



HOAW Newsletter

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

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HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Satan the Tempter

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In Western culture in general and evangelicalism in particular, prevailing attitudes about the existence of Satan, his capacity to wreak havoc, his intentions, and his methods of operation run the gambit. **Many people believe he doesn't exist at all. Some believe his power is unlimited. Others are confused about his purpose for mankind. While yet others are oblivious as to his tactics.**

Does Satan Exist?

GotQuestions.org brings clarity to this subject.¹

"The Bible explicitly informs us of the existence of Satan. He is

described as the enemy of man (Genesis 3:15), the father of lies (John 8:44b), and the accuser (Revelation 12:10), among other things. The very name "Satan" means "adversary." Isaiah 14:12-17 explains that Satan was originally an angelic being, but he decided he wanted the honor and worship due only to God and was thrown out of heaven (also see Ezekiel 28:11-17).

Ever since he was cast out of heaven (along with the angels who chose to rebel with him), Satan has made it his purpose to oppose God and lead the people of earth into rebellion as well. Satan has a certain authority in this world; he is called "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4) and "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). That's why we are

to "be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

One big way Satan wreaks havoc in our lives is through deception. When Satan deceives us about who God is, who God says we are, and who he is, he gains power and authority in our lives. "Satan does not exist" is one of the most potent lies Satan tells.

At creation, God gave mankind authority over the earth (Genesis 1:28). When Adam and Eve willingly disobeyed God, they gave up some of their authority; in listening to Satan, they subjugated themselves to the devil. Yet, at the cross, Jesus stripped Satan of his authority:

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/does-Satan-exist.html>

"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out" (John 12:31). **"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8).** Satan has no more authority over those who are in Christ, except when they give it to him by believing his lies.

Much misinformation about Satan comes from Hollywood and other flawed sources. It's imperative that we go to the Bible for the truth on this and other matters. The Bible plainly tells us that Satan does exist, and it cues us into how he operates. We have no reason to be intimidated by Satan, as his power is infinitely inferior to God's, but the Bible teaches us not to be naïve in our spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10–18). The key is to submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7), knowing that Christ has defeated him for good at the cross and Satan's end—eternal judgment—is assured (Revelation 19:20)."

Can Satan Read Our Minds?

One of the areas of great confusion centers on whether the Enemy can read our minds and know our thoughts. On the surface, if that were the case, we would be helpless and completely incapable of escaping him. My research on this issue tells a different story.

- Satan is a created being of super intellect but **does not have attributes possessed only by God** – omni-powerful (all powerful), omni-present (all

present), and omniscient (all knowing).

- Satan has the benefit of **observing mankind for centuries** becoming an able interpreter of man's behavior and underlying motives for such behavior. He can predict our weaknesses based on observing how we live our lives.
- **Satan cannot read our minds.** He can, however, sow a thought in our minds (**Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:3; Judas Iscariot John 13:2; King David 1 Chronicles 21:1**).

If He could read our minds, **why would he have asked God to remove his protection of Job so that he could prove that Job would abandon his faith (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-8)? Why would he have tempted Jesus in the desert if he already knew how Jesus would respond (Matthew 4:1-11)?**
What Is Satan's Objective?

He prowls about the world **looking for people susceptible to his influence (1 Peter 5:8)**. Once under his influence, he uses us to discredit God through sinful behavior in an attempt to dissuade others from receiving Christ as Savior and Lord. What he fears the most is that we will be awakened from our slumber and realize **He (Christ) who is in us is greater than he (Satan) who is outside of us (1 John 4:4)**. He is afraid that once we realize that we have power over him through Christ we will become

his formidable foe capable of resisting him and his initiatives.

His intentions are clear. *"Since his instigation of evil on earth, Satan has been named as the "prince," "god," or "ruler" of this world (John 14:30; cf. John 12:31; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:2; Colossians 1:13). He is the enemy of God and truth (Matthew 13:24-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12), and he does everything he can to tempt individuals (Genesis 3; Luke 22:31; 1 Timothy 3:7) and larger groups of people (1 Thessalonians 3:5; Revelation 2:10). He "leads the whole world astray" (Revelation 12:9). Satan accomplishes this by various means, including appealing to man's pride (1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Corinthians 4:6), interfering with the transmission of truth (Matthew 13:18-22, 38-39), and placing false believers within the church (1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; Revelation 2:9; 3:9). In John 8:44, Jesus says that Satan "is a liar and the father of it."*²

What Are His Methods?

His tactics are more subtle than overt. He doesn't want to draw attention to his schemes to destroy God's redemptive plans. But his methods are obvious. One authority says, "Remember, Satan and his demons are fallen angels. What defines their power and abilities is their angelic nature, not their evil nature. How they use their power and abilities has to do with their evil nature."

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/Satan-power.html>

One of his primary tactics is to continually remind us of the failures of our past. He does by trying to convince us (often by sowing thoughts in our mind received as first person; that they are not from him but are our thoughts – Acts 5:1-5) we are defeated by those failures. God, however, wants to bring us to the victories of our future possible by and through the finished work Christ and empowerment of the Spirit. The struggle remains in the present, but God is God and Satan is not.

Ron Jones of Titus Institute suggests four ways Satan attacks believers. **1) Satan incites our fleshly desires within us through the unbelieving world around us. 2) Satan attempts to deceive us with the lies of worldly wisdom through the unbelieving world around us. 3) He attempts to deceive us with a false Jesus and a false gospel through false Christians. 4) Satan can physically afflict us or ones that we love with illness, crimes, disasters, persecution and the like.**

Other methods used to knock us off our path, defeat us, stop our advance, thwart our spiritual growth, and increase our impotence include **equivocation** (Matthew 5:37), **distortion** (Matthew 3:19), **sifting** (Luke 22:31), **compromise** (Acts 5:3), **delusion** (Acts 26:18), **deprivation** (1 Corinthians 7:5), **revenge** (2 Corinthians 2:10), **outwitting** (2 Corinthians 2:11), **masquerading** (2 Corinthians 11:14), **thorn in the flesh** (2 Corinthians 12:7), **struggle** (Ephesians 6:12), **confrontation** (Ephesians 6:13, 16), **worldliness** (1 John 5:18-19), **infiltration**

(Matthew 13:25, 39), **deceit** (Acts 13:10), and **overpowering** us (1 Peter 5:8).

So, What Can We Do?

Remember, God tempts no one (James 1:13-15). Satan, however does.

1. Our temptations will never be more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).
2. We are to first submit to God, then our resistance of the devil will be effective; he will flee from us (James 4:7).
3. Say no to ungodliness and live upright and godly lives (Titus 2:11-14).
4. Follow Christ's response to Satan when he was tempted by him in the desert (Matthew 4:1-10).
5. Guard your heart for from it issues forth good our bad depending on what is stored within (Proverbs 4:23).

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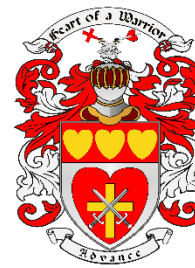
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Go to our website for more details. www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org



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