

deeper

word faith life

Season 5

Healing

Angels

The Devil and Demons

Strongholds and Spiritual Warfare

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Episode 6 – The Devil and Demons

Lets' take a quick look at the methods and strategies that Satan uses in His onslaught against God and His people.

His Agenda

Satan's agenda is very simple, it is to discredit and destroy the work of God. He starts with the most precious of God's creation, humankind.

John 10:10 NIV

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

He will use all his charm, lies, temptation and deception to manipulate people to serve this purposes. He does not love you and he is not on your side. No matter how pleasant or promising his temptation may seem, the agenda always remains the same.

His Agents

As a creature, he does not share the attributes of God. He is not omnipresent, omniscient, or omnipotent. In passages like, 1 Thessalonians 3:5 and 1 Corinthians 7:5, the references to Satan identify him as the ultimate source of evil, but in truth, he has to rely on external agents to carry out his schemes:

He uses his demons, the world system which is temporarily under his control, (1 John 5:19) carnal or ignorant Christians sometimes, (Matthew 16:22-23) and unbelievers under his influence. (Luke 22:1-6; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 13)

His Areas of Influence

The three primary areas of his temptation are: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. When our eyes are on the creation and not the creator

1 John 2:16 NIV

"For everything in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life comes not from the Father but from the world."

His Methods

Satan uses the mind and emotions to get people to make negative choices against God plan.

Many times he will exploit an area of weakness in our lives. These weaknesses may have been caused by past sin, tragic experiences, difficult relational issues, and many other factors.

Temptation itself is never a sin. Though we can be foolish and set ourselves up for temptation, (Proverbs 7:6-10) it is our response to temptation that leads to sin. What we do with the temptation is critical. (Proverbs 4:23, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:8, James 1:12-15)

Due to the effects of sin of humankind, we are susceptible to temptation in some areas more than others. Pride is one such area.

The Bible is clear that pride is the reason for Satan's fall and also the source of all that is demonic. This is why James specifically refers to pride when he instructs us how to resist the devil.

James 4:6-7 NIV

"God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Augustine said that pride is the mother of all the other sins.

Proverbs 16:18 NIV

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

Holding on to unforgiveness can also be a pride issue that leaves the door open to demonic activity in our lives.



Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV

"In your anger do not sin", Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."

Paul warns believers here against giving Satan a foothold. Bitterness, pride and the lack of self-control during anger give the devil an open door through which he can exert influence. The desire for retaliation in the heat of anger can often be an overwhelming temptation.

We should take a moment to recognise when a temptation comes and then to submit it to God and resist it. The more we intentionally do this the, the more success we will have at avoiding the snares.

He is Defeated by Jesus Death and Resurrection

The most important fact that scripture teaches us about Satan, is that he is a defeated foe.

Colossians 2:15 NIV

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Satan has lost the war even though he may win some battles. He is now engaged in guerrilla warfare against us, and we can defeat him in this day-to-day struggle.

Paul's instruction is to put on the full armour of God.

Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

We need to realise our true identity in Christ, as sons and daughters, and our position in Him.

Ephesians 2:6 NIV

"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,"

The One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4 NIV

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

We would do well to take note of what Paul tells us about God's intention is for the church.

Ephesians 3:10-11 NIV

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

What do Demons Do?

Demons carry out the purposes of the devil, they do his bidding. They too cannot be everywhere at the same time, they cannot know everything, and they are not all powerful. Demons cannot own or possess a born again Christian. A Christian is God's sole possession. But through bad choices we can open ourselves to demonic influences to greater or lesser extents.

Matthew 16:22-23 NIV

"Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Satan didn't fill and control Peter, he didn't possess him, but Peter was being used to serve his purpose in trying to stop Jesus' mission. Jesus rebuked Satan and ultimately Peter in his carnal thinking. As believers, we can, like Peter, participate in the devil's work even though you belong to Jesus. We need to be reminded of the devices Satan uses to influence people, but better still, to make Jesus our centre and give ourselves completely to what He is doing.



Where do Demons Come From?

When exactly God created angels is open for debate, but what is known for sure is that God created everything good because God, in His holiness, cannot create something sinful. So when Satan, who was once the angel Lucifer, rebelled against God and fell from heaven, (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28) one third of the angelic host joined his insurrection (Revelation 12:3-4,9). As far as we can understand from scripture, these fallen angels are now known as demons.

We know that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels,

Matthew 25:41 NIV

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

By using the possessive word [HIS] Jesus makes it clear that these angels belong to Satan.

Revelation 12:7-9 describes an end-times angelic battle between Michael and “his angels” and the devil and “his angels.” From these and similar verses, it definitely seems that demons and fallen angels are synonymous.

Some reject the idea that demons are the fallen angels due to these two passages,

2 Peter 2:4 NIV

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;”

Jude 1:6 NIV

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling, these He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”

However, it is clear that not all of the angels who sinned are “bound,” as Satan is still free.

1 Peter 5:8 NIV

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

Why would God imprison the rest of the fallen angels, but allow the leader of the rebellion to remain free? It seems that in comparison to their existence in heaven, they are bound in darkness, literally and figuratively, and they will be judged and condemned to hell for eternity. There is no repentance for angelic beings, so these fallen angels, including Satan, have their eternal fate sealed. The most biblically consistent explanation that we have for the origin of the demons is that they are the fallen angels, the angels who rebelled against God with Satan.

As Born again believers, we are to submit ourselves to God and resist the attacks of Satan and his hosts and to take our stand in Christ.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 3:10-11 NIV

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

