

## How Do Satanic Demons Influence Our World?

**Ephesians 6:12:** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*



We live in a diverse world, and that can be a really wonderful thing! To observe and embrace the positive differences in our cultures, our backgrounds and our characters is worthy of celebration. Appreciating the immense differences we see in nature due to geographic locations is a fascinating journey through God's creation. But here is a problem. Diversity, just like most anything else we as imperfect humans celebrate, can go to extremes that take the basic principles of godly righteousness and corrupts them with darkness and evil. This inevitably leads to the destruction of that which is good. What has this got to do with Satan and demons? Everything! Satan and those who follow him are masters of subtlety and can easily make darkness look like light.

Many times we have discussed how Satan posing as a serpent used doubt, subtlety and half-truths to deceive Eve. We continually go back to this experience because it represents humanity's first experience with disloyalty to God and the sinfulness that follows. As we establish the biblical history that leads up to this first encounter as well as the biblical history that followed it, we are going to be quoting from a satanist's website as a stark contrast to biblical teachings.



It is our deeply-held conviction that people should not go looking into these types of subjects out of curiosity, because darkness is dark and darkness is subtle. We will quote several times from a satanist's website for examples.

(joysofsatan.org) Exposing Christianity. Because of being steeped in, believing in, and living a lie, in the advanced stages of Christianity, the Christian takes on an artificial appearance and begins to look like the lie: The well-known pasty look with the smiley mask. The lie emerges in the physical self.

This reminds us how politicians accuse their opponents of doing the very thing they themselves are guilty of. This is an outgrowth of satanic thinking.

This website we're quoting from paints those of us who are serious Christians to have a "pasty look with the smiley mask." This comment means that Christianity is all put on – it is all just an act. We will leave it there for now; we will return to this writing several times throughout this episode. We want to reveal the strategies they are using and what they are trying to accomplish.



**Completely reverse roles and accuse the light of actually being gross darkness.**

How does this happen if light is light and dark is dark? All angels and demons originate from God. This may sound unreasonable and needs to be put in its clear and appropriate context. As we trace the origins of demonic beings, we know that it all started with Lucifer. In Ezekiel 28, Lucifer, originally a high and mighty spirit being, is allegorically described as the king of Tyre.

**Ezekiel 28:13-14:** *13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering... 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*

Lucifer was in the Garden of Eden. **Here is how he was described:**

**Covered by precious stones:** One who had matchless, varied and enduring value. Precious stones do not lose their value. Pictured as being covered in them implies he is matchless and enduring; of very high value.

**An anointed cherub placed there by God:**

*anointed* - in the sense of expansion; outstretched (i.e. as with outstretched wings). God appointed Lucifer to “cover” Eden with his outstretched wings and protect it.

*cherub* – a mighty representative of God and His will. Because this earthly creation was an expansion of God’s power, Lucifer was appointed/chosen/anointed to powerfully oversee and protect its vulnerability. His appointed position was to do exactly the opposite of what he eventually did.

**On God’s holy mountain:** Lucifer was part of God’s holy governance. In Scripture, mountains often symbolically represent governments.

**Amidst the stones of fire:** perhaps meaning amidst the stars, indicating the magnitude of his power and glory under God. He was high up in the hierarchy of heavenly hosts.

**Ezekiel 28:15:** *You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.*

**Blameless until unrighteousness grew:** Complete, sound and full of integrity until pride grew. Internally, his ego made him greater in his own eyes than he was.

**Ezekiel 28:16a:** *By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned...*

**Abundant trade resulted in violence and sin:** The eons of time Lucifer stood in an authoritative position before God caused him to see himself as the *object* of loyalty rather than as a *tool* of loyalty to God. Meaning, he was owed loyalty from others rather than giving his loyalty to God.

(Source: Bible Commentary by David Guzik) *By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned:* Because Satan is spoken of here as the king of Tyre, God spoke of Satan's sins in the same terms as Tyre's sins. Tyre was a highly commercialized city-state focused only on winning a profit. Satan's abundance of trading was found in his competitive spirit, his desire to be exalted above his associates (Isaiah 14:13-14).

The dishonest business practices of the leaders of Tyre were a reflection of the dishonest, deceptive dealings of the spiritual power behind them. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

Pausing with Ezekiel for a moment, we see this horrendous sin verified in Isaiah.

**Satan's "fall" – actually, it's more like Satan's calculated steps of ego and pride out of God's grace:**

**Isaiah 14:12-14:** *12 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! 13 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. 14 **I** will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I** will make myself like the Most High.*

These were all of the reasons why Satan fell – notice all of the "I"s - especially, **I will make myself like the Most High**. God would not allow such sin to go unanswered, but as usual with many of God's answers, the final outcome would not be put in place for a long time. We accept that God's timeframe is bigger than ours. But we also see there was an immediate consequence in place, as mentioned in Isaiah 14. We will see it again in Ezekiel 28.

These two prophecies in Isaiah and Ezekiel work well together. Their messages harmonize but with different words.

**Ezekiel 28:16:** *...Therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God.*

**Cast off as profane from the mountain of God:** God removed him from heaven, as he was now a desecration and a polluting influence to the holiness of God's governance.

**Ezekiel 28:16-17:** *16 ...And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground...*

**Destroyed as covering cherub from the stones of fire:** Not only was Lucifer removed from his lofty position of heavenly governance, but he was also removed from all heavenly places. He was "fired" from being a *covering cherub*.

**Heart and wisdom corrupted by beauty and splendor:** (We all need to be on guard against feeling entitled.) Lucifer perceived his personal beauty as an entitlement and his wisdom succumbed to the brightness of his glory. He felt entitled to being THE spirit being. It corrupted everything else about him – his loyalty to God was lost.

**Cast to the ground:** Lucifer was no longer holy before God and was cast down from the lofty places to the lowlier places away from access to God's own immortal power. From Isaiah and Ezekiel, we learn he had *fallen from heaven* and been *cut down to the earth, cast down to the ground*. We have verification that he was up in the highest reaches of heaven and now was completely out of the light of God's governance.

It's the way of the world now. No wonder Satan is called the *god* of this present evil world in **2 Corinthians 4:4**. Satan started off so lofty and important in heaven. He was well respected in the spirit realm, but the depth of his fall was an unprecedented event. At no time prior had any being ever rebelled against God.

How do satanic demons influence our world? This is where it all got its start. If we understand the beginnings, we can be forewarned and forearmed against such things.

## **Revealing satanic and demonic origins and influences:**

**The arrogance and treachery of Lucifer created a spiritual subculture of power and dominion over the lesser creation — the physical earth. While Satan's original responsibility was to cover and protect the garden and all in it, he would now twist that position of protector to one of a dictatorial ruler.**



Loyalty to God and appreciation for His gifts and grace should never waver and should always remain eternal.

Satan is an example of what NOT to do.

It is hard for us to fathom the depth of Lucifer's fall. What a reminder for us to watch the details of our lives and stay loyal to God!

**Once Lucifer fell from heaven, he became known as "Satan."  
What about his followers? Was their fall just as dramatic?**

As far as the Bible tells us, the heights from which Lucifer fell are unmatched anywhere as his previous honor and glory were lauded in heaven. This does not mean that in comparison, any other spirit being who turns away from God's grace is engaging in some small event. On the contrary, ANY spiritual rebellion against God at ANY time is a tragedy beyond our ability to understand!

There is joy in heaven over one individual who turns from sin and repents and begins following Jesus - **Luke 15:7**. Think about how sad it would be as each spirit being who followed after Satan left God's heavenly abode and sinned.

God's other spirit beings would have been shocked: *What is happening here? How can you not stay here where God is?*

**Let's remember the right way before examining the wrong way:**

**Proverbs 28:10:** *He who leads the upright astray in an evil way will himself fall into his own pit, but the blameless will inherit good.*

Satan fell in a dramatic way. Actually, he did not "fall;" he purposely stepped off a cliff.

Once Lucifer's example had been set and once the precedent had been established upon such a lofty stage, it was only a matter of opportunity for others to fall, to take that same dramatic step of disobedience. Satan had been truly glorious, powerful and honored, and his example would have been a "hard to avoid" influence. We imagine everybody in the heavenly realm would have seen or been aware of it.

**Satan's actions and dark leadership influenced other "sons of God" towards rebellion. This is the beginning of satanic demons influencing our world:**

**Genesis 6:1-2: (ASV)** *1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born unto them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all that they chose.*

Notice, the *sons of God* (not "angels") were dabbling in the lives of mankind of their own accord and following their own desires as Satan did and were not acting as messengers of God.

These spiritual sons of God were acting with their own free will. Everything in the heavenly realm is under God's guidance. When a being decides to deviate from God's direction and instead goes out on their own, there is disloyalty. This is where things fall apart.

Let's go back to the satanist's website we've been quoting from that looks to deconstruct Christianity.

Christians incessantly claim that "The Devil Deceives," "The Devil Deceives..." What they fail to see is that everything they accuse the Devil of is really the God that they worship, known as Yaweh/Jehova. Everything that the Christians accuse the "Devil" of, is really of their own God. This is proven in the Biblical scriptures: "A Murderer and a Liar from the Beginning," "Human Hating," "He Deceiveth all of the Nations."

This website is quoting scriptures that obviously in context apply to Satan, and instead they are applying them to God Almighty. Why are they doing this?





**Misquote and misrepresent God's Word,  
knowing most will accept but never verify  
the accusations.**

Why does this work? It builds a subculture of doubt based on a lie just like Satan told Eve in the beginning (*you shall not surely die*). This is a strategy. How do Satan's satanic demons influence our world? Social media is especially insidious at passing lies that people will accept as truth. The lie is passed along and begins to grow, such as with this website we are quoting from.

This may sound redundant, but Satan's followers follow Satan. This means they adhere to the inherent disloyalty to God that Satan created. This disloyalty is the basis of ALL sin.

### **What happened to these followers of Satan?**

**1 Peter 3:18-20:** *18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that he might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also he went and made proclamation to the spirits now in **prison** <5438>, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.*

**Prison:** Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5438 *phulake*; a guarding or (concretely, guard), the act, the person; figuratively, the place, the condition, or (specifically) the time (as a division of day or night), literally or figuratively

These "imprisoned" spirits are followers of Satan and relegated to the shadows of earth, as is Satan. But even within this limitation, they have great power. This is the paradox when looking from the outside in. If they are in some sort of prison, it would seem they would be cut off from influencing the world. But that's not how it works. They are limited in how much they can do as they cannot enter heaven again, but this doesn't mean they do not have any power.

### **Jude reminds us that what those spirit beings did can be easily repeated on a human level:**

**Jude 1:3-4:** *3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Definition: "Licentiousness" means a disregard of rules or moral norms. Lewd behavior.

Jude goes on to mention Israel after their deliverance from Egypt and how some were destroyed for unbelief. He also mentions Sodom and Gomorrah and their destruction as a result of their immorality.

**He also points to spirit beings who rebelled as an example:**

**Jude 1:6:** *And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,*

The *imprisonment* described in 1 Peter is the *bonds of darkness* (a lack of light) here in Jude. This gives us an understanding of what imprisonment is actually like for these beings. It is a darkness, a limitation. Where there is no light of God, there is no absolute truth. There is only the ability to twist and turn pieces of truth. They dwell in twisted truth, but not without some power.

Peter, like Jude, uses several examples of sin and disloyalty to God while he warns against false prophets.

**We will focus only on the example of what happens to spirit beings when they become disloyal to God:**

**2 Peter 2:4:** *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (“tartaroo”) and committed them to pits (chains in King James Version) of darkness, reserved for judgment.*

Here is yet another description of what happens to the followers of Satan, helping us to understand the context from which the evil comes. Peter here calls their “imprisonment” *tartaroo*, translated from Greek as *hell* in this verse. What is it? Is it a place where demons live? Is it a condition?

*Tartaroo* – often translated *hell*, sometimes translated *tartarus*, is only used in this one place in the Bible. The word is a verb and therefore not a place, but rather more of an action of being incarcerated. This is an important distinction. As a verb, these rebellious spirit beings were cast down from heaven into a condition of restraint.

A recap of what we can know about *tartaroo* and what leads to it:

**2 Peter 2:4** – sinful angels sent there – *chains of darkness* – *reserved for judgment*.

**Jude 1:6** – sinful angels forsook their proper rank – now in *eternal bonds* – *under darkness*. In darkness, there is no light. This doesn’t mean they don’t have power, but it is power without godliness, which is never good.

The disloyal and evil actions of these fallen spirits led to the action of God, which was to cast them out of God’s light and His heavenly abode into a condition of darkness and restrained limitations. God essentially said they are no longer welcome or allowed in the light. Yes, they are powerful, but they exist out of the presence of God and in the presence of Satan so their power is restrained from what it once was.

When we have the father of lies with his followers out of God's light, this is a bad equation that spells darkness, evil and everything contrary to who and what God really is.

## **Revealing satanic and demonic origins and influences:**

**Satan's dark leadership brought sweeping consequences for those spirit beings who followed him. They are all out of God's light and in a darkness of their own choice. While this may sound like a time to be relieved, it is actually a time for vigilance, for their darkness does not mean they are without great power.**



### **LESSON 2**

Disloyalty to God brings separation from God, and this separation reveals any being's true character.

It's all too easy to follow the subtly of Satan and his followers.

This can all get really complicated really quickly. Satan and his demons are stifled and yet powerful. We are so glad God has all of this in hand!

**Satan and these demons are basically stuck with earth as their place of influence. Why would God allow such a thing to happen?**

God allows it because it is the direct result of sin and disobedience. The entire penalty of *dying thou shalt die* (**Genesis 2:17**) given to Adam was not a consequence of just dropping dead after sinning. On the contrary, it was the consequence of having the experience of sin and death fester, grow and undermine God's righteousness as Satan and his followers drove their own agenda.

Adam made a loyalty decision, and we are living with the consequences of that decision. Satan made a loyalty decision, and he became loyal to himself. Adam essentially became loyal to Satan's word over God's word. Satan's followers are loyal to Satan over God. What do we have as a result? Satan as the ruler of this world.

**Being the ruler of this world, Satan poses as something he is not:**

**2 Corinthians 11:14:** *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

How can he disguise himself as an *angel of light* if he is in darkness? He puts shreds of truth together and creates a fictitious picture that is all people see. In this day and age, if it is on social media or in a sensational headline, many will believe it. This is how Satan works.



**All who serve him (both human and spirit) do the same:**

**2 Corinthians 11:15:** *Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

Three of the primary things Satan and his demons want:

1. To look good,
2. power to rule, and
3. obedience from those they have authority over.

They want to be *like the Most High*. They want to usurp God's authority and power.

With the thought of *disguising themselves as servants of righteousness*, let's go back to the satanist's website we have been quoting from.

The problem is that few people actually REALLY read the Bible. Most just believe what they are told regarding Christianity and the Bible. Few read it and can see it for what it is for. Even fewer would stop to think or even question why the Bible has numbers. Everything in the Bible has been stolen and corrupted, with the spiritual knowledge removed.

People writing such things are posing as messengers of light! They say, *get away from that corrupted Bible*. Many who hear this are not going to challenge it. Their comment about why the Bible has numbers has to do with their thought that the numerology of the Scriptures points to Satan ruling, which is absolutely false. They are trying to convince people that darkness is light.



**Demean God's word to such a point that those over whom you have influence will develop a natural hatred and disdain for it – and those who believe in it.**

Today, the Jewish people are being attacked in the same way with misinformation. Darkness as light. There is something dreadfully wrong with this picture – people are following the wrong lead. It is subtle and people don't even know it; they accept what is put in front of them.

Let's get down to the concrete aspects of how Satan and his followers actually work.

When Jesus was ready to begin his ministry, Satan saw him as a threat and sought to eliminate that threat. How did he do that? Jesus was baptized and went up into the wilderness to fast for 40 days and 40 nights, to pray and be close to his Father that he might learn His objectives.

The first satanic strategy when Jesus was in the wilderness by himself was the three temptations. This was all Satan, but his followers do what their leader does, so they use this strategy too.



**Satan (and his followers) tempt based on our human needs.**

**Matthew 4:2-4:** *2 And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, if you are the son of God, command that these stones become bread. 4 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.*

- Physical temptation - Jesus had a human need to eat. He was hungry.
- Mental temptation - Satan said *IF you are the son of God*. Satan was trying to rattle Jesus.

Satan took a valid, human, physical weakness and built upon it in order to turn Jesus from the objective. But Jesus answered with Scripture, *Man shall not live on bread alone*.



**Satan (and his followers) misapply scripture for their own gain and power.**

**Matthew 4:5-7:** *5 Then the devil took him into the holy city and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 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. (He used scripture! Psalm 91:12) 7 Jesus said to him, On the other hand, it is written, you shall not put the Lord your God to the test.*

Satan is saying, *Prove you are the son of God. Show everyone that God is your Father. Do it my way. I know your Scriptures and here's what they say...*

Jesus was wise enough and humble enough to answer with **Deuteronomy 6:16**, *you shall not put the LORD your God to the test.*



**Having already usurped godly authority, Satan (and his followers) seek loyalty by any devious means possible**

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

Satan knew Jesus was coming for a kingdom, so he tried to steer Jesus in a different way, saying, *I'll just give you the kingdom here and now if you bow down to me.* Jesus kept referring back to God's word.

An interesting detail about this temptation is the devil took Jesus to *a very high mountain*. Symbolically in the Bible, mountains represent governments. Perhaps Satan took Jesus to a high vantage point to say, *look at the kingdoms of this world from my perspective because this is MY mountain. I can give them to you right now. All you have to do (it's really very simple) is forget the sacrifice thing and just bow down and worship me.* Jesus' answer was a resounding, *GO AWAY, Satan! Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only!*

**We know that God bestows His spirit (His power and influence) upon His chosen followers:**

**1 John 4:12-13:** *12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His spirit.*

We have looked at how Jesus dealt with Satan's temptations, but what about us?

God gives His faithful followers His spirit - His power and His influence - to work in their lives. God's spirit had worked in the lives of God's chosen throughout Old and New Testament times. The way the spirit worked was different in the Old Testament from the New, but a portion of God's spirit was present in the lives of all of them.

The gift of "begetting" Jesus' true disciples with God's spirit is evident now in this age of the gospel message being sent forth. However, Satan is always trying to get the upper hand. How? He looks to the God who has wisdom, might, power, glory and honor and tries to copy Him.



**Satan and his demons seek to mimic the working of God's spirit with their own influence.**

Demons "enter" humans in different ways. First is the gripping power of their evil suggestions:

**Entered:** Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1525 *eisérchomai*;  
to enter (literally or figuratively): - arise, com (in, into), enter in(-to), go in (through)

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon includes: to enter, of entrance to any condition,  
state of things, society, employment

**Luke 22:3-4:** *3 And Satan entered <1525> into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. 4 And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.*

We do not believe that Judas was “possessed”; rather, he had sold himself over to evil. Anything that lowers pure loyalty to God is sinfulness. **Satan and his demons seek to become centers of influence in our minds.** They do not seek to take over everything; they just want to be a center of influence – a place for us to stop and consider as we go through life. This is one way they have a dramatic influence in our lives. We must be careful what we allow to be a center of influence.

There is another way that Satan and his demons enter our lives that is more difficult and devious:



**Satan and his demons “enter”  
by overwhelmingly controlling a willing mind.**

#### **An example of demon possession:**

**Luke 4:33-35:** (NRSV) <sup>33</sup> *In the synagogue there was a man who **had** <2192> the spirit of an unclean **demon** <1140>, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> *Let us alone! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God. <sup>35</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, be silent, and come **out of** <1537> him! When the **demon** <1140> had thrown him down before them, he came **out of** <575> him without having done him any harm.**

**Had:** Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #2192 *echo*; a primary verb  
Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to have, i.e., to hold 1a) to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to have (hold) possession of the mind (refers to alarm, agitating emotions, etc.), to hold fast keep, to have or comprise or involve

**Demon:** Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #1140 *daimonion*;  
a daemonic being; by extension a deity - devil, god

**Out of:** Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #1537 *ék*, origin  
(the point whence action or motion proceeds), from, out  
(of place, time, or cause; literal or figurative; direct or remote)

**Out of:** Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #575 *apo*; “off,” i.e., away (from something near),  
in various senses (of place, time, or relation; literal or figurative)

This is different than the previous example. Previously, we talked about how Satan and his followers seek to be a center of influence in our lives. This happens in the mind.

This second example is not nearly as common, but it is deadly serious. This man held a demonic influence inside of him that drove his actions. Jesus told the demon to be silent and come out of the man. When Jesus commanded the demonic influence to come out, the Greek word #1537 means “to separate or be separate from.” When it came out of the man, a different Greek word #575 is used, meaning “to go away from.”

Not only did the demon separate from the man, it ran away or fled because the power of Jesus with God’s spirit was too much for him.

The demons are aware of their future destruction if they remain unrepentant.

Demonic possession is a reality. We need to be careful to avoid anything that even remotely could put us in such a position.

## **Revealing satanic and demonic origins and influences:**

**Satan and his followers' dark, deceptive and powerful influences can come by way of physical testing, misapplication of godly principles and misapplied loyalty. His influence can manipulate, convince and rationalize one's better judgment. It can also grab hold of and control a willing and unguarded mind.**



### **LESSON 3**

Be fearfully yet faithfully aware of how far and wide Satan and his demons will try and reach.

What are some examples of how we can allow subtle, evil influences into our lives?

When we think on, dwell on, or apply anything less than a godly principle, we are in danger. When we say, *nobody's going to see* or *this is not so bad; this is okay* – such thoughts mean we think we do not need to adhere to godly standards just at this moment. *It's Saturday, my day off...* We don't have a day off from godly loyalty. Satan's subtlety is everywhere. We are being bombarded with subtle temptations every day through technology. It is everywhere. We need to be aware, be on our guard and filter! Turn off what does not bring us higher.

All in all, this is not a happy message. Because Satan is obsessed with control, we need to be obsessed with godliness!

**This is all quite unsettling. How can we be sure we will be able to stay far away from Satan and his evil followers?**

The formula for truly staying away from Satan is to truly stay attached to God, our Lord Jesus and godly righteousness. As the Bible directly and plainly describes the true evils of satanic influence, it also plainly and directly describes the power and safety of God's care. Even though Satan is the "god of this world," he is NOT in any way a god over God's people.

The principle is simple. To run away from Satan, we need to be running towards godliness. If we are running away with no direction, we are not running away; we are just stalling. We need to run towards godliness.



**New Testament warnings focus us on having an awareness of Satan and his objectives:**

**1 Peter 5:6-9:** *6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

Because we all humble ourselves and submit to something, let us be sure we are submitting to God.

What am I running from? Where am I running to? Both questions are equally important.

*8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Being humble and trusting in God brings a higher state of caution against darkness.

To be sober-minded means to be settled, focused and thinking in a mature way rather than just reacting. Understand that the devil is there so we can stay away from him. Be aware so we can stay away.

*9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

We are not alone! That is a beautiful thought. We have others we can rely on. When we are being tried and tempted, it is so important to find someone who is godly to help us walk through the experience. Godly help is how we stay strong.

(Quoting from a satanist's website) Most people, due to being systematically programmed and brainwashed have misplaced faith, do what they're told and do not question. To fully understand and to prove Christianity is a hoax, one must have personal experience in the powers of the mind and soul and do years of intensive research. This is all beyond the average person. All swindles and scams must have one very important factor for them to succeed, THE FAITH OF THE VICTIM. The extent of the Christianity hoax is mind boggling. What is on this website is just the tip of the iceberg so to speak. We will be adding more articles soon.

To break from Christian brainwashing, this website says you have to submit yourself to "the powers of the mind and the soul" and devote years to intensive research. Since "this is all beyond the average person," this may be too much for you, so just listen to this website. We are telling you this is good. Trust us...

Do you see the subtlety of this strategy? Stay away!



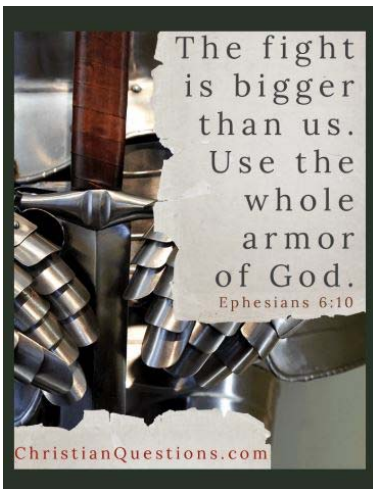
**After thoroughly discrediting God's word, destroy the possibility for any Christian to be credible on any level. Then tell those who would follow satanic thinking to submit their experiences and mind to digging into, studying and committing to darkness.**

Don't forget the way the website sets it up: It's too hard, too immense, too intense, so just take their word for it.



If you've listened to us for any period of time, you know the whole point of this podcast is to study the Scriptures and **prove it yourself**. We are encouraging you to find out for yourself what is there. This is a very different approach. We do not have anything to be afraid of, to cover or to hide. This is just truth. What the satanist's website is showing you is an erroneous way to look at things so they can keep you away from godliness. That is their objective.

How do we set ourselves up to stay as far away from all of this as possible?



**1. Know that this is a battle MUCH bigger than you or I can fight:**

**Ephesians 6:12:** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

This is too big for any of us. There are spiritual powers, spiritual forces, spiritual wickedness – high powers that we don't even comprehend. They can crush us like a little bug! It is beyond our abilities. This is a little scary, so let's go to point number two.

**2. Arm yourself, realizing that to be partially armed is to not be fully protected:**

**Ephesians 6:13:** *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*

Be fully armed! Do not mess around. No halfway games. To be sound in our spirituality and our godliness, we must be fully armed.

**3. Understand how spiritual armor works as a complete unit to withstand spiritual wickedness:**

**Ephesians 6:14-18:** *14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth...*

The armor of God begins with truth. The girdle of truth is what binds all of our armor together. Let godly truth - not desire, curiosity or emotion - hold your armor in place.

The belt (or girdle) of truth holds the sword of the spirit and holds up the other pieces of armor. If we do not understand the truth, we will fall prey to the lies of the devil. If our belt is on crooked, we will have difficulty getting to our sword of the spirit. The belt neither protects nor attacks; it simply holds everything else in place. Having proper reverence for God, what He deems holy, and His EXACT instructions are what holds everything in our life together.

*...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

Breastplate = vital organ protection. Our heart and all that feeds our lives are safe under that breastplate when we stand in and for godly righteousness in the face of spiritual wickedness. Remember, the breastplate is held in place by the girdle of truth. God's truth holds it in place. Don't settle for anything less!

Not only does the breastplate cover the heart, but it also protects our vital organs and moves when we move. Our breastplate is the righteousness and justification of Jesus. It is a weapon of defense, as the ransom satisfies the just requirements of God and saves us from death.

*15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

The truth of the gospel can and will stand against evil. We need to take it everywhere. It is called the *gospel of peace*. Why? Because Satan is a god of destruction, a god of chaos. The *gospel of peace* brings *Good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people*. It is much like *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. That's the peace of God we want driving us to stand against the chaos of satanic thought and demonic influence.

We should be spreading the gospel message with us wherever our steps take us. We cannot carry peace to anyone if we are lying and sinning and trying to cover it up, leading a double life. In addition, the shoes of a soldier help them run from danger and retreat when it is necessary to regroup. To walk in the right path, we need to be where we are supposed to be, doing what we are supposed to be doing.

*16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

Strong faith, not credulity or emotionalism. Not, *I want it my way*. Not, *he said it's okay, so it must be*. Strong faith in godly truth from scripture will protect us from satanic attacks.

*This shield of faith...will...extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.* It doesn't just block them; it extinguishes them. We have to understand what faith in God through Scripture can do. We are in a position where satanic influence is all around us. It is everywhere. This is that great big shield of faith so that when Jonathan and Rick stand next to each other and behind their shields of faith, their shields are together, protecting each other. And then if Julie stands behind both of them, she can put her shield over them and the three of us protect each other; that is what this kind of shield does.



Bible Commentary from Jamieson, Fausset and Brown says this particular type of shield was the large, oblong, door-like shield of the Romans, four feet long by two and a half feet broad.

This shield offers a massive portable protection. It is an offensive weapon for pushing back an enemy, but it can also be lined up with other soldiers to create a wall of defense. We are on the battlefield with our fellow soldiers and fight together. There is safety within the fellowship of Christianity. Each soldier huddled together may have a different perspective. That gives us a better picture of the enemy we may be facing. It also calls upon us to listen to our fellow soldiers. We are protected together when in a place of vulnerability – a place where there are no walls. This shield is a portable wall, just like our faith should be. Do we carry our portable wall wherever we go?

*17 And take the helmet of salvation...*

This has to do with our heads, our minds. Knowing, accepting and dwelling on the salvation of Jesus protects our minds from the power of satanic influences creeping into our thoughts. It protects our minds from allowing satanic thinking to become a center of influence which plants itself in our lives, maybe when we are not looking.

The helmet of salvation, also called the helmet of the hope of salvation in **1 Thessalonians 5:8**, protects our head, our mind, our intellect; it is the control center for the entire soldier. How fitting that this protection is made of salvation, because we must have an intellectual acceptance and understanding of the ransom of Jesus on our behalf. With this understanding in place, we are able to truly focus on the battle at hand.

*...and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.*

How much more can we say it? It comes down to God's word! Fight back, but not in your own power or emotional reaction. Fight back with God's word, like Jesus did during the three temptations in the wilderness.

The sword allows us to wield a great power. We can properly use God's word, the Bible, with His spirit. This helps us to deal when the answers are "no." We do not want to put down the sword and get upset that we are not able or allowed to do something we want - especially if it is something positive in His service. The other armor is fastened to us - but with this sword, it is our decision to pick up and carry it or to put it down.

*18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,*

Pray. Always pray. Prayerfully gird yourself with the full armor of God.

#### 4. Know that the demons know. ACT on what YOU know:

**James 2:19-20:** *19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*

We believe that God is one God – but **James 2:19** says, *the demons also believe and shudder*. What does that mean? Perhaps the demons understand there is only one true God, and He is impervious to any kind of attack because He does not have a weakness here or there, so they shudder!

#### 5. Claim God's promises of protection for your own:

**Psalms 91:3-5:** *3 For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. 5 You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day.*

What a beautiful promise! The Bible is full of these kinds of promises that can help us to stand on the right kind of ground. We claim them and allow God's protection to be in us, around us and about us.

These five important points help us put demonic influences far away from us.

Here is one final set of scriptures to encourage us of God's presence in this spiritual battle. When the Apostle Paul testified before King Agrippa, he told the king of his earlier angry life and his conversion to following Jesus. Remember, he hunted Christians and killed them prior to his conversion.

**In his testimony, Paul expanded on the details of what Jesus told him on the day of his conversion:**

**Acts 26:16-19:** *16 But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in me. 19 So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision.*

In the last part, Paul described his mission: He was called to open the eyes of the Gentiles who worshipped pagan and satanic things, *that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God.* We can't have both. If we have one foot in each world, we are still in the darkness. Paul was obedient to this vision.

## **Revealing satanic and demonic origins and influences:**

**Satanic and demonic power and influence are real and prevalent in our world. While this should be unsettling, it should also be motivating.**

**Let us stand for truth, righteousness, godliness and integrity as we resist these influences through God's grace, strength and armor.**

We are called to resist such things - but not on our own power, not of our own accord. We have to stand with God through Christ. We have to be armed and ready. We have to stand together because the battle against satanic and demonic influence is bigger than any one of us. Make sure you stand where you need to stand so you can give God the glory of your loyalty to Him.

**So, how do satanic demons influence the world?  
for Rick, Jonathan and Christian Questions...  
...Think about it!**



*All scriptures cited are from the NASB1995 translation unless otherwise noted.*



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### Bonus Material and Study Questions

#### Recommended additional study:

**Ep. 1266: Why Doesn't God Just Destroy Satan?**

*Satan's history and God's righteous reasons for keeping him alive*

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1266-destroy-satan/>

**Ep. 1235: Can Christianity and Paganism Work Together? (Part I)**

*Comparing the core values of Paganism with biblical Christian principles*

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1235-paganism/>

**Ep. 1222: How Is Satan Trying to Devour Me?**

*How the Devil attempts to sabotage my Christian life*

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1222-satan-devour/>

**(Booklet): "Fortune Tellers and The Spirit World – What Does the Bible Say?"**

<https://chicagobible.org/fortune-tellers-and-the-spirit-world-intro/>

Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube:



- Who is Satan? <https://youtu.be/ZeZgRyBUYG8>
- What does the Bible say about Satan? [https://youtu.be/7\\_1WRtylBys](https://youtu.be/7_1WRtylBys)
- Why should we avoid fortune telling, witchcraft and ouija boards? <https://youtu.be/pblfFV30CGw>
- What is the armor of God? <https://youtu.be/iMLZmPGQOn8>

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**Remember how the saga of Satan ends. Satan is to be bound during the 1,000 years of Christ's reign:**

**Revelation 20:1-3:** (KJV) *1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

...and he is then destroyed (**Revelation 20:9-10**).

**Another encouraging text about where we need to stand:**

**James 4:4, 7-8:** *4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

**A text that really shows us how our backwards world was recognized by God:**

**Isaiah 5:18-23:** *18 Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood, and sin as if with cart ropes; 19 Who say, Let him make speed, let him hasten his work, that we may see it; and let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come to pass, that we may know it! 20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight! 22 Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine and valiant men in mixing strong drink, 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!*

# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1305: How Do Satanic Demons Influence Our World?

See:  CQ Rewind  
SHOW NOTES

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1305-demons/>

1. Who is Lucifer? Describe him. What was his job in Eden? What happened to him? How did Lucifer use the first “Satanic Strategy” in the Garden of Eden with Eve? (Ezekiel 28:13-16, Genesis 3:4-5)
2. List Lucifer’s ambitions (the five “I”s in Isaiah 14:12-14). Which was the most unthinkable? What caused him to think he was entitled to such a lofty position? What was God’s response to Lucifer’s aims? (Ezekiel 28:16-17)
3. How did Lucifer’s example influence other spirit beings? How is the second “Satanic Strategy” used in Satan’s original lie to Eve? How could that strategy work in the present world? Where are these spirit beings (and Satan) now? What is the significance of being in the dark? What is *tartaroo*? What is the result of spirit beings’ disloyalty to God? Describe their existence. (Proverbs 28:10, Genesis 6:1-2, 1 Peter 3:18-20, Jude 1:3-6, 2 Peter 2:4)
4. Despite being confined to earth’s atmosphere, what position has Satan seized at this time? How has he managed to convince all his followers (human and spiritual) that he is worthy to be followed? How does the third “Satanic Strategy” play into this? (2 Corinthians 4:4, 11:14-15)
5. Why did Satan tempt Jesus in the wilderness? (Matthew 4:2-11)
  - a) Jesus’ 1st temptation involved which “Satanic Strategy”? How could that be used against you?
  - b) Jesus’ 2nd temptation used which “Satanic Strategy”? In what way could you see this used in your life?
  - c) Have you experienced an easy way around a difficult problem that is not ethical? Might that be similar to Jesus’ 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation? How did you handle it?
6. What is the promise given God’s chosen followers in 1 John 4:12-13? Explain the “Satanic Strategy” of becoming centers of influence in our minds. Think of those things that influence you – are these influences pure and godly? What is the other way Satan controls a willing mind? What should our response be to subtle, possibly evil influences that creep into our lives? (Luke 4:33-35, 22:3-4)
7. What is the formula for staying away from satanic influences? Is it enough to run away from them? Explain all the warnings, promises and comforts given in 1 Peter 5:6-9. Which will be the most helpful for you?
8. Discuss our preparation to protect ourselves from Satan and his demons. (Ephesians 6:12-18)
  - a) verse 12: Who is our struggle against? What must we recognize about this battle?
  - b) verse 13: What is necessary in order to stand firm? What must we put on?
  - c) verse 14a: Explain the importance of the girdle or belt of truth. What kind of weapon is a belt?
  - d) verse 14b: What does the breastplate protect? What is our breastplate?
  - e) verse 15: How does the gospel of peace define our path and our lives?
  - f) verse 16: What can this shield of faith do for us? Why is it important to be within a fellowship of believers?
  - g) verse 17a: How does the helmet of salvation protect our minds?
  - h) verse 17b: What is our sword of the spirit? How is this an offensive (rather than defensive) weapon?
  - i) Verse 18: Why is it important to pray always?
  - j) What do the demons know? (James 2:19-20)
9. What comfort do you find in reading Psalms 91:3-5?