

Hollywood, Satan, and the Church (Tinsel Town's Misrepresentation of the Devil)

*"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." The Screwtape Letters
by C.S. Lewis*

THE BIG IDEA: Contemporary motion pictures often wrongly depict Satan as either a humorous but harmless, caricature with horns, red tights, and a pitchfork or as a malevolent, all-powerful being who can destroy anyone he wishes.

10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 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." Eph 6:10-12 NIV

A. What Satan Is Limited to Doing to Human Beings (the battle for your mind)

1. Satan can blind us {cover w/ a callus; harden; dull the intellect} (2 Cor 4:3-4)
2. He can accuse us {charge; indict; lay blame} (Rev 12:10)
3. He can deceive us {trick or mislead} (John 8:44)
4. He can inflame the hurts caused by others {stir up} (Eph. 4:25-27)

B. What We Can Do to Thwart His Attacks

Put on the Armor of God!

13 "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Eph. 6:13-17 NIV

1. Walk in truth (John 8:32)
2. Be right with God (1 John 1:9)
3. Be right with Others (Rom 12:18-19)
4. Have faith in God (1 John 4:4)
5. Rejoice in your salvation (Eph 2:8-9)

6. Know and use God's Word, the Bible (James 4:7)

**Don't panic, family. This page is for personal study at home!*

What We Know from Scripture About Satan and His Demons

1. Satan is a being with a personal name. Job 1:7
2. He fell from his position as an anointed cherub through pride over his own beauty. Ez. 28:11-17, Is. 14:12-14
3. He deceived Eve in the garden. Gen. 3:1-6
4. God put enmity between Satan and man. Gen. 3:15
5. He has access to heaven. Rev. 12:9-12
6. He is the accuser of the brethren. Rev. 12:10
7. He roams the earth seeking whom he can devour. 1 Peter 5:8
8. He hates good men. Job 2:3-6
9. He seeks to destroy fellowship between God and His children. Job 2:4-6
10. He seeks to cause men to curse God and deny Him. Job 2:5
11. He is limited by God in touching His children. Job 2:6
12. He destroys to the limit of his ability through the permission of God. Job 1:12-19
13. He has many agents on earth who do his bidding. Job 1:15,17
14. He can control the elements and cause storms when God permits. Job 1:18-19
15. He is the propagator of disease in the bodies of men. Job 2:7; Acts 10:38
16. Satan's ultimate abode is the "lake of fire" prepared for him, the demons, and those humans who do not believe in Christ. Rev. 20:10
17. A third of God's angels rebelled with Satan and now compose his demon horde. Rev. 12:4
18. The demons are subject to Christ and to believers by the atonement, the name of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Matt. 8:16-17
19. Demons have a hierarchy of rank and exert control over specific geographic locations. Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:12-14
20. Thousands of them can enter into and take possession of a person. Mark 5:9
21. They have more than ordinary intelligence. Matt. 8:29
22. Their rightful place at present is in the abyss. Luke 8:26-33
23. Demons seek embodiment and can enter into and control both men and beasts. Mark 5:1-18
24. Demons know their fate and recognize those who have power over them. Matt. 8:31-32; Acts 19:13-17
25. They can inflict physical maladies. Matt. 12:22
26. They wage war on the saints. Eph. 6:10-18
27. Our resources against them are prayer, self control, and the whole armor of God. Matt. 17:21; Eph. 6:10-18

"He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." 1 John 3:8 NIV

***Non-Christian Spiritual Activities that Satan Will Use to Blind Us**
(not a complete list)

1 Tim 4:1 NIV

**The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow
deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.**

*Because participation in these activities can open the doorway to Satan's influence in
our lives and ultimately blind us, we need to confess any involvement with them
as sin and renounce any future attachment to them.*

Out-of-body experience	Ouija board	Bloody Mary
Light as a feather	Table lifting	Magic Eight Ball
Spells or curses	Mental telepathy	Automatic writing
Trances	Spirit guides	Fortune-telling
Tea leaves	Divination	Tarot cards
Levitation	Magic--The Gathering	Witchcraft/sorcery
Satanism	Astrology/horoscopes	Palm reading
Hypnosis	Black or white magic	Seances
Fantasy games w/ occult images	Blood pacts	Good luck charms
Sexual spirits	Superstitions	Violent video games
Mormonism	Jehovah's Witnesses	New Age
Masons	Christian Science	Mind Science
The Way International	Unification Church	The Forum
Church of the Living Word	Children of God	Unitarianism
Church of Scientology	Buddhism (incl. Zen)	Hinduism
Transcendental meditation	Islam	Black Muslim
Native American spirit worship	Yoga	Hare Krishna
Silva Mind Control	Bahai faith	Rosicrucianism
Other non-Christian religions	Cults	Martial arts

(mysticism/ devotion to sensei)

**TV shows, movies, music, books, magazines, or comics that glorify Satan or our
sinful nature**

Gal 5:19-21 NLT

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasures, **20** idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, **21** envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

****False Beliefs Promoted by the Father of Lies**
(These lies are propagated through the evil world system over which Satan rules)

1. **Believing that acquiring money and things will bring lasting happiness
(1Tim 6:10)**
2. **Believing that excessive food and alcohol can relieve my stress and make me
happy (Prov 20:1)**
3. **Believing that an attractive body and personality will get me what I want
(Prov 31:30)**
4. **Believing that gratifying sexual lust will bring lasting satisfaction (Eph 4:22)**
5. **Believing that I can sin without any negative consequences (Heb. 3:12-13)**
6. **Believing that I need more than what God has given me in Christ (2 Cor 11:2-4)**
7. **Believing that I can do whatever I want and no one can touch me (Prov 16:18)**
8. **Believing that unrighteous people who refuse to accept Christ go to heaven
anyway (1 Cor 6:9-11)**
9. **Believing that I can associate with bad company and not become corrupted
(1 Cor 15:33-34)**
10. **Believing that I can read, see or listen to anything and not be corrupted
(Prov 4:23-27)**
11. **Believing that there are no consequences on earth for my sin (Gal 6:7-8)**
12. **Believing that I must gain the approval of certain people in order to be happy
(Gal 1:10)**
13. **Believing that I must measure up to certain standards in order to feel good about
myself (Gal 3:2-3)**

from [The Steps to Freedom in Christ](#) by Neil T. Anderson

Three Lies that Satan Tells Believers to Keep them From Being Effective

- 1. Early on Satan will attempt to convince a follower of Christ that he and his demons do not exist.**
- 2. If this strategy fails, Satan will promote the belief that he has more power than he actually has.**
- 3. And, finally, he will attempt to negotiate and convince a Christian that he has already done enough for God. "Why not put your feet up, relax, and enjoy the rest of your life?"**

John Eldredge Wild at Heart