

A Journey Into the Spirit World
The Spirit Who Wants To Destroy You
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In this world, there is a spirit whose sole purpose is to hurt and destroy us. He is the second most powerful being in all creation. The Bible most often calls him "Satan.", He hates God, but since God is much more powerful than he is, he can't hurt God directly. Therefore, he hurts God indirectly by hurting people God loves.

Satan is more than the personification of evil; he is a real spiritual being we must understand if we are to keep him from destroying God's plan for our lives.

Understanding the spirit who wants to destroy you requires answering three questions:

I. Who is _____?

God loves us and has a delightful plan for each of our lives, the devil hates us and has destructive plans for our lives. God sent His Son so we may have life and have it in super abundance (John 10:10). However, how does Jesus describe Satan in John 8:44b?

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.

Satan indirectly destroyed Adam and Eve spiritually by deceiving them into eating the forbidden fruit. Satan has not changed and wants to destroy every good thing in our lives, including our souls. He has awesome power to fulfill his diabolical plans, but unlike God, he is not omnipresent, omniscient, nor omnipotent. Yet, he is very powerful, and we must respect that.

Jude tells us about a confrontation between the archangel Michael and the devil, as they disputed over the body of Moses. Michael is the most powerful of all angels. However, even he didn't treat Satan's power frivolously. Instead, what does Jude 9b record?

Jude 1:9 - Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

This incident is not mentioned any other place in the Bible, so we have no details. The point is that, in spite of his angelic power, even the archangel Michael refused to take on Satan.

Using Michael's example, we should have a healthy respect for Satan's tremendous power to deceive and destroy. Nowhere in the Bible are we told to attack or confront the devil. Instead, what does James 4:7 reveal about dealing with Satan?

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

We do this by standing steadfast in our faith (1 Peter 5:9). The devil tries to get us to doubt, disregard, and disobey God's Word. When he tries to get us to retreat from the truth of God's Word, we must stand firm in our faith.

The spirit who wants to destroy us is most often called "Satan." He is referred to by this name more than fifty times in the Bible. The name "Satan" means "adversary." He is the adversary of God and God's people. What does 1 Peter 5:8c-d tell us about Satan?

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

Satan's second most common name in the Bible is "the devil," which is only used in the New Testament--about thirty-five times. This name translates a Greek word (DIABOLOS, dee-ab'-ol-os) that means "slanderer" or "accuser." One of Satan's primary missions on this earth is to slander God and His people.

This is why gossip is such a horrible sin. If we listen to Satan, he will try to get us to gossip and slander. However, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will not allow any unwholesome words to come out of our mouths. Instead, according to Ephesians 4:29b, how can we know we are filled with the Holy Spirit by how we speak?

Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Who is Satan? He is the "adversary" of all that is holy and good. He is also the "slanderer" of God and God's people.

II. Where did Satan _____?

Since God is the Creator of all things (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17), God created the being who became Satan. Because God is holy and righteous, He cannot create anything evil. Originally, God created the human race in His own image. However, when Adam chose to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit, he fell into sin, taking the entire race with him.

Like Adam and Eve, Satan was created with the freedom of choice. Originally an angel in heaven, he was perhaps the archangel who led a rebellion against God and was cast out. Isaiah 14:12-14 & Ezekiel 28:12-18 are references that examine the fall of Satan in the Old Testament.

Though we don't have many details, some things about his fall are clear. Satan fell in his rebellion, his fall was immediate and dramatic because he was no match for God. After the joyous reports of the seventy-two witnesses, how does Jesus describe Satan's fall (Luke 10:17-18)?

Luke 10:17 -18 - And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

I think this refers to Jesus' seeing Satan's original fall from heaven, as well as the victories of the seventy-two over Satan's followers, or demons.

Satan's fall from heaven was as fast as lightning, and so will be his defeat in any battle with God.

Angels are often called stars in the Bible. The Bible tells us the Dragon, or Satan, used his tail to sweep a third of the stars out of the sky and throw them to the earth (Revelation 12:4). This suggests that when Satan was cast out of heaven, a third of the angels fell with him. Jude informs us that some of these fallen angels did not stay within the limits of their authority but abandoned their own positions. Therefore, God is confining them with eternal in darkness until the Day of Judgment (Jude 6).

Some fallen angels, or demons, are active among us. Others are so evil keeps them chained in darkness until the judgment (II Peter 2:4). Unlike God, Satan is not omnipresent, but he has myriads of mercenary demons strategically located throughout our world to influence individuals and governments. Therefore, what does 1 John 5:19b declare?

1 John 5:19 - And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

We have answered the questions, who is Satan and where did Satan originate.

III. What Does Satan _____?

Having already examined his names, we know he is an "adversary," "slanderer," and "accuser." Therefore, he tries to prevent God's will from being done in us and through us on earth. How does Paul describe this activity of Satan in 1 Thessalonians 2:18?

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

Because Satan is God's adversary, he will try to stop us from doing anything for God. That is why problems come our way when we start really living for God. He tries to stop us from accomplishing God's will by living up to his name "devil," which means "slanderer" or "accuser," He seeks to cause others to misunderstand us and slander our Christian life.

Therefore, unsaved family members and associates will accuse us of being hypocrites because we go to church. Others will accuse us of thinking we are better than they are or of acting "holier-than-thou" when we refuse to go along with sin. To discredit our Christian witness, they will also look for every opportunity to accuse us of doing something unchristian. However, we should not blame them; they are honestly deceived by the devil, or "slanderer." How does 2 Corinthians 4:4a express this fact?

2 Corinthians 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.

This is why we shouldn't get mad at those who slander us and make accusations against us. Instead, we should pray for God to open their eyes so they can see the truth of the Gospel.

As already mentioned, Satan is like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8), wanting to devour us. He roars in our lives to create fear. Fear is one of Satan's most effective spiritual weapons. Before we become believers, He wants us to fear what family and friends might think if we accept Christ. After we become Christians, he roars to get us to fear sharing our faith and following God's will for our lives.

However, even though Satan is the second most powerful being in the universe, we do not have to fear him. This is because of what truth found in 1 John 4:4c

1 John 4:4 - Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

The Holy Spirit, who is God, indwells us (1 John 4:13). He will enable us to resist Satan, his acquaintances (demons), and his influence through false teachers.

There is a spirit who wants to destroy you; his name is Satan. To resist Satan, you must know the answers to three questions: who is Satan, where did Satan originate, and what does Satan do.