

Lesson 7 How to Overcome the Devil and Temptation

According to the Barna Group, the majority of Christians do *not* believe that Satan or the devil actually exists.

However, according to an AP-AOL news poll, up to 97% of evangelical Christians believe that angels exist.

According to the Bible, Satan is a created being, having been created by God as His most powerful angelic helper.

So, Satan is an angel who rebelled against God.

The Bible says that Satan was created by God as a cherub, the most powerful of God's angelic beings. Sometime after his creation and before the creation of mankind, Satan rebelled against God and took one third of the angels (now referred to as demons) with him into rebellion.

No, Satan does not look like the cartoon character in the red suit with a tail and horns and a pitchfork. Contrary to the beliefs of [some Christians](#), Barak Obama is not Satan.

Angels, including Satan, don't have male or female characteristics in their heavenly state (which Jesus told us through His teaching). However, when they come to earth, they can take on human form.

In the Bible, all angels who take on human form appear as males. All biblical references address Satan by the personal pronoun "he."

1. According to Scripture where exactly did the Devil come from?

a. Isaiah 14:12-15 -- 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.

b. Ezekiel 28: 14-17 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.

2. So that we are crystal clear, according to St John 8:44, what kind of person is the Devil? 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.

3. Let's identify some of the names of the Devil as presented in the Bible.

a. 1 Peter 5:8 **your adversary the devil**

b. Matthew 13:39 **the enemy**

c. Revelation 12:9 **the great dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,**

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.**

d. Matthew 13:19 **the wicked one**

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.

e. Matthew 4:3 **the tempter**

f. Revelation 20:2

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.⁴ **And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**⁵ **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.** This is the first resurrection.⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,⁸ And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

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4. According to Matthew 12:24 is Satan alone in his efforts? **NO** remember those angels who went with him? **But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.**

- a. He is considered **the prince of devils**.
- b. 2 Corinthians 4:4 He is **the god of this world**.

5. Now that we are absolutely sure that He is real according to Scripture, how does James 4:1-7-12 suggest we treat the Devil?

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴ You adulterous people, ^[a] don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us ^[b]? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ^[c] **⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister ^[d] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Footnotes:

- a. [James 4:4](#) An allusion to covenant unfaithfulness; see Hosea 3:1.
- b. [James 4:5](#) Or *that the spirit he caused to dwell in us envies intensely*; or *that the Spirit he caused to dwell in us longs jealously*
- c. [James 4:6](#) Prov. 3:34
- d. [James 4:11](#) The Greek word for *brother or sister* (*adelphos*) refers here to a believer, whether man or woman, as part of God's family.

6. According to Acts 26:15-18 does Satan have any power over me as a believer? **I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.**

7. According to James 1:1-13-18 how can we know the difference of being tested by God and tempted by the Devil? God will never test us using evil, yet we should remember the story of Job, where God, in HIS permissive will allowed Satan to tempt Job.

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

8. Which weapon did Jesus fight with and win against the Devil according to Mathew 4:

a. verse 4 **The WORD**

b. verse 7 **The WORD in proper context**

c. verse 10 **The WORD with authority**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “**It is written:** ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “**It is also written:** ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! **For it is written:** ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him

9. According to Revelation 20:7-10 what we will be the end result of Satan? And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone

And the devil, which deceived them, was **thrown into the lake of burning sulfur**, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

10. What are two other tools Peter advises us on as it relates to overcoming the temptations of the Devil in 1 Peter 5:8? **Be sober** clear minded, **be vigilant** watchful and on your guard.

a. and the one again in verse 9 is? **Resist him**

10. We can win over Satan because of what two great resources available to us according to Revelation 12:11? the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;

Satan is real! So let's continue our study on how to overcome Him, and according to

James 4:7 we do that by involving what two things?

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

The Message Bible

So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

11. According to 1 Corinthians 15:57 we know that we will be victorious because of whom? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

12 According to 1 John 5:1-5 why are we able to claim victory of the sinful poison of the Devil? Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

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13. According to 1 John 1: 1-10 is it safe to say and believe that everyone has been infected and effected by the poison of the devil? Please explain. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

14. Is there a promise from God on this matter according to 1 Corinthians 10:13? ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³ No temptation^[e] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted^[d] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,^[e] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- a. [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) The Greek for *temptation* and *tempted* can also mean *testing* and *tested*.
- b. [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) The Greek for *temptation* and *tempted* can also mean *testing* and *tested*.
- c. [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) The Greek for *temptation* and *tempted* can also mean *testing* and *tested*.

1 Corinthians 10¹⁻¹³

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test Christ, ¹as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.