

‘LOOKING BEYOND THE SURFACE OF THINGS’

2 Corinthians 10:7 – You are only looking on the surface of things.

1. **3 PRINCIPLE TRUTHS** pertaining to this approach/study/emphasis

1. THERE IS A VERY REAL SPIRIT-WORLD

READINGS:

- 2 Kings 6:15-17 – Elisha and his servant
- Rev. 4 + 5
- Hebrews 12:22-24
- Eph.6:10-12

1. IT’S POPULATED

2. IT’S ORGANIZED

3. IT’S STRATEGISED – ‘FOR’ / ‘AGAINST’ YOU; YOUR FAMILY.

2. THERE IS A VERY REAL ‘ENEMY’ / KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

1. HIS HISTORY:

READINGS:

- Rev. 12
- Is 14:12-19
- Ez. 28:11-19

2. HIS NATURE

READINGS:

- John 8:44 Murderer/Liar/father of lies
- 1 Peter 5:8 Roaring/Devouring Lion

3. HIS INTENT

1. *To Kill*
2. *To Deceive*
3. *To Spawn my Lies*
4. *To make Afraid (Roaring)*
5. *To Devour – He Feeds on the (the) Flesh!*

4. HIS NAMES: SATAN & ‘THE DEVIL’

- **SATAN:** = Adversary / Opposer
- **THE DEVIL:** = Accuser Rev. 12:11 DAY & NIGHT
Greek = *dia/bollos* = ‘THROUGH-THROWER’

5. TWO NB ATTRIBUTES TO NOTE ABOUT THE DEVIL

1. **HE IS AN ABSOLUTE OPPORTUNIST** – Eph. 4:27 “Do not give the”
2. **HE IS NOT ‘OMNIPRESENT’**
Rev. 2:13 – Pergamum: *‘Where Satan’s Throne is’*

Job 1:6+7 – “...going to and fro on the earth. And from walking up and down on it.

6. 10 THINGS THE DEVIL SEEKS TO DO TO PEOPLE

1. ENCOURAGES DOUBT:

- Gen 3:1 “Did God really say ...”
- Eph 6:16 “The Shield of Faith – the quench the flaming arrows of the evil

2. TEMPTS TO DISOBEDIENCE:

- Gen 3:4,5 “Come on try it”
- Mt 4:9 “Worship me:

3. ENCOURAGES TO SIN:

- John 13:2 The devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus
- Acts 5:3 How is it that satan has so filled your heart?

4. SLANDERS THE SAINTS:

- Job 1:9 Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not put a hedge
- Rev 12:10 The Accuser of our Brothers, who accuses day and night

5. CAN INFLICT WITH DISEASES:

- Job 2:7 Satan afflicted Job with painful sores from
- Mark 9:14-29 “Whom Satan has kept bound for 18 long years”
- Luke 13:16 Crippled woman

6. OPPOSES THOSE SERVING GOD:

- Zech 3:1 Joshua the High Priest – Satan standing at His right hand
- Luke 22:31 Satan has desired to have you that he may sift you....

7. REMOVES THE ‘SEED’ OF GOD’S WORD:

- Mt 13:19 ‘When anyone hears the message about the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

8. DECEIVES AND LEADS ASTRAY:

- 2 Cor 11:3 ‘Just as Eve was deceived’
- 1 Tim 4:1 Some will abandon the faith and following deceiving spirits,
- and things taught by demons.
- 1 Tim 5:14,15

9. TAKES CAPTIVES:

- 2 Tim 2:26 ‘...and escape from the devil who has taken them captive to do his will’.
- Acts 26:18

10. BUILDS ‘STRONGHOLDS:

- 2 Cor. 10:4-7

Some of the Devil’s Disguises and Strategies

1.
AS

An “Angel of Light”
2Cor.11:14

HIS GOAL
DISTRACTION

HIS METHOD

Generally to present an activity or event

1. *To attract attention*
2. *It appears harmless*
3. *No apparent “cost” involved*
4. *Promises benefits*
5. *Takes attention off God*

HE APPEALS TO

The Interest and Needs

USES

Counterfeit miracles
2Thess.2:9

EXAMPLES

1. **Fortune Telling**
 - *Palm reading;*
 - *Astrology;*
 - *Teacup reading etc*
2. **Divination**
 - *Water divining;*
 - *Pendulum etc*
3. **Spiritism**
 - *Séances;*
 - *Playing ‘Glassy-glassy’;*
 - *Levitation etc*
4. **Certain Games, Toys and Characters**
 - *Dungeons and Dragons;*
 - *Masters of the Universe*
 - *Harry Potter etc*
5. **“Faith Healing” (not Divine)**
 - *Use of charms and*
 - *Crystals*
 - *Homeopathy, Yoga etc*

2.
AS

The “Serpent”
Gen.3:1; Rev.12:9

HIS GOAL
DECEPTION

HIS METHOD

He initiates and encourages the questioning of what God has said (in His Word)
“Did God really say...?”

HE APPEALS TO

The Intellect and Reason

USES

Thoughts, suggestions as he encourages thinking patterns which are independent of God’s ways and Word.
Acts 5:3; 1Tim.4:1

EXAMPLES

1. **Sects and Heresies**
 - *Where the teaching is Jesus-‘plus’*
 - *“Doctrines of demons”:*
things taught which are different to the Bible
1Tim.4:1
2. **False World Religions**
 - *Where Jesus is not held as the Son of God, the only way to God.*
3. **Secret Societies /“Brotherhoods”**
 - *Freemasonry*
 - *Ku Klux Klan*

3.
AS

The “Roaring Lion”
1Peter 5:8

HIS GOAL
DESTRUCTION

HIS METHOD

A meticulous, systematic destroying of all good and beauty in a person.
A degrading destructiveness whereby the person is ‘dehumanized’.

HE APPEALS TO

(and feeds on) the ‘Flesh’

(That’s what lions eat!)

USES

The promise of ‘power’;
Uses fear and intimidation;
Entrapment, addictions and bondage.

EXAMPLES

1. **Witchcraft and Sorcery**
2. **Satanism**
3. **Black and ‘white’ Magic**
4. **Voodoo**
5. **Martial Arts**
6. **Certain Music:**
e.g. Heavy metal

SATAN'S STRATEGY AGAINST CHRISTIANS

(Summary of contents of Warren W. Wiersbe's book: "The Strategy of Satan")

A. AS THE **DECEIVER** **2 Cor 11:3**

HIS TARGET _____

HIS WEAPON _____

HIS PURPOSE **To make you IGNORANT of God's will**

YOUR DEFENCE **The Inspired Word of God**

B. AS THE **DESTROYER**

HIS TARGET _____

HIS WEAPON _____

HIS PURPOSE **To make you IMPATIENT of God's will**

YOUR DEFENCE **The Imparted Grace of God**

C. AS THE **DICTATOR**

HIS TARGET _____

HIS WEAPON _____

HIS PURPOSE **To make you INDEPENDENT of God's will**

YOUR DEFENCE **The Indwelling Spirit of God**

D. AS THE **ACCUSER**

HIS TARGET _____

HIS WEAPON _____

HIS PURPOSE **To bring an INDICTMENT by the will of God**

YOUR DEFENCE **The Interceding Son of God**

What Demons Do To (Certain*) Christians

Question: Can a Christian be influenced by demons (...demonized)?

Thayer's explanation for the Greek word *daimonizomai* (often interpreted 'demon possession'):

"To be under the power of a demon; In the New Testament, these are persons, afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, etc.) whose bodies, in the opinion of the Jews, demons had entered, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves; accordingly 'the possessed' were wont to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon."

Answer: _____

What Demons Do To (Certain*) Christians

* You have to first qualify what type of 'Christians' we are talking about:

- Christians **ought to be** living in the victory of **Luke 10:19** – *"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you"*.
And, **Romans 8:37** - *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* Etc. etc.
- **But, CHRISTIANS WHO ARE:**
 1. Carrying baggage – unresolved issues;
 2. Harboring unforgiveness;
 3. Ignorant (of the devices of the devil/his demons) and the Word of God;
 4. Giving the devil and his demons 'footholds' (Eph.4:27)
 5. Allowing sin to reign in their lives;
 6. NB. Lack self-control (Lack discipline) (Prov.25:28)
 - 7.
- **THESE types of Christians will encounter the following activity from demons:**

What Demons can do to Christians

1. Demons can DISTRACT THEM – Gen.3:1-

- From the Purposes of God
- From the Plans of God
- From the Pleasure of obeying God

2. Demons can DECEIVE THEM

- **2 Cor 11:3** - *But I am afraid that just as Eve was **deceived by the serpent's cunning**, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
- **1 Tim 4:1** - *The Spirit clearly says that in later times **some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.***
- **2 Tim 2:24-26** - *And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and **that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.***
- **1 John 4:1** - *Dear friends, **do not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

3. Demons can DIRECT THEM

- **1 Chron. 21:1** - ***Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.***
- **1 Tim 5:14-15** – *(So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.) 15 **Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.***
- **John 13:2** - *The evening meal was being served, and **the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot**, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.*
- **Acts 5:3** - *Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that **Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"*

4. Demons can DIVEST THEM (rob them of their blessing, authority, peace etc.)

- **John 10:10** - ***The thief comes only to steal** and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
- **Luke 8:5-12**
 5 *A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and **the birds of the air ate it up.***
 12 *Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then **the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts**, so that they may not believe and be saved.*

DIVESTS THEM

- *Of their PLACE*
- *Of their PURPOSE (in God)*
- *Of their PEACE*
- *Of their POSSESSIONS*

5. Demons can DISASSOCIATE THEM ...

- From the Truth – Luke 8:12
- From Fellowship and Unity - 2 Tim 2:24-26
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6. Demons can DISCOURAGE THEM

- **Isaiah 61:1-3**

- 1 *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,*
- 2 *to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,*
- 3 *and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise **instead of a spirit of despair**. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.*

7. Demons can DISEASE THEM

- **Luke 13:10 – 16** (The woman with the 'spirit of infirmity', for 18 years.)
- **2 Cor.12:7** – Paul's 'thorn in the flesh'

8. Demons can DESTROY THEM

- **John 8:44** - *You belong to your father, **the devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He **was a murderer from the beginning**, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
- **1 Peter 5:8** - *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around **like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour**.*

9. Ultimately, Demons will Use any Unalert, Ignorant Christian

- *To DISCREDIT GOD*
 - *To DEFAME HIS NAME*
 - *To DEVALUE HIS WORD*
 - *To DIVIDE HIS WORK*
 - *To DESTROY HIS CHURCH*
- **These are some of the things that demons do to God's people.**
 - **The tragedy is that it should not be like this.**
 - **Because,**
Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world. [1 John 4:4]
And,
We have been given authority over all the power of the evil one. Power to trample on serpents and scorpions. [Luke 10:19]
And this makes us more than conquerors in Christ! [Romans 8:37]

1 Thess. 2:17 – 3:5

“... But Satan Stopped Us.”

The ***BIG*** Question again is:

Can the Devil have any influence over Christians?

<i>Look At Some Biblical Evidence</i>
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- 1. The very Name of the enemy suggests that we can expect trouble from him.**
 - “Devil” (*diabolos*) – means “Through-thrower”.
 - “Satan” – means “Adversary”

- 2. The Warnings we are given indicates that we need to be on our guard.**
 - 1 Peter 5:8 – *Be alert and on your guard for your enemy, the devil, prowls around like*
 - Ephesians 6:10-17 – *we fight not against flesh and blood*

- 3. Christ’s Revelations to two early Churches.**
 - Rev. 2:10 (to Smyrna) – *Satan will put some of you in prison*
 - Rev. 2:13 (to Pergamum) – *I know you live where Satan has his throne*

- 4. Paul’s own Personal Experiences and Understanding of what was behind some of his difficulties.**
 - 1 Thess. 2:18 – *‘blocked’ by Satan.*
 - 2 Cor. 12:7-10 – *‘a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan’.*

- 5. The First Problem in the Church was orchestrated by Satan!**
 - Acts 5 – Ananias and Sapphira being tempted by the devil to lie to the Holy Spirit

- 6. (Most revealing and most disturbing of all ...!)**
Paul’s insight into the Enemy’s Intrusion into the lives of Christians.
 - 2 Cor. 11:3 – *Just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray*
 - 1 Thess. 3:5b – *the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless*
 - 1 Tim. 5:14.15 – *to give the enemy no opportunity to slander*
 - 2 Tim. 2:24-26 – *that they will come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil*

How Does This Happen?

1. *Usually when we are not alert and ignorant – 1Peter 5*

2. *When we ‘give the devil a foothold’ – Eph. 4:27 -*

3. *When the devil is allowed to take advantage over us (‘outwit us’)*
 - 2 Cor. 2:11- *in order that Satan may not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*

SOLUTION, PREVENTION - James 4:7; Ephesians 4:25-32; 6:10-17

- 1. SUBMIT yourselves, then, to God. [James 4:7a]**
- 2. RESIST the devil, and he will flee from you. [James 4:7b]**
- 3. DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL A ‘FOOTHOLD’ (the slightest gap). [Ephesians 4:27]**
- 4. Get yourself strong in the Lord; Put on the full Armour of God; take/make your stand. [Eph. 6:10-12]**

[Continued]

3 PRINCIPLE TRUTHS pertaining to this approach/study/emphasis

[Recap]

1. There is a very real spirit-world

2. There is a very real 'enemy'

3. We (*who are made in God's image*) are uniquely designed to be able to relate to, and be affected by 2 worlds, both realms - the Natural and the Spiritual realms.

1. With our Body and 5 Senses we relate to the Natural World

- **1 John 2:15-17** – the lust of the eyes ... the pride of life
- **Genesis 12:10** – And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered like the garden of the Lord
- **Genesis 3:6** – So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, ... she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband ...
- **Joshua 7:20,21** – (Achan) “When I saw... a beautiful cloak ... and silver ... and gold ..., then I coveted them and took them. ... Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel.’
- **John 17:15-18** – We are IN the World; ... not OF the World; ... sent TO the World
- **Psalms 119:37** – Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things

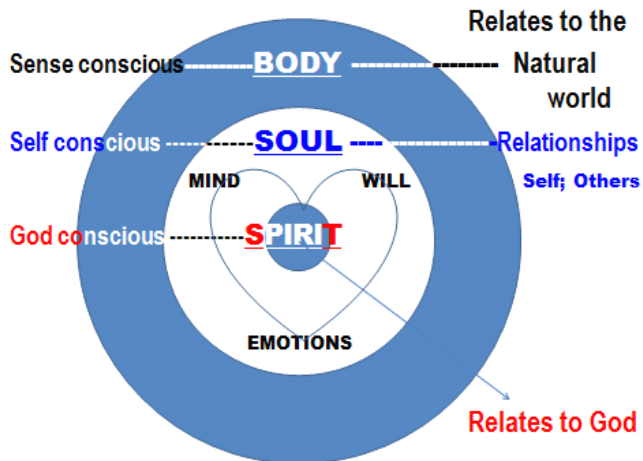
2. We have a 'Spiritual Faculty' with which we relate to the Spiritual Realm

- **Romans 8:15-17** – (especially v.16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.
- **John 14:17** – You know Him (the Spirit of Truth) for He dwells with you, and will be IN you.
- **1 John 4:4** – Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the World
- **John 14:23** – ‘We (the Father and Jesus) will come to him, and We will make Our home with him.’
- **Rev 2 + 3** – (7x) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
- **Matt.16:19** – I will give you the Keys of the kingdom of (the) heaven(ly realms)...

3. There is 'two-way' Traffic between us and in these two realms

- **Matt.16:19** – I will give you the Keys of the kingdom of (the) heaven(ly realms), and whatever you bind ON EARTH will be bound IN (the) HEAVEN(ly realms); and whatever you loose on Earth, will be loosed in (the) heaven(ly realms)
- **Acts 4:31** – After they had prayed, the place where they were gathering was shaken!
- **Acts 16:25, 26** – Paul and Silas praising God while in prison ... an earthquake!
- **Matt.6:9-13** – The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father in Heaven ... Your Kingdom come ... on Earth*
- **Gen.28:10-17** – Jacob's dream: a ladder from Earth to Heaven; angels ascending and descending.

UNIQUELY MADE – IN GOD'S IMAGE – BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT



4. The Enemy exploits the area of the SOUL – where he has access to our thoughts and emotions

- **Within the SOUL, is our 'HEART':** made up of MIND (*intellect; reason*) EMOTIONS and WILL
 - **Our 'thoughts' and 'feelings' usually work together** to determine our decisions (our WILL)
 - **The Enemy will usually come with 'suggestions'** (*provokes thought*), which gets us 'thinking' or questioning
 - **He will also get us to 'look at' things** (*lust of the eyes*), to invoke DESIRE or some other EMOTION
 - **He will exploit and use some past trauma** in our lives as the foundation on which he builds **'STRONGHOLDS'**.
[Definition: Anything that has a strong hold on a life, and can't easily be overcome. It might even *define the person*. e.g. 'an angry man; a fearful child; a sociopath; a paedophile; a habitual criminal; a nymphomaniac etc.]
- **These 'strongholds' usually provide 'cover' for demonic intruders to remain undetected but dynamically active as they maintain a STRONG HOLD and CONTROLLING INFLUENCE on and in that person's life.**
- **'STRONGHOLDS' can take many different forms:** Can be residing and presiding emotions (*fear; anger; rage; unforgiveness; mood-swings*); appetites and cravings; addictions; compulsive-obsessive behavioural patterns; psychological disorders; inherited character traits; disease (Luke 13:10-16) etc.

