

Satan and Demons: Outline for High School Discussion
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It would be possible to be a real Christian and a good spiritual Christian without knowing anything about Satan. Yet what God has revealed to us about our spiritual enemy is intended to motivate us to a close walk with Jesus Christ and careful obedience to all His commands. Knowing we are in a battle zone makes us watch where we step.

Satan exists. Our culture is polarized between those who deny his existence and those who seek what he offers, often without knowing what they are really doing. I Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour."

What we learn about Satan directly is unreliable because he is a liar and a deceiver. II Corinthians 11:14 "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." In John 8: 44 Jesus says that Satan "is a liar and the father of lies." The Bible, with its supernatural credentials, gives us information we could not get by our own investigation.

He is a created angel. He used his free will to try to overthrow God and was expelled from heaven along with many other angels that followed him. Isaiah 14:12-20 is a double-meaning prophecy about the king of Babylon which also seems to refer to Satan. "O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground...you who said in your heart 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God...I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the pit." In Luke 10:17-20 Jesus seems to **be** recalling the Isaiah passage or an event both could be referring to when He says, "I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven."

He hates God and all whom God loves. He takes out his grudge on God by trying to hurt God's creation, especially people whom God loves, keeping them from living in that love. II Corinthians 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the likeness of God."

Jesus Christ defeated Satan by His blood on the cross and through the resurrection. But God has not yet sent Satan to the lake of fire where he will eventually be thrown. Hebrews 2:14 "He (Christ) Himself likewise partook of the same nature that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is the devil." I John 3:8b "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

Jesus Christ has handed over to us the authority to defeat Satan. Yet if we disobey God, we are obeying Satan and come under his control. Revelation 12:11 "They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

We are in the middle of a great battle with powerful forces magnifying the effects of every decision we make. II

Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we live in the world, we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." Ephesians 6:12 "For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Revelation 12:11

they conquered him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Satan causes those who do not serve God to live according to their lusts. People, thinking it is freedom to disobey God,

find that they are precisely obeying Satan whose will is to do anything but God's will. Obedience to Satan seems to give Satan power and authority over a person. Ephesians 2:1,2 "And you He made alive when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind..."

Satan operates by ideas. He put the idea in Eve's head that God was keeping the best from her and it led her and Adam to disobey the clear command of God. This gave Satan some sort of authority over this world which he still claims. He **uses** ideas (lies), some with mixtures of truth, to lead people astray. II Corinthians 11:14 "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." I Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons."

Satan can accomplish his purposes by a whole range of methods. The most dramatic is demonization (demon possession).

Mark 5:2-17 "And when they had come out of the boat, there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who lived among the tombs; and no one could bind him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been bound with fetters and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the fetters he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out, and bruising himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he said, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.' For He had said to him, 'Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!' And Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' He replied, 'My name is legion; for we are many.' And he begged Him, 'Send us to the swine, let us enter them.' So He gave them leave. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came to Jesus, and saw

Continuing in sin brings a person increasingly under Satan's control if there is no confession. Ephesians 2:1-3 "And you He made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh..."

Mind altering drugs may increase the chance of Satan's control. They certainly increase the likelihood of sin.

The images and philosophy of certain musical groups lead a person into Satan's camp. This is not just Satanic Heavy Metal but any music that glorifies pleasure and belittles God's laws, even Country-Western.

Satan offers knowledge, power and pleasure. People don't think they are selling their souls, they think they are getting something for nothing. He is the ultimate confidence man. He mixes a little truth with his lies but you never get what you expect. Genesis 3:1-7 Satan promised special knowledge and position to Eve. It proved to be a trap. She and Adam did gain knowledge, but lost Eden and forever changed all of creation.

He wants to sow dissension between God and man and between Christians. He wants to distract us from what is most important. This is why it is so hard to pray and read the Bible. So many things seem to just get in the way. Genesis 3:4.5 Satan impugns the motives of God by saying, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Job 1:9,11 Satan accused Job before God, "Does Job fear God for naught? But put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face." Revelation 12:10b "The accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God." Ephesians 4:26.27 "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."

Those who do not know Jesus Christ do not want to think about such a terrible enemy against whom they have no defense. So they either say Satan and demons don't exist or they like to think that they are in control by knowing secret words and ceremonies (the occult mindset).

We who have been born again really do have the victory because of the Blood of Jesus Christ. These are not magic words but refer to a cosmic fact. If we submit ourselves to God, then resist the Devil, he will flee from us. To remind Satan and his allies of the cross and the empty tomb puts him on the run because it reminds them of the hopeless defeat they suffered. Revelation 12:11 "They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine. And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their neighborhood."

Matthew 12:43-45a "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and brings with him seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first." This is a picture of exorcism without submission to Christ. There is no presence of the Holy Spirit and therefore no protection.

But even demonized people may not seem all that strange. Most of the time, Satan just tries to keep us a little off the track. He gets handles on us with temptations we easily fall for, by blinding us to things that are important or even by getting us to overemphasize something else that may be true but way out of proportion.

Satan keeps many from considering God by various lies like: "Only weaklings need religion." "Science has proven there is no God." "If I became a Christian I wouldn't have any fun." "Heaven may have a nice climate but hell will have better company." "If there is a God, I don't want to serve Him because of all the evil He allows." "If so-and-so is a Christian, I don't want anything to do with Christianity." "I'm too busy, maybe later." "Christianity may be true for you but not for me."

Satan also is able to take thoughts out of people's minds and put thoughts in. It takes a miracle to be able to really hear the Gospel and believe. People can think that their opinions make perfect sense when they are actually total nonsense. Matthew 13:19a "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart." This is another reminder that more than information is needed for a person to come to Christ. Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way which **seems** right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

People can be brought increasingly under the control of Satan by a number of means. Involvement in the occult opens a person to the control of Satan. People think that they are in control of mysterious forces when actually the opposite is true. Today, many people think they are releasing their hidden potential through special techniques like "Transcendental Meditation," "The Mind Revolution" or "Mind Power." Deuteronomy 18:10-12a "There shall not be found among you any one who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, any one who practices divination, a soothsayer, or an auger, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a medium, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord..."

Ephesians 6:10-19 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication for all the saints."

Truthfulness and righteousness limit Satan's hold on us. Having the "equipment of the gospel" makes us ready to be used. Faith is necessary because there will be times when it appears that God has abandoned us or His commands *seem senseless* but we must continue to do what we know is right. Salvation protects our most important part and the Word of God is our only offensive weapon for wounding the enemy. Yet we must also keep alert, for a fully armed soldier is easily killed if asleep.

Satan makes Christians ineffective with ideas like: "Sure I'm a Christian but I don't want to be a fanatic." "I don't have time for Bible reading and prayer." "When I'm older I'll get serious." "This is just a little thing I'm doing. I'll let God in on the big decisions." Hebrews 3:12,13 "Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today', that none of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

God could have thrown Satan and his followers immediately into the lake of fire but for reasons we do not fully understand has turned the authority over to us to defeat Satan if we remain close to our Lord Jesus Christ. As Jesus said in Luke 10:18-20, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

We should live every day remembering that alone we are certain to be defeated by Satan. We should therefore pray regularly, read the Bible and be careful to obey the Lord's commands. We avoid the occult and regularly confess our sins.

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The world is different from what it seems.

There are powerful spiritual forces at work that may be invisible most of the time.

We think, "Hey, I'm just having a good time and enjoying life."

Actually there are angels and demons battling over us.

Only the power of the Lord Jesus Christ's shed blood on calvary makes it possible for us to just "enjoy life."

God wants us to have that relaxation and trust most of the time.

Occasionally, He lets us have a peek at the real battle.

This is to make us realize how important it is to obey Him, confess our sins and avoid the occult in all its disguises.

Satanism is the worship of *satan*. But even those who do, often say that Satan just wants us to serve ourselves.

Most who are under Satan's power do not know it.

All who sin are under Satan's authority. Only Jesus blood frees us from that.

The occult is the seeking of hidden knowledge or power and includes Ouija boards, Horoscopes, spells, out of body experiences, etc).

Occult practices put a person increasingly under Satan's power.

Drugs also may lead to domination by Satan.

Certain kinds of music may lead a person into Satan's camp.

Most people who practice occultism do not think they are influenced by Satan.

They think they are releasing their own hidden potential or tapping into some secret of the universe available to those who know the secrets or controlling spirits by their magic.

If you ask them, they will deny being into Satanism.

Some will say it is white magic or witchcraft but deny Satan.

Most influenced by Satan do not know what is happening to them.

People who continue in sin do not think they are influenced by Satan but the Bible indicates that they are. Ephesians 2:1,2 "You once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."

Every person who has not accepted Christ is under the power of Satan. Acts 26:17b,18a "I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God..."

Yet most of these people think they are living in complete freedom, doing exactly what they want.

Lets not just talk about Satanism but the influence of Satan.

Those into Satanism have some idea that they are dealing with Satan but even they are deceived about what is really happening.

Satan deceives because it is his nature.

He even deceives himself into thinking he has a chance to beat God.