3:1-5. He questions God's Word.
  - What should Eve said ...
  - Notice she added something to what God said
  - Satan wants us to believe that God is holding out on us. That there is something more.
  - He also wants us to believe that God does not mean what He says.
  - Eve didn't know God's Word very well.
  
9. **He has limitations** - Job 1:8.
  - Job lived in a time around Abraham. God asked a question He already knew the answer to.
  - Satan could only do what God allowed.
  - 1 Cor. 10:13 - Not allowed being tempted above what you are able and He always provides a way of escape!
  - Isaiah 46:9-10 - Only God knows our thoughts. Satan is not omni anything.
  - God is omnipresent - everywhere all the time
  - omniscient - all knowing
  - Omnipotent - all powerful.
  - Satan can not read your thoughts...
  
10. **He is a defeated enemy!** - How would you feel if you were in a war and knew ultimately the enemy was already defeated? ..... He's going to loose - Point to the winner!
  - Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10 - End of Satan
  - 1 John 3:8 - Jesus destroyed his works
  - Col. 2:13-15 - Our sins are nailed to the cross and Jesus triumphed over them by the cross.
  - 2 Cor. 10:3-5. Our weapons are divine.

Right thinking. Reject lies and insert truth.  
 Submit to God, resist the enemy, he has to flee.

Are you living in daily victory?

Are there areas of your life where the enemy is attacking you? Your thoughts, behaviors, etc. I would ask you to God before the Lord and ask Him if you are thinking properly. Are you believing lies of the enemy? Ask Him to give you truth and enable you to live in that truth.

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