

## Things You Should Know About Satan

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### ➤ Intro:

- **Satan is someone we contend with everyday**
  - he wants us to **give into** peer pressure – school starting this week
  - he wants us to **turn** away from God, and live in sin
  - he wants us to **exchange** our souls for the pleasures of sin
  - he wants us to **live in hell** for eternity with him
  
- - **since Satan is our most formidable enemy, we should know as much about his tactics we can**
  - **illus.: we know from a human perspective** it helps to know our enemies, so we can defeat them
    - **documentary: “Know Your Enemy: Japan”** was released on August 9, 1945, the day Nagasaki was bombed – WWII (cut most of scrolling words out of video)
    - **purpose of film:** educate American soldiers on their enemy’s history and society – WWII
    - **important for soldiers to know** as much about their enemy as possible, so they know his tricks, how he thinks and acts, can anticipate his deceptive ploys
    - **important for us (soldiers of Christ) to know** everything we can about our enemy **Satan**

- **Things we should know about our spiritual enemy, Satan** – character, behavior, attributes
  - **Jn. 8:44 Satan is the father of lies**
    - **anything that is not truth** (not in harmony with God’s word), **is of Satan**
    - **should expect him to lie about:** himself, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, word, sin, heaven, hell, Christians, etc.
      - **lying** (deception) is **Satan’s principle weapon**
      - **be careful not to believe lie:** religion, brethren, other people, etc.
    - **how should we feel?** - toward religious error - toward people who’ve believed Satan’s lies
- - **Gen. 3:1-6 Satan lies about God and His word, and uses lust to convince people**
  - **1a Satan is crafty** (cunning, deceitful)
    - **1 Pet. 5:8** he’s prowling like a roaring lion seeking to devour us
    - Satan often waits till we are vulnerable, then challenges us (lie, deception, temptation)
- - **1b Satan asked a question**
  - **asked a question that gave a negative impression of God** – probably knew the answer
    - **illus.: Did you see one of your elders in the liquor store?** - asked question, negative impression
  - **put Eve on the defensive**
    - **illus.: Why do you go to a church where elders go to liquor stores?** - put on defensive, even if not truth
  - **evil people - liars:**
    - **use questions to give false impressions**, without technically telling lie
    - **often pretend they don’t know answer** – play stupid
    - **use questions and innuendo to stir up trouble and lead people astray**
- - **2-3 Eve knew the truth and communicated to Satan**
  - many people have know the truth, but been deceived by Satan
- - **4 Satan directly contradicts God**, while he words could also be misconstrued as speaking in a different context
  - **Eve may not have understood everything Satan said**, but she had to understand that God and Satan were directly opposed to each other – **had to decide which to believe** – chose to believe Satan
  - **illus.: false teachers and baptism**
    - contradict God
      - don’t have to be baptized to be saved (cf. Mk. 16:16)
      - baptism does not save us (cf. 1 Pet. 3:21)
    - try to change the context to deceive us
      - baptism is a symbol, not really saved when baptized (cf. “symbol” not in text)
  - **when someone plainly and decisively contradicts God**, we should flee, not listen
- - **5 Satan twists the truth to make God look like a deceitful liar**, deceiver, tempted Eve with the possibility of becoming as wise as God – **temptation, lust** ( 2 Pet. 2:1-2)
  - **Eve may not have understood**, but should have rejected Satan based on the clear contradiction (vs. 4)
  - **when someone or something contradicts God’s word, we should reject them and everything they teach** (2 Pet. 3:16)
- - **6a Eve gave into the temptation and sinned** – lust eye, lust flesh, boastful pride of life
  - **the reason Satan tempts us is** to get us to turn from God and sin
    - when we give into temptation we sin
  - **all temptation should be viewed as if** someone was holding a gun to our head, and we should fight
- - **6b Satan uses other people to try and get us to sin** – used Eve to get to Adam
  - **1 Tim. 2:14 Adam not deceived directly**, but Satan used Eve to get to him, when he listened to the voice of his wife (Gen. 3:17)
  - **Satan deceives people, then tries to use them against others**
    - **we can’t listen to their voice**, or we’ll sin against God and spend eternity in hell

- **illus.:** many people who are promoting false doctrine sincerely believe it
  - we can't listen to them and obey their doctrine – they've been deceived
  - temptation: peer pressure, we like everyone else

➤ **Some of Satan's lies (deceptions) (Jn. 8:44)**

- **God is whoever you think He is** – He's different things to different people, and called by different names
  - **truth: the Lord God is one**, people who turn away from Him are punished (Eph. 4:5; Heb. 10:30-31)

➤ **- Satan is a myth** – he doesn't exist

- **illus.:** **The Usual Suspects** (1995 movie, which I've not seen and don't endorse)

- "The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing people he didn't exist." (quote from 1995 movie, The Usual Suspects, which I've heard of and don't endorse)

- **illus.:** **Robert Anton Wilson**

- "The devil is only a convenient myth invented by the real malefactors of our world."

- **truth: Satan is prowling** around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8)

➤ **- demons don't exist, since Satan doesn't exist**

- **illus.:** **Sigmund Freud**

- "Demons do not exist any more than gods do, being only the products of the psychic activity of man."

- **truth:**

- **Satan disguises himself** as an angel of light, and **his servants disguise themselves** as servants of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:14-15)

- **Satan was through down** to earth with his angels (Rev. 12:9)

- **James tells us demons exist** when he says they "**believe and shudder**" (Ja. 2:19)

- **people fall away** by paying attention to **doctrines of demons** (1 Tim. 4:1)

➤ **- no or little punishment:** if Satan doesn't exist, no need to be saved, nothing to be saved from, no punishment

- **illus.:** **purgatory**

- **Roman Catholic** doctrine, punished just a little then you get out and can go to heaven

- **illus.:** **reincarnation**

- **New Age** doctrine, get to try over and over again till you get it right, then you get to spend eternity in restful bliss

- **truth: we don't get a second chance** after we die – die once then judgment (Heb. 9:27)

➤ **- all religions are the same, just different roads to the same place**

- **illus.:** **church choice**

- **it doesn't matter what you believe or where you go to church** – attend the church of your choice

- **illus.:** **New Age**

- **doesn't matter if you believe in Jesus or Buddah or any other religious teacher**, they're 2 teachers of the same thing

- **illus.:** **belief of many in denominations**

- **you don't have to know God's word, you just have to be a member** of a church

- **truth: Jesus is Savior of the body** (church), no way to get to heaven but through Him, must be a faithful member of His church to be saved (Eph. 5:23-24; Jn. 14:6; Heb. 5:9)

➤ **- many more:**

- **good people doing good things are saved** – evil people do evil things and are lost

➤ **- you can trust yourself and your own instincts** – just follow your conscience

➤ **- God made you the way you are, so it's okay to do what comes natural** (homosexuality)

➤ **- don't worry about the consequences of sin, just have fun and enjoy it** – passing pleasures of sin

➤ **- money is the secret to happiness** – getting rich is most important thing

➤ **- just one time won't hurt** (one lie, one deception, one drink, one drug, one time having premarital sex)

- - you can be a lukewarm Christian and still go to heaven – don't need to be zealous or fervent
  
- **How do you defeat (overcome) Satan?**
  - **Jn. 8:44-47** people who are of the devil don't believe Jesus, or obey Him
    - **context:** they do not hear and obey His word
    - **this separates us from the rest of the world** – believe, obey
    - **we will have conflicts with people who are of the devil** – religiously, intellectually, and socially
  
- - **Jn. 8:31-32** truth sets you free from Satan – sin and death
  - **Rom. 6:3-7** we're set free from sin when baptized, become God's child
  - **1 Cor. 10:13** in Christ, free from Satan and sin, **able to endure every temptation**
    - **not tempted beyond** what we can bear
    - **God always provides** a way of escape
  
- - **Jn. 14:6** Jesus is the truth – way, truth, life – only way to the Father is through Him (**Jn. 1:1; 17:17**)
  - **1 Pet. 2:21** walk in Jesus' footsteps
  - **Jesus is the truth, the only way to defeat Satan and overcome sin is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ**
  
- - **2 Th. 2:10-12** you must love the truth to be saved, or else we'll believe lies and be lost in sin
  - **illus.: most people reject the truth**
    - **Bara Research, people's belief in Satan** (stats from Barna Research, published [religioustolerance.org/chr\\_sat4.htm](http://religioustolerance.org/chr_sat4.htm))
      - **1991:** 60% of American believed Satan was just a *symbol* of evil
      - **2001:** only 27% of the adult population disagreed that Satan was just a symbol of evil (73% thought he was just a symbol, increase of 13% in 10 years)
      - **2007:** only 24% of people polled rejected the idea that Satan is a real, spiritual being (76% didn't think he's a real, spiritual being, increase of 3% in 6 years)
      - **most people don't believe Satan is real – possibly the greatest lie ever told**
  - **Christians: reject Satan's lies, believe the truth, love the truth, obey the truth, saved**
    - **inv.** become a Christian – reject Satan, believe the truth, obey Jesus, be set free from Satan and sin