

## What is Satanism?

**2 Corinthians 11:3: (NASB) *But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.***



In a lot of ways the world is scary. There is an “anything goes” mentality surrounding us. This gives us the feeling that there is no buffer between us and the dark, worldly or spiritual influences that exist. One of these dark influences is reflected in the rising popularity of satanism. When we hear that word - satanism - we may form a frightening, even hideous, image in our minds of dark occult and bloody, sacrifice-based rituals. This image is most likely a serious distortion of the truth. Does this mean we are defending satanism as a wholesome practice? Absolutely not! It

does mean we want to know exactly what we are dealing with so we can understand how to keep ourselves and others from being manipulated by ungodly influences. Satanism is something to stay away from, but not for the reasons you may think.

Satanism can only be understood if we understand Satan.

**Devil:** Strongs #1228 *diabolos*; a traducer

### Merriam Webster:

Traduce: transitive verb

1: to expose to shame or blame by means of falsehood and misrepresentation

2: violate, betray



### Satan then and now, *True Monsters: The Origin and Evolution of Satan, History*

- *But they rebelled against God and took a number of angels with him. And so, this is a civil war of sorts in the heavenly realm, and he's the head of the whole thing. Since the Middle Ages, he has been depicted as this red beast with horns and pitchfork, hooves and tail.*
- *There's a reason why Satan looks like he does, and one need look no further than Pan, the god of the mountain wild in Greek mythology, to see the real roots of Satan's diabolical persona.*
- *Pan, the god of fertility, had cloven hooves, and a tail and horns symbolizing lust, and of course the early Christians were not fond of lust as a positive thing. So, using these Pagan symbols they evolved into being projected on what would be considered something evil.*
- *There's something about the fusing of the animal and the human that is terrifying to us. It represents something that we fear might be inside of us, this animalistic side that wants to devour and kill.*

This imagery of Satan is not biblical. Satan originally had a magnificent appearance.

### Generally, Satan is the betrayer and opponent of all that is good:

**Revelation 12:9: (NASB) *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil <1228> and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.***

Satan - *the star of the morning* - was cast down away from God.

**Here is how Satan became the opponent of God:**

**Isaiah 14:12-15:** (NASB) <sup>12</sup>*How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!* <sup>13</sup>*But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.* <sup>14</sup>*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.* <sup>15</sup>*Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.*

(Note: There is a short issue with audio broadcast at this point.)

**Many say this verse is about the literal king of Babylon:**

**Isaiah 14:3-4:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>*And it will be in the day when the LORD gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved,* <sup>4</sup>*that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, How the oppressor has ceased, and how fury has ceased!*

We believe this verse prophetically shows the ending of satanic influence.

Please see the Bonus Material for more on the application of these verses.

Check out our CQ Kids video, Who is Satan? [ChristianQuestions.com/youtube](http://ChristianQuestions.com/youtube)



**Satan, Pan and Dante, True Monsters: The Origin and Evolution of Satan, History**

- *Pan and Satan fascinated the famous poet Dante who took liberties with both characters and crafted the Inferno.*
- *Dante is a great example of the power of a compelling story. He creates this elaborate hell, and then a thousand years later we're all taking this as kind of religious canon. And that's because it's good storytelling, and it's great detail and it resonates with us kind of emotionally. And so, we take it and we assume that it's always been true.*

This image was built based on people's perceptions. Dante's Inferno is just a story!

Back to [Isaiah 14:12-15](#):



- **"I will ascend into the heavens."**  
*He was already "on the Holy Mount of God."*
- **"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."**  
*He was already one of the stars of God.*
- **"I will sit in the mount of congregation in the uttermost parts of the north."**  
*Where God abides.*
- **"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds."**  
*Above the influence of God's presence with man.*
- **"I will make myself like the Most High."**  
*Not replacing, but rivaling the Most High.*



**LUCIFER WANTED DOMINION,  
POWER AND AUTHORITY AND  
USURPED THAT TO WHICH  
HE HAD NO RIGHT.**

It seems like Lucifer was the first to have an entitlement attitude.

**What is satanism? Are there different types?  
What does it have to do with the rebellion of Satan?**

With a basic picture of the Adversary in place, we can now move on to defining the concept of satanism. What we will find is in some ways fascinating and other ways predictable. The bottom line will end up being along the lines of humans choosing what makes them comfortable to believe. Satanism makes some people very comfortable.



**AS WE OPEN THE DOOR  
TO UNDERSTAND SATANISM,  
WE FIRST NEED TO PUT IN  
PLACE HOW SIN  
TAKES HOLD OF THE  
HUMAN HEART AND MIND.**

The Apostle John explains this in a simple way:

1 John 2:16-17: (NASB) <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Every sin contains at least one of these three elements - *lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes or the boastful pride of life.*



**SATAN APPLIES HIS DESIRE FOR  
CONTROL OVER HUMANITY IN THE  
VERY PLACES WE  
ARE VULNERABLE.**

Generally, where we are comfortable, we are also vulnerable.



## Defining satanism, *What is Satanism, ReligionForBreakfast*

- *When you hear the word satanism what comes to mind? For many, it conjures scary images of cloaked figures, orgies and blood sacrifices conducted in basements. Or maybe it brings to mind high profile political stunts like setting up a satanic statue in a courthouse to help draw attention to a separation of church and state. Now Satan definitely has a lot of stereotypes around him. In the Christian tradition at least, he's viewed as the adversary to God, the king of demons, and the personification of evil itself. But today, satanism is a broad term for a diverse group of people that view Satan as a model, or a symbol, or a force around which they can structure their lives.*

Although the majority of Satanists do not believe in Satan as an actual being, they model themselves after him. They consider him to be a fictional story. Satan, as we have seen, seeks control.

### Here is how Satan applied that desire to be like the Most High:

**Genesis 3:1-6:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Indeed, has God said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden? <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup>but from the fruit of the tree, which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die. <sup>4</sup>The serpent said to the woman, you surely will not die! <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Satan tells Eve she misunderstood what God said. He tells the lie - *you surely will not die!*



Even though Satan's argument was all based on a lie, it was logical and compelling.

### Satan's lie caused Eve to pause and consider, and at that moment of consideration, her vulnerability was exposed:

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, (lust of the flesh) and that it was a delight to the eyes, (lust of the eyes) and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, (pride of life) she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

## Rationalist satanism, *What is Satanism, ReligionForBreakfast*

- *There are satanists that are atheists, and there are satanists that actually believe in Satan as a being that they can follow. Some scholars have called these "esoteric satanists" and "rational satanists." Rational satanism, sometimes called atheistic satanism, view Satan as a symbol of rebellion, individuality, carnality and empowerment. These groups don't worship Satan. They don't even believe that he exists as a being. Instead, these groups see their identity as satanists as a practical stance to life - a non-conformist path of self-realization. Groups that fall under this category include the Satanic Forum in Denmark and the Church of Satan founded by the author and occultist, Anton LaVey, in the 1960s.*





(Source: Origin of satanism, excerpted from [whatissatanism.com](http://whatissatanism.com)) Anton Szandor LaVey created satanism and brought it to the public in 1966 CE. The Satanic Bible, published in 1969, is the primary and authoritative source for satanism.

Satanism explicitly holds the highest regard for individualism. There are no political protests, statues, churches, public covens, grottos or remote charter memberships.

Anton Szandor LaVey did not claim to have any spiritual communication or Gnosticism. Satanism's foundation is rational thought...LaVey stresses that it is up to the individual to know themselves and all mankind as carnal animals. Personal exploration through unclouded rational thought is critical for a satanist.

The theme of LaVey's thinking is based on rational human thought.

Anton LaVey is the founder of the Church of Satan and the writer of [The Satanic Bible](#) in 1969.

 **Who or what is Satan, Late 70s Early 80s Anton LaVey Interview, Satanist, thekinolibrary**

- (LaVey) *The godhead resides within oneself. I believe that man creates gods in accordance with his own needs, and if he doesn't, someone else will create them for him.*
- (Interviewer) *Who or what is Satan to you?*
- (LaVey) *Satan is the essence of that which dwells within myself.*
- (Interviewer) *How would you explain this?*
- (LaVey) *Satan is the pioneer, the inventor, Prometheus. Satan has always been the scapegoat, the "other," as Thomas Szasz the psychiatrist calls. He has always been the opposition to what has been established at the time. The counterbalance that creates change, that creates evolution, that sets the climate socially for modification, because without this so-called evil there could be no change.*

LaVey was smart. He stated, "Man creates gods in accordance with his own needs." This is a true statement. Think about how Satan's lie had a basis in truth. Now, think about what satanism stands for. LaVey calls Satan a pioneer and inventor because he bucked the system. He went against what God said and went in a direction no one else had ever gone. LaVey calls him, "The other." This attracts people, because they do not feel they fit in anywhere and they are on the outside looking in.



**Satan gathers followers - often they are unknowing followers:**

**1 John 3:7-8:** (NASB) <sup>7</sup>*Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous; <sup>8</sup>the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*

*The one who practices sin is of the devil. When we go against godliness and righteousness, it is sinful and of the devil. It does not mean we are a devil worshipper, but it means we are following the principles the devil introduced. We must be careful.*



For most of us, rational human thought is a good thing.  
Should we be really THAT worried about it?

We are surrounded by human thoughts. The obvious problem is that all of our human thoughts are not rational in the sense of being detached from emotion and solely based on facts. This is where our dividing lines between our Christianity and satanism should be bold, unmistakable and dramatic.



 Esoteric satanism, *What is Satanism*, ReligionForBreakfast

- *This leads us to our other generalized category, esoteric or theistic satanism. Esoteric satanists still don't necessarily worship Satan, but they're much more likely to view him as an actual being that they can model their life around. Some scholars point to the Temple of Set as an example of esoteric satanism. The founder, Michael Aquino, argued that Satan was a corruption of the Egyptian god, Set, who he believed was a guide or teacher to humanity. Esoteric satanist groups also practice a form of magic. And for example, the Temple of Set distinguishes between white magic and black magic and encourages all of its members to become experts in black magic.*



Perhaps the best example of rational human thought versus spiritual obedience is Jesus' 40-day fasting and praying experience at the beginning of his ministry. Satan attacks Jesus three different times.

**Satan first attacks physical need. Rational thought says to take care of that need:**

**Matthew 4:1-4:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he then became hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. <sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, It is written, man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*

**Jesus answered based on Scripture:** **Deuteronomy 8:3:** (KJV) *...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD...*

His reasons were based on an authority higher than himself - the authority of the word of God. Jesus looked beyond rational human thinking - he was hungry.



We must ask ourselves, "Is this in accordance with God's providence?" If it is not, then as a Christian, we must practice self-denial which overrides rational thinking.

**After hearing Jesus' source of strength was God's Word, Satan now uses the Word to entice him:**

Matthew 4:5-7: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him into the holy city and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you; and on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone (Psalms 91:11-12) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, On the other hand, it is written, you shall not put the Lord your God to the test.

Satan was disciplined, focused and quoted the Scripture he knew Jesus would quote. Jesus used Scripture to counter inappropriate application of Scripture.

**Also, notice his answer addressed the fact that Satan inappropriately tested God by tempting Jesus a second time:**

Deuteronomy 6:16: (NASB) You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.

**Bible Dictionary:**

Massah: trial, temptation - a name given to the place where the Israelites, by their murmuring for want of water, provoked Jehovah to anger against them. (Exodus 17:7)



Satanism says, "It is all about me - I am the centerpiece." Spiritually rational thinking says, "God's plan is the centerpiece."



"cqbiblepodcast"



I guard against the dark side in many ways. I am avoiding blatant evil movies, TV, books, etc. to shoring up my spiritual life by staying close to the Father and Jesus through the Bible and prayer. 1 Peter 1:13: (KJV) *Gird up the loins of your mind.*

What a great admonition.

Satanism is an extension of a great egotistical approach we see so dramatically in the world.

 **Is Satan for profit, Late 70s Early 80s Anton LaVey Interview, Satanist, thekinolibrary**

- (Interviewer) *Mr. LaVey, many of your critics and opponents of satanism say that you are a businessman and a humbug and you're doing all this just to make your money. You're a show businessman, is that right?*
- (LaVey) *Well, I believe it's a Barnum and Bailey world. It's as phony as it can be, as the popular song stated. And if I am a humbug, and I am a phony, then everyone else is a phony, too. And I feel that you have to be a certain bit of a showman in the world in order to get ahead, in order to attain your goals. You have to get people's attention. And in order to deny this aspect of recognition that each of us has, every animal, every living creature, one wishes recognition in some form or another. This is the whole concept of the mating process - it is to be recognized. I think to deny this is to be hypocritical, to be dishonest in the worst way.*

He does not deny making a profit at others' expense.

**The third temptation - Satan now goes for the glory. "You can HAVE IT ALL (which is why you came) - just worship me":**

Matthew 4:8-11: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, All these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only. <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to him.

Jesus stays with Scripture as he authoritatively dismisses Satan. We must follow Jesus' example in saying - *Go, Satan!*

The Three Temptations of Jesus:			
The Temptation	The Allure	Jesus' Response	
Turn the Stones Into bread	Lust of the flesh	Deuteronomy 8:3	...Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.
Throw yourself down	Pride of Life	Deuteronomy 6:16	You shall not put the Lord your God to the test...
Worship Satan	Lust of The eyes	Deuteronomy 6:13	...You shall worship the Lord your God And serve Him only.





Looking at Jesus handling temptations is one thing.  
How do we put thoughts of satanism away?

Now that we have the basics of satanism on the table and the highest and best example of defeating Satan himself, we need to focus on the practicality of our own experience. Perhaps the most difficult part of this battle is knowing that subtlety on the part of Satan and his minions is a key battleground.

Our theme text (2 Corinthians 11:3) is a classic warning against subtle satanic thinking permeating the true church.

**Paul begins by proclaiming his fatherly love for them and his single desire for their purity:**

2 Corinthians 11:1-3: (WEY) <sup>1</sup>I wish you could have borne with a little foolish boasting on my part. Nay, do bear with me. <sup>2</sup>I am jealous over you with God's own jealousy. For I have betrothed you to Christ to present you to him like a faithful bride to her one husband.

**Now comes the issue of his deep concern:**

<sup>3</sup>But I am afraid that, as the serpent in his **craftiness <3834>** deceived Eve, so your minds may be led astray from their single-heartedness and their fidelity to Christ.

**Craftiness:** Strongs #3834 *panourgia*; adroitness, i.e. (in a bad sense) trickery or sophistry

Satan's influence is a sophisticated trap designed to draw in those who are not intentionally alert. **THINK!**



I appreciated the Facebook comment. About a week and a half ago, my mind and heart felt like it was not in the right place. I felt like I wasn't doing enough to stay close to the Lord, so I made a decision to re-focus and get back on track to where I felt my heart needed to be. I am very thankful the Lord gave me the strength to do so over this past week.

We can all get to that point at times and need to intentionally reset ourselves.



The Satanic Temple is the latest satanic group to stir up public attention.

## **The Satanic Temple, *Hail Satan*, Documentary Shows Rise of Satanic Temple, Inside Edition**

- (Narrator) *Are they evil or just misunderstood? The documentary “Hail Satan” explores those questions while following the rise of the Satanic Temple. Director Penny Lane says the creation of the film took her on a spiritual and educational journey.*
- (Penny Lane) *Within three years they had at least 50,000 members and within six years, which is the amount of time the film covers, they have over 100,000 members.*
- (Narrator) *A goal of her film was to debunk myths and misconceptions about this religion.*
- (Penny Lane) *Modern satanism is an atheistic religion. There's no sort of belief in supernatural deities at the core. What they do have is a shared belief and understanding of the power of mythology, art, ritual in everyday life, and informing community, and in allowing you to do good works in the world. So, that was a big surprise, because who knew that's what satanists believed. I didn't know.*
- (Narrator) *And a tenet of the religion is activism. The film shows how the Satanic Temple organizes to fight for equal representation of religions in government.*

The Satanic Temple believes in activism, which is exactly what those who originated satanism (LaVey) said they had no part in. They were just about themselves. The corruption was corrupted! Now the Satanic Temple is becoming more popular, because they are an activist group and are using Satan as a figurehead.

**The Apostle Paul knows there are those who do not have pure motives. They want a following and seek to corrupt single-hearted fidelity for personal gain:**

**2 Corinthians 11:4-5:** (WEY) *<sup>4</sup>If indeed some visitor is proclaiming among you another Jesus whom we did not proclaim, or if you are receiving a Spirit different from the one you have already received or a Good News different from that which you have already welcomed, your toleration is admirable! <sup>5</sup>Why, I reckon myself in no respect inferior to those superlatively great Apostles.*

Paul reminds the Corinthians he is an apostle. He tells them if they are receiving a version of the gospel he did not tell them about, they need to be on the alert. Satanism is rational thinking which tries to overtake anything spiritual - which was happening in the early church. If they went down that road, it would be a road of trouble.



(Source: Albert Barnes Commentary) Verse 4: The main idea doubtless is, that Paul felt that there was danger that they would be corrupted. If they could bring a better gospel, a more perfect system, and proclaim a more perfect Savior, there would be no such change – if they departed from the truths which he had taught them – it would be for the worse. It could not be otherwise.



Satan was the founder of twisting truth and has passed that on to others.

Is the version of Christianity we are following from the gospel or tradition? Tradition has changed what Satan looks like, and tradition has in many ways changed what Christianity looks like. We must be careful.

Apostle Paul explains his position of authority as an apostle, his insistence on caring for his own needs while among them, and his love for them in Christ.

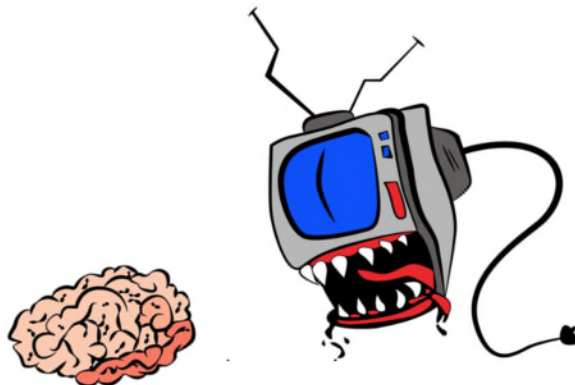
**Paul now boldly proclaims his objective to protect the brotherhood and call out enemies of Christ:**

2 Corinthians 11:12-15: (WEY) <sup>12</sup>But I will persist in the same line of conduct in order to cut the ground from under the feet of those who desire an opportunity of getting themselves recognized as being on a level with us in the matters about which they boast. <sup>13</sup>For men of this stamp are sham apostles, dishonest workmen, assuming the garb of Apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder. Satan, their master, can disguise himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>It is therefore no great thing for his servants also to disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be in accordance with their actions.

Paul was attacking the satanic principles that were attacking the brotherhood. His message was corruption has no place in Christianity.



It is important to realize, wherever we go, the influences of satanism are not very far away.



## Can Satan and his influence actually get inside of our heads? If so, how do we prevent it?

It is important to distinguish between having an influence get into your head and having a demon possess your mind. We are absolutely and regularly susceptible to dark influences. Satanism's principles clearly stand against godliness. Demon possession is an entirely different matter.

**First, establish that this battle is clearly beyond your own capacity:**

**Ephesians 6:10-12:** (KJV) *<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>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.*

Several seriously important points:

- ▲ Our strength is in God - not in ourselves.
- ▲ We **MUST** arm ourselves accordingly with HIS armor - not ours.
- ▲ We wrestle against spiritual powers - this is beyond our human capability.



**Second, we need to commit ourselves when we see a clearly righteous decision:**

**1 Kings 18:21:** (NASB) *Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people did not answer him a word.*

Elijah presented a black and white choice, but sometimes it is not that easy.



When I was a teenager, my Uncle Tony used to say to me, “When you see something that needs to get done, just do it - just do the right thing. Jump to the challenge before you can think. Jump to righteousness before you talk yourself out of it.”



## Satanism and its thinking can easily influence us - we are human and therefore susceptible:

1 Timothy 4:1-2: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup>by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.*

When you tell a lie long enough, you become numb to the truth.



**ELEVATE YOUR SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE  
REGULARLY, AS THE SHIFTING SANDS OF SOCIAL  
FREEDOM AND EXPRESSION CAN WEAR DOWN  
A STAGNANT SPIRITUAL MIND.**

Do not let your mind become like stagnant water, because that is where bugs gather, and life does not flourish as well. Being stagnant can be like “Empty Mind Meditation.” It teaches you to empty your mind or rest your mind of thoughts. This could be an open door for satanic influence to enter. We should only empty our minds if we fill them immediately with scriptural promises and prayer. Meditation *done in the right way* can be very good and powerful.

Regarding demon possession question, we need to emphatically realize that demons have limits. When our minds are focused on God’s will and we have God’s Spirit (His power and influence), we are off-limits to them.



Matthew 12:43-45: (NASB) *<sup>43</sup>Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. (This indicates their limited power.)*

### Once “relief” is found, they seek to bring that relief to others’ darkness:

*<sup>44</sup>Then it says, I will return to my house (the mind it was cast out of) from which I came; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup>Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.*

“Permission to enter” is possible when we do not have righteousness occupying our minds. Emptying of the mind is an important step, but the emptied mind should not be left. This is like being on the internet without a firewall. Our minds need to be filled with something of godly value. When we DO have God’s Spirit and righteousness, there simply is NO place for demons.



**ELIMINATE ANY AND ALL  
POSSIBILITIES FOR SATAN AND SATANISM  
TO EXERT THEIR INFLUENCE ON YOUR MIND  
BY DWELLING IN THE GOODNESS OF  
GOD'S SPIRIT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

We can dwell safely and securely if we remain in righteousness. Do not let satanic thoughts touch us.

*What is satanism?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on November 4, 2019:  
Ep. 1098: What can we Learn from Gideon?

### Bonus Material!

*What they don't tell you about standing up for what you believe in is that your feet will bruise, and your legs will ache. — Ashe Vernon*

### The following text describes how Satan became the opponent of God:

Isaiah 14:12-15: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup>But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. <sup>15</sup>Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.

### Many say this verse is about the King of Babylon:

Isaiah 14:3-4: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>And it will be in the day when the LORD gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved, <sup>4</sup>that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, How the oppressor has ceased, and how fury has ceased!

Are we out of line projecting this imagery onto Satan?



## Well, here is another instruction given to Isaiah - one to which he responds personally:

**Isaiah 6:8-10:** (NASB) <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said, Here am I. Send me! <sup>9</sup>He said, Go, and tell this people: Keep on listening, but do not perceive; keep on looking, but do not understand. <sup>10</sup>Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's instructions in Matthew 13:13.

## Prophetic Scriptures have dual meanings:

**Matthew 13:13-15:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup>In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, you will keep on hearing, but will not understand; you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; <sup>15</sup>for the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them.

## The full context of Jesus' wilderness temptations and the verses he quoted:

**Matthew 4:1-11:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he then became hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. <sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, It is written, man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him into the holy city and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you; and on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, On the other hand, it is written, you shall not put the LORD your GOD to the test. <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, All these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the LORD your GOD and serve Him only. <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to him.

## How did Jesus overcome?

First, he answered based on Scripture. His reasons were based on an authority higher than himself - the authority of the Word of God.

All three texts are related to the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt:

## First text:

**Deuteronomy 8:1-3:** (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. <sup>2</sup>Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commandments. <sup>3</sup>He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.



**Second text:**

Deuteronomy 6:16: (NRSV) *Do not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.*

Exodus 17:2: (KJV) *Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?*

**Third text:**

Deuteronomy 6:12-15: (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>*Take care that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* <sup>13</sup>*The LORD your God you shall fear; him you shall serve, and by his name alone you shall swear.* <sup>14</sup>*Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you,* <sup>15</sup>*because the LORD your God, who is present with you, is a jealous God. The anger of the LORD your God would be kindled against you and he would destroy you from the face of the earth.*

**Jesus did not engage in debate, rationalization and conversation - he answered and then closed the door:**

Psalms 1:1-3: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers:* <sup>2</sup>*but his delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth he meditate day and night.* <sup>3</sup>*And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

