



THE DEVIL

KNOWING THE ENEMY

Growing Christians Study #4

“...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” I Peter 1:8

- I. The Devil's Titles and Character
 - A. Satan
 - B. Devil
 - C. Beelzebub
 - D. Belial
 - E. The Wicked One
 - F. Prince of This World
 - G. The God of This World
 - H. Prince of Power of The Air
 - I. That Old Serpent
 - J. Dragon
 - K. Angel of Light
 - L. Murderer
 - M. Roaring Lion
 - N. Accuser Of The Bretheren
 - O. Lucifer
 - P. The Tempter
- II. The Devil's Orgin
- III. The Devil's Fall
- IV. The Devil's Location
- V. The Devil's Work
 - A. For Unbelievers
 - 1. He Produces Sickness
 - 1. He Hinders The Word of God
 - 2. He Blinds Minds
 - 3. He Enters Into Them
 - 4. He Promotes False Teaching
 - 5. He Promotes Wickedness

- B. For Believers
 - 1. He Accuses Them Before God
 - 2. He Resists Their Works
 - 3. He Hinders Their Works
 - 4. He Seeks To Sift
 - 5. He Persecutes
 - 6. He Promotes Division
- C. For Both Believers and Unbelievers
 - 1. He Tempts To Sin
 - a. To Immorality
 - b. To Pride
 - c. To Lie
 - d. To Discouragement
 - 2. He Lays Snares
 - 3. He Harasses
- VI. The Devil's Limitations
 - A. He Is Not Omnipresent
 - B. He Is Not Omniscient
 - C. He Is Not Omnipotent
- VII. The Devil's Followers
 - A. Their Fall From Heaven
 - B. Their Nature
 - 1. They Are Morally Wicked
 - 2. They Are Deceitful
 - 3. They Are Invisible and Visible
 - 4. They Are Intelligent
 - 5. They Attempt to Predict Future
 - 6. They Have Great Strength and Energy
 - 7. They Are Seductive
 - 8. They Know Christ Power
 - 9. They Know Their Future
 - C. Their Activity
 - 1. They Carry Out Satan's Plans
 - 2. They Hinder Spiritual Progress
 - 3. They Posses Unbelievers
 - 4. They Afflict People
 - a. Physical Ailments
 - b. Mental Disorders
- VIII. The Devil's Destiny
 - A. A Cursed Enemy
 - B. A Conquered Enemy
- IX. The Devil's Hated Responses From Christians
 - A. When We Claim Redemptive Rights
 - B. When We Equip Wit God's Armour
 - C. When We Exercise Self Control
 - D. When We Demonstrate Vigilance
 - E. When We Resist His Power

Let me begin by saying this, “I HATE THE DEVIL.” With every fiber of my being, I loathe our enemy that is determined to hinder the Cause of Christ. I have seen the Devil ruin many lives, destroy many marriages, blind many eyes, and hinder the Glorious Gospel from reaching lost souls.

We have a VERY real enemy in the Devil. He is not a cartoon character with horns and a pitch fork that is dressed in a red suit with a long cape. He is quite the opposite. He is an attractive, subtle, cunning, manipulative, enemy that would take every soul to Hell if he could. We must not be ignorant of God’s #1 enemy. We must know him, watch for him, and fight against him! I pray this lesson will equip us to fight and defeat the Devil.

I. The Devil’s Titles and Character

A. Satan

This title is found in 49 verses in the Bible. It means “adversary.” It is one of the most common names of the Devil.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

One of the Devil’s defining character traits is found in this title. If the Devil is anything He is the adversary of God and every Christian. He is a faithful fighter against all that is Holy. If we are serving God, there will never be a moment the Devil and his demons will stop fighting against us.

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

B. Devil

This title is found in 57 verses in the Bible. It means “slanderer or deceiver”

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

C. Beelzebub

This title is found in 7 verses in the Bible. It means “prince of Demons” or “Lord of the Demons.”

Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

D. Belial

This title is found in 16 verses in the Bible. It means “good-for-nothing.”

Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

E. The Wicked One

This title is found in 6 verses in the Bible.

1John 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

F. Prince of This World

This title is found in 4 verses of the Bible.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

G. The God of This World

This title appears only once in Scripture.

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

H. Prince of Power of The Air

This title appears only once in Scripture.

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

I. That Old Serpent

This title appears twice in Scripture.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

J. Dragon

This title appears a variety of times in scripture. It is not always used as a title for the Devil.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years

K. Angel of Light

This title appears only once in Scripture.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Satan appears to be beautiful and lovely, but you will find he is despicable and bitter once you haven fallen as his prey!

L. Murderer

This title appears a variety of times in scripture. It is not always used as a title for the Devil.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

M. Roaring Lion

This title appears only once in Scripture.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

N. Accuser Of The Bretheren

This title appears only once in Scripture.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

O. Lucifer

This title appears only once in Scripture.

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

P. The Tempter

This title is found in 2 verses of the Bible.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

II. The Devil's Orgin

Ezekiel 28:13-19 is written regarding the king of Tyre; however, it is also speaking of more than the King of Tyre. Under Inspiration of Scripture Ezekiel describes more than any could be. Ezekiel is speaking of the origin of Satan.

Ezekiel 28:13-19

(13) Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

(14) Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

(15) Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

(16) By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

(17) Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

(18) Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

(19) All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Notice that verse 15 states, “*..the day that thou wast created ...*” Satan is a created being. He was not created evil by God for God created no evil. His fall into evil and sin will be discussed later. For now, just know that God created the Devil before the Devil sinned.

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

In his origin, the Devil was the greatest of all the angelic host. He was an angel that overlooked the Mercy Seat in the of the Temple in Heaven. Look back at verse 14 of Ezekiel 28. “*...Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so...*”

His name, Lucifer, in this passage means “son of the morning.” He was created in perfect beauty. Verse 17 says, “*Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty..*”

I also believe that he was to some degree a director of the choirs in heaven. Verse 13 says, “*...the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.*” The word “tabrets” means musical pipes. It seems as though he was created with the gift of music.

The Bible does not says very much about the Devil’s origin. His origin is not nearly as important as what he is or what he does. The Devil’s Origin is much like being diagnosed with cancer. You aren’t generally too concerned with how you got it, but you are overwhelmed with knowing the damage it may cause and how to defeat it. This should be our attitude towards the Devil. It isn’t wrong to study its origin, but don’t be consumed by it. Be consumed with defeating him!

III. The Devil’s Fall

The first sin that was ever committed was not Even eating of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. The very first sin occurred before man was created. The Devil committed the first sin while he was serving as a cherub in heaven. It is important to note the very first sin the heinous sin of PRIDE.

Pride is HATED with a passion by God. Psalms 6:16 says, “*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*” Guess what is number one in this list of hated sins. You got it. It is PRIDE. Pride was the sin that caused the Devil to “fall” from God’s favour to God’s wrath.

Isaiah 14:12-15

(12) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

(13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

(14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

(15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Notice all of the “I wills” in the passage. The original sin was the sin of “I will.” This sin of pride was caused by choosing his own will over the will of God. Proverbs 16:18 was true before it was penned and it is still true today. “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*”

God is no more tolerating of Pride today than He was of pride in ages past. We would do well to guard against pride at all cost.

IV. The Devil's Location

Most people think of the Devil as living in a cartoon like hell as he walks about the flames. This is not the truth. Satan does not want to spend a moment in Hell. It is a miserable place of torment even for the Devil. Revelation 20:10 tells of Satan's future and his tormented condition.

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

It is true he will be in Hell one day, but he will not go willingly and is not there now. So the question arises, where is the Devil today? The Devil is alive today on planet earth and in the heavens. I Peter 5:8 proves that the devil is roaming the earth.

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The devil not only has access to this earth. He also roams around the heavens. This is seen when the Devil approached the throne of God in the book of Job and God ask Job from whence he came.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

In short, the Devil's home for now is this earth and its heavenlies which includes access to the throne of God. This is summed up in. Ephesians 2:2 when Satan is described as the "...prince of the power of the air.." Other scriptures teach this same truth.

Ephesians 6:12 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.

Don't be fooled into thinking the Devil is in Hell and can't get out. While that will be true one day, it is not true today.

V. The Devil's Work

This category of the Devil is where every Christian should spend some time and know the work of God's #1 enemy. Some have mistakenly thought that the Devil is just floating around randomly spreading evil or sowing wickedness. According to the Bible this is not true. Satan is a calculated and focused foe that has definite works. Each work is targeted at a particular purpose.

It is important to note that there are some works that Satan can not do to a believer. Christians are protected by their Heavenly Father. It is true that a Christian can be attacked by the Devil, but can not be physically touched by the Devil without the permission of the Lord. The story of Job is one Biblical example of this truth.

Job 1:8-12

(v8) And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

(v9) Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

(v10) Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

(v11) But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

(v12) And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

1John 5:18 “ ...he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”

A. For Unbelievers

1. He Produces Sickness

Luke 13:10-11, 16-17

(10) And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

(11) And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

(16) And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

(17) And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

A person who has accepted Christ as their Saviour has the Spirit of God dwelling in them. Because the Devil does not have power of God, he does not have power to directly produce physical infirmities in a believer without God's consent. This is not the case for an unsaved person.

They are vulnerable and open to physical infirmities. It is important to know that not all sickness is a result of the Devil's working. Some mistakenly teach that ALL sickness is of the Devil. A study of the fall of man found in Genesis 3 will reveal that physical death is a result of man's sin. As a result of man's fall, we live in a sin cursed world. Part of that curse is physical pain and sickness. A person must be very careful when trying to assess a sickness to either the Devil or the fact of a sin cursed world. Nevertheless, the Devil can absolutely cause sickness among the unsaved.

The Devil may not be able to directly infirm a believer, but he does use sickness to fight against the believer. I have spoken with many missionaries that have testified of seeing physical epidemics break out just as they were entering into a major evangelistic push or as they were receiving a large shipment of the Word of God to disperse among the people in their area.

2. He Hinders The Word of God

Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

This passage is the parable of the seed and the sower. In this verse Christ is explaining the parable. In Christ's explanation of the parable, he explains that when the Gospel falls onto an unbeliever's heart they often struggle to understand it or grasp at how to place their faith in it. During this struggle the Devil comes and cause great confusion and doubt. He literally snatches the truth of the Gospel out of their hearts. The Devil knows that Romans 10:17 is true.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God

3. He Blinds Minds

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Have you ever tried to explain the Gospel to a lost person and came to the conclusion that they just could not “see it”? I have and it is a frustrating feeling. Many times they can not “see it” because the Devil has placed Spiritual blinders on their hearts. I am reminded of a time when I tried to explain to an Orthodox Jew that Christ was the Messiah. He simply could not see it. I firmly believe that Satan had blinded his eyes to the truth so that he could not see who Christ truly was. This spiritual blindness is as real as physical blindness. A blind man just can't see.

This spiritual blindness caused by Satan can be defeated. The Word of God and prayer are greater than Satan's ability to blind a heart, but it takes a praying Christian with God's Power on their life and their using God's powerful Word to break through such a blindness. God used Paul to do just that. Acts 26 is proof of God's ability to give sight to the spiritually blind.

(16)But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

(18) To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

4. He Enters Into Them

I am often asked, “Is it possible for the Devil or Demon to possess a person's mind or body?” The answer is if the person is unsaved, it is definitely possible. The Bible is full of such events.

Mark 5

(2) And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

(3) Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

(5) And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

(6) But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped..

(8) For he said unto him, Come out of the man...

(9) And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

The Devil can possess a person. It is not a joke, novelty, or exciting. Hollywood may make it look so, but it is an incredibly powerful and serious matter. A person that is possessed of the Devil can be delivered by the power of God. It should only be attempted by a Christian who is completely obedient to God, walking in His power, fellowshiping intimately with Him, following clear Bible principles, and does so in the name of Jesus Christ.

The end result of most people that are possessed of the Devil is death. Satan has but one purpose when possessing a person. That purpose is destruction and death. The Devil will use a possessed person to destroy and kill as much as possible and when he is finished, he will destroy and kill the body of whom he has possessed.

5. He Promotes False Teaching

1 John 4:1-3

(1) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

(2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

(3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Have you ever wondered where all of the false religions and cults came from? How did Hinduism, Buddhism, Mormonism, Animism, Scientology, and Islam come to be? The answer is simple; the Devil is behind them all! Through possession, manipulation, and corrupt doctrine Satan has started dozens of counterfeits to the Truth. Satan creates these false teachings using men as his puppets. Each false teaching is created to appeal to a different “cliental.” No matter what a persons philosophy, culture, or world view is, the Devil has a counterfeit teaching for them. The Devil seeks to create so many of these false religions that it will cause such confusion among people that they will not know what to believe.

6. He Promotes Wickedness

The Devil is the world’s largest producer of sodomy, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, murder, pornography, bestiality, prostitution, child abuse, pedophilia, drugs, drunkenness, and all the other vile things that destroy people and families. Satan works with our own fleshly lust and a pagan worldly philosophy to mass produce wickedness. Remember one of his names is “the wicked one.” The Devil is the author of wickedness. It was the Devil that promoted lying and pride to Eve.

B. For Believers

1. He Accuses Them Before God

Did you know that the Devil is continually putting us on trial? He approaches God and accuses us of all of all of our sin and probably testifies of how we are unworthy and deserve total destruction and death?

Revelation 12:10c for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Praise the Lord He never wins! His case against us is ruined when God sees the blood of His Son, the Perfect Lamb. While it is so very true that we are guilty of sin, it is also true that all of those sins are placed under the Blood of the Lamb. Satan can continue to accuse, but the blood will never lose it’s power!

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

2. He Resists Their Works

Some Christians have said that they do not sense the devil resisting them in their lives. To that I reply, it is possible that he is not resisting if you are not striving against him. Satan will never cease to resist our works of faith for the Kingdom of God!

Zechariah 3:1-2 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

(2) And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

3. He Hinders Their Works

You might ask, what is the difference between resisting and hindering. Resisting is the devil pushing against us while hindering is the Devil placing obstacles of hindrance in our paths. The Devil is always placing events, people, situations, etc. in our paths to attempt to stop us or slow us down as we serve the Lord. Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica about such an event.

1Thesalonians 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

We must not allow these hindrances to cause discouragement or failure on our path of Christian service.

4. He Seeks To Sift

*Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:
(32) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

The word sift found in this verse is a very vivid word. Imagine if you would someone sifting through wheat with a sieve. The flour is being shaken and pressed through as it makes its way through the sieve. That is what the Devil desires to do with us. He wants to use his evil traps and trick to press us down and shake us up. He literally wants to “put us through the ringer.” Nothing would bring him more joy than to destroy you as he sifts you!

5. He Persecutes

Satan is a master persecutor. He inflicts great tribulation on those who seek to spread the Gospel that He so desperately hates.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life

These persecutions are no doubt painful; however, they do have a silver lining. These persecutions make us more like Christ. We are told in I Peter 5:8 to watch for the Devil and his devices. The Lord then instruct us in verse 9 to resist the Devil. The promise comes in verse 10 when the Lord says:

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

God says that the persecution of the Devil will make us more complete, established, stronger, and settled. Talk about backfiring. Satan tries to hurt us and instead he helps us! I am reminded of Joseph in Genesis 50:20

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good

6. He Promotes Division

Rest assured that the Devil knows the old saying, “United we stand, divided we fall.” Unity is essential for any army, especially the army of the Lord. The Devil will seek to divide Christians. Division is the enemy of multiplication, which is what we are commanded to do. Basic math states that $8 \times 8 = 64$. If 8 Christians reproduces themselves 8 times the result is 64 new Christians. But what if the Devil divides that group of Christians and instead of 8 there are only 6. If those 6 Christians still multiplied themselves by eight the result would be $6 \times 8 = 48$. By dividing two Christians out of the Church the Devil kept 16 people from getting saved!

2Co 2:5-11 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

(6) Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.

(7) So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

(8) Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.

(9) For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

(10) To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

(11) Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

C. For Both Believers and Unbelievers

1. He Tempts To Sin

The Devil is the Master Tempter. He can make the most evil things appear good and dangle it right in front of us as he appeals to our flesh. The Devil can't make us sin, so he must tempt us to sin hoping we will freely choose to partake of sin.

If a Growing Christian is to ever continue becoming like Christ he must know how to resist the temptations of the Devil. The first sin man ever committed was aided by the Devils tempting

Mat 4:1,3 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

(3) And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

a. To Immorality

The Devil will tempt mankind with physical immorality. He knows our fleshly weaknesses and seeks to exploit them.

1Corinthians 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

b. To Pride

Pride is the father of many other sins. When pride enters in, we begin committing a number of other sins while we blindly believe that we are innocent. Pride has perhaps done more harm than any other sin. For this reason, the Devil tempts us in this area continually.

1Chronicles 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

1Chronicles 21:8 And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

c. To Lie

Act 5:1-3 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

(2) And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

(3) But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Have you ever lied and said, “The Devil made me do it.” The devil didn’t make you lie, but he sure tempted you. How many times has the thought to lie has ran across our minds? We can thank the devil for this continual temptation.

d. To Discouragement

Someone has said that of all the tool in the Devil’s toolbox discouragement is the one that fits all. It is the “adjustable wrench” in the tool box. No one is exempt from discouragement. Satan would love to get us so down that we just want to quit. This discouragement renders us almost useless. Satan will throw you a pity party anytime that you want. He will even invite guest because misery loves company. It is interesting that the verse we so often quote found in I Peter 5:8 is in the context of not being overcome with anxiety.

1Peter 5:7-9 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

(8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

(9) Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

2. He Lays Snares

I preached a series of messages some time ago entitled, “The Traps of the Devil.” We covered many snares that the Devil has lying in wait for believers. I believe that these traps are tailor made for each of us. The Devil can not read a Christian’s mind, but he can watch as we display weaknesses. He then retreats to his workshop of snares and creates one with our name on it.

We must walk “circumspectly” through this world. There are snares prepared all along our way.

2Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

(25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

(26) And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

3. He Harasses

Like a little sister or brother bugging you to death, the Devil harasses us to no end! He just won’t give up. He is trying to wear us down, frustrate us, or slow us in our quest to serve Christ. We must learn how to respond to the continual harassment for the Devil if we want to continue in this fight for righteousness.

2Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

VI. The Devil’s Limitations

While the Devil is incredibly powerful, he does have limitations. Remember he is a created being. He is not equal to God in any of his powers.

A. He Is Not Omnipresent

Luke 10:17,18 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

(18) And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

The devil can not be everywhere at one time. He is bound to a single place at a single time. He can travel as “lightning” according to the Bible, but he can not be two or more places at any given time. He may dispatch his Demons to various places to work in his stead. To be omnipresent would make him equal to God in that regard.

B. He Is Not Omniscient

The devils knowledge is limited to what knowledge God created him with and what he has learned in the thousands of years since his fall. I am sure that the Devil has more knowledge than any of us do, but he does not know everything. If he did, he would know as much as God and according to Scripture that is not possible.

1John 3:20 “...God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”

2Samuel 7:22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

C. He Is Not Omnipotent

Rest assured the power of the Devil is more than we could ever defeat apart from the power of God, but the Devil’s power is limited. You may recall in the book of Job that Satan had to get God’s permission to work his destruction against Job. What ever power the Devil has is because God gave it to him and has allowed him to keep it.

Revelation 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Exodus 8:10 “...there is none like unto the LORD our God.”

VII. The Devil’s Followers

The Devil’s followers are also fallen angels. These fallen angels were not created as evil beings just as the Devil was not created as such. Demons are the fallen angels that followed the Devil from his fall from Heaven.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

A. Their Fall From Heaven

Just as Lucifer fell from heaven, so did the followers of the Devil. Revelation 12:4 refers to those angels who fell from heaven with the Devil

Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:

B. Their Nature

1. They Are Morally Wicked

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Luke 7:21 And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

You can rest assured that what ever work that demons might be doing at any given moment it is wicked. It is not that demons or the fallen angels are mostly wicked, they are purely wicked! It is their nature to do wickedly because they wholly wicked!

2. They Are Deceitful

The devil and his demons know that advertising what they truly are and their real ambitions would drive people away from their purpose and drive people to the Lord. For this reason they must rely on “false advertising.” They package their destructive deeds and poisonous philosophy into beautifully attractive packages that sell like hotcakes to those who lack spiritual discernment. They then passes this deceitfulness on to those who are led captive by their heresies.

2Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

(15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

3. They Are Invisible and Visible

Rev 16:13-14 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

(14) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Demons are not spiritual caspers that are translucent beings who float through walls. They are not seen unless they choose to be seen. In most of the instances in scripture that reveal the actions of fallen angels, the demons are not seen. They are spirits that move and act in real ways, yet they choose to remain unseen. They can however choose to be seen. When a demon posses a person they are in effect being seen through the body of that person. I am not certain of how they would appear in their “natural” state. The previous verses give us some indication of how they will appear in future events.

4. They Are Intelligent

Demons like the devil are free to move around this world and they have been doing this for longer than we can even know. As they have moved and watched they have learned. I believe they are a wealth of knowledge and incredibly intelligent. Scripture reveals to us that the demons knew the names of the disciples.

Mark 1:14,34 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, (34)And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

I believe that there are at least some demons that would know any given Christians name along with all of the details of there day to day lives. This truth alone should make every Christian walk in the Spirit and live with God’s power!

5. They Attempt to Predict Future

I have often been asked if a person can tell the details of the future. To some degree I can tell the future, in so much that the Bible has revealed certain events. Although I do not know when these events will take place I know they will occur.

Apart from open revelation from God's Word, man can not foretell the future. There is some indication in Scripture that demon possessed people at least attempt to foretell the future, and may to some degree be successful. "Fortune Tellers" palm readers and the such should never be attractive to a Christian. To do so, would be opening yourself up to satanic activity. A Christian should leave their future in the hands of their Savior. He knows what will happen and will let us know when the time is right.

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

1Samuel 28:6-7 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

(7) Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

6. They Have Strength And Energy

Of all the things that we may not fully know or understand about the fallen angels there is one thing for certain that we do know. Demons possess incredible strength and energy. No man could ever match the strength of a demon. The story of the demon possessed man in the country of the Gadarenes proves this to be true. In other passages of Scripture demons actually knocked men over without possessing their bodies.

When you consider a person could have many demons possessing them, the strength of such a person is far above human and incredible to describe.

Mark 5:3-4 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

(4) Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

7. They Are Seductive

Fallen angels have a seductive aura about them that makes them difficult to resist.

1Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

8. They Know Christ Power

Demons know their limitations and they know who has power over them. They must bow at the power of our Saviour! No matter how strong they may be, they are no match for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

Mark 5:2,6-7 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

(6) But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

(7) And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

9. They Know Their Future

Just as the evil knows of his certain end, so do his followers. I am glad that this is so. It gives me some comfort to know that they get to ponder their eternal destruction before it comes to pass!

Mat 8:28,29 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

(29) And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

C. Their Activity

Their activity is the same as the Devil. They do not have an agenda of their own. They are the ‘foot soldiers’ of the evil one. For this reason we will not deeply explain their activity. If you understand the Devil’s activity you understand the fallen angel’s activity. We will however briefly list a few of their activities.

1. They Carry Out Satan’s Plans

2Corinthians 11:14-15 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

(15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2. They Hinder Spiritual Progress

Ephesians 6:12 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.

3. They Posses Men and Animals

Mark 5:8-13 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

(9) And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

(10) And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

(11) Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

(12) And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

(13) And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

4. They Afflict People

a. Physical Ailments

Luke 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

b. Mental Disorders

Mark 5:5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

VIII. The Devil’s Destiny

Here is the part of the lesson that I truly enjoy. I love it when the bad guy gets caught. The Devil will get his due. Have I mentioned how much joy that brings to my heart! He is currently under a curse. This curse will only give way to his ultimate conquering.

A. A Cursed Enemy

Isaiah 14:12-15

(12) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

(13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

(14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

(15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

The Devil's curse is that he has been cast down from his original place in heaven and can never regain his position.

B. A Conquered Enemy

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

1John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Colossians 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

(14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

(15) And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

There is nothing that I can add to these Scriptures other than,
PRAISE THE LORD I CAN'T WAIT!

IX. The Devil's Hated Responses From Christians

There are literally hundreds of responses that we can have to the Devil, his Demons, and their tactics. But many of them will only bring us defeat. There are however some responses that will make the Devil fear and flee our presence. Every Christian needs to know how to respond to the devil. Here are the proper responses to the Devil.

A. When We Claim Redemptive Rights

When we are under attack from the Devil or his fallen angels we must invoke our rights as a blood bought Christian. There are certain rights that we have as members of God's family.

Rev 12:10-11 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. (11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

When we invoke the blood of Christ on our lives Satan flees.

B. When We Equip With God's Armour

While it is true that being a blood washed saint places us on the winning side. It is also true that we must still engage the enemy as he seeks to fight against us and God's redemptive plan. We successfully engage Satan by using the tools he has equipped us with. These weapons are always sufficient to defeat the Devil when used properly.

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

Ephesians 6:13-17 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

(14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

(15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

(16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

(17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

C. When We Exercise Self Control

One of the hardest lessons for a Christian to learn is not to crack the door for the Devil. You have heard the saying, "If you give an inch he will take a mile." This saying could not be more the in regards to the Devil. Many times the Devil gains entry into our lives because we have allowed him into our lives. We must always stay on guard and keep the Devil out of our lives.

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

D. When We Resist His Power.

The slogan "just say no" was popularized by Nancy Reagan during her husband's presidency. This slogan was in response to the war on drugs in America. Children all across the country were being encouraged to just say no to drugs. This slogan is also applicable to God's Children. When the Devil comes tempting us we need to just say no. It is a Biblical truth that after enough resisting the Devil will flee from you.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

D. When We Exercise Vigilance

It is not enough claim redemptive rights, be equipped with God's armour, keep the door to the Devil closed, and resist him. We must do all of these things continually. This is called vigilance. We can never let up on defeating the Devil. At the moment our vigilance fails the Devil will pounce like a lion!

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Closing Thoughts

We are the victors in Christ over the Devil. If we are knowledgeable of the Devil and all that he entails, and follow the scriptural presidents for defeating him we can be victorious over him. Satan does not have to get a single victory in our lives. Lets commit to defeat him by the blood of the lamb!