

GOD JUST TOUCHED ME - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

LESSON 6 - THE ENEMY

A. Introduction to the enemy:

We do have enemies in the spiritual realm, and they are fully dedicated to our destruction. There are many that are collectively referred to in scripture as demons, evil spirits, and devils. These spirits are led by a powerful spirit known by many names that are descriptive of his nature. The most common is "The Devil", which means slanderer. He is also called "Satan", which means adversary, accuser, and archenemy. Sometimes he is called "Belial", or worthless, wicked, and evil. He is also frequently referred to as "Beelzebub", literally the dung god. Before he turned against God he was known as "Lucifer", brightness or Morning Star. Whatever the name, know that there is nothing nice, trustworthy, or safe about him. He hates people and he hates God. His one goal is to keep people away from God. He doesn't care if you believe in him or not. As a matter of fact, if you think he does not exist it is easier for him to deceive you. He doesn't care if you are impressed with him because his only interest is your destruction. He is also capable of masquerading as an angel of light, because that is what he once was.

B. Created beings:

These spirits are created beings (Nehemiah 9:6, Colossians 1:16). All spirits, good or evil, have more in common with humans than with God. They were created by God and their very existence depends on Him. Like humans they had an opportunity to choose God or self. Some of them chose self, and some did not. Those that didn't choose self are known as God's Angels, those that did choose self are known as the evil spirits. When you hear of devils or evil spirits, what do you picture them as being like? To what do you think ranks and levels of authority amongst demons refers?

C. Rebels:

The evil spirits rebelled against God and were cast out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12-15). Lucifer's problem was his fascination with his own beauty, so much so that he wanted to be above God (Ezekiel 28:12-19). He became violent and proud and tried to take over heaven, but the Arch-angel Michael, along with God's angels, fought against Lucifer and the angels that chose to follow him, and threw them out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-10). One third of all the angels sided with Lucifer (Revelation 12:4). When the rebels were cast out it was to earth, not to their eternal abode. How does it feel to know that our world is everywhere infested by a swarm of angry, evil spirits? If you could see the spirit world what do think you would be observing?

God charged the rebellious angels with sin (Job 4:18). Unlike Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, Lucifer had no other tempter, and God's judgment of him was swift. Not only was Lucifer found guilty, but all that joined him were found guilty as well. If God would judge His rebellious angels we should be concerned for ourselves (2 Peter 2:4). The fallen angels are now locked in darkness awaiting final disposition (Jude 6). Though they are lost in darkness, we have access to the light while we yet live in our bodies. If we die in our sin, we too shall be lost in darkness. Do you blame the evil spirits for every wrong desire you ever have? Have you ever considered the role of the world and the flesh in leading you astray?

D. Limited Power:

Evil spirits are limited in what they can do (Job 1:6&12). They can tempt and try to lead us astray, but to influence the physical world they need God's permission. Sometimes God allows it to get people's attention (1 Corinthians 5:1-5), and

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sometimes it is because the individual is completely perverted (Romans 1:28-32). The evil spirits can see what we do and hear what we say. They remember our reactions to situations and what emotions our bodily expressions are associated with, and are they are very good at learning how to push our buttons to get reactions. Although they are observant and good at putting two and two together, they cannot read our thoughts (1 Kings 8:39, 2 Chronicles 6:30). If you are going to rebuke an evil spirit you need to open your mouth and speak out loud. No matter how hard they try they cannot separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38&39). Only we can separate ourselves from God by our own choice (2 Peter 2:21). Whenever we are under attack, we need to remember our God is always with us (1 John 4:4). They live and move in the spirit realm, but they are not all powerful. Unlike God who is present everywhere, they can only be in one place at a time. The ancient human wisdom for war of "know your enemy" is valid for spiritual warfare, but there is no need to fear them. Sometimes people see a real big scary Devil and a little meek and mild Jesus. Our Lord and Redeemer is so far above them that they can never overcome Him (Ephesians 1:20&21). Do you fear what demons might do to you? Do you know why God gave you free will?

E. Satan's agenda:

Satan has his own activities (Genesis 3:1-4). For starters he told the whole human race that God was a liar. Then Adam and Eve accepted the lie. Generally though he is busy with bigger things (Ephesians 2:2). He is the Commander-in-Chief of the enemy forces. By nature he is a thorough scoundrel (John 8:44), never to be trusted. He hinders the work of evangelism (2 Corinthians 4:4) and attacks God's chosen leaders (Zechariah 3:1&2). Knowing who Jesus was, he did not trust one of his underlings to deal with Him (Matthew 4:1). His attempts to stop redemption included quoting scripture, but trying to twist the

meaning (Matthew 4:5&6). That is still one of his strategies for his demons. He also attacked Peter (Luke 22:31). His objective is still to deceive humanity (1 John 4:3). He personally only goes after the real big threats to his goal, and leaves lesser threats to his troops. In your personal life you are probably dealing with his fallen angels and not Satan himself. Do you think you are a big enough threat to Satan to warrant his personal attention? What do you think gets his attention?

F. Demon activities:

The demons have their specialties but follow the prime directive from their leader (John 10:10). They try to keep us from God's Word, spoken, written, or living (Matthew 13:19). They try to inhabit and control humans, sometimes causing madness (Matthew 8:25-34). When evicted they will attempt to again inhabit the person if he does not claim Jesus as his Savior (Matthew 12:43-45). Diseases are real and physical, but demons can fake the real things (Matthew 12:22, Matthew 17:14-18, Acts 16:16-18). More than anything else they put thoughts in your mind and try to make you believe those thoughts are your own. They manipulate your feelings and emotions to lead you astray. They will try to make you feel sorry for yourself and angry with others. The real battlefield is in your mind (Genesis 6:5, Matthew 15:18&19). Sometimes they set ambushes by working on the emotions of several different people. Once they get them to the boiling point they bring them together and wait for the explosion. Then they work on righteous indignation or "poor me" feelings, trying to get those involved to share with many how they have been wronged so others can pick up the offenses and join the battle. The ultimate goal is to split the body. Again, you may be on the tracks to Gloryland when evil spirits start pushing your buttons. While you get in a snit over what is happening they pull the switch and put you on a different set of tracks. By the time you realize you are now on the tracks to Sorryland you are a long

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way from where you could have been, would have been, should have been if you had not been blindsided. They also attempt to destroy the local congregation by attacking the pastor. They try to discourage, disgrace, or eliminate him, and there by destroy the church. Satan tried that with Jesus (Matthew 26:31). Everything they do has only one purpose, to separate us from God and destroy us. The next time someone snaps, snarls, and otherwise verbally attacks you, consider that they are probably reacting to a recent demonic ambush. If you had 20-20 spiritual vision you would probably see a disgusting demon perched on their shoulder yammering in their ear and egging them on. Do you sometimes wonder why you have unwanted thoughts and desires? Are you ever burdened by unwanted feelings and emotions?

G. Our authority:

We now have authority back, and the devil's authority has been lost (Colossians 2:15). On Calvary Christ recovered what Satan stole from mankind in the Garden of Eden. God originally left man in charge of creation and Satan stole that authority when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. That is why Jesus did not dispute Satan's rights when he offered it all to Jesus (Matthew 4:8-10). Because of Calvary Jesus has all authority everywhere (Matthew 28:18). Jesus gave His Church authority over demons (Matthew 10:1, Mark 3:14&15). We can resist them (1 Peter 5:8&9), and when we do they will flee (James 4:7). Throughout our time on earth we will be fighting a spiritual battle against our enemies, but God has given us armor and weapons (Ephesians 6:11-17). Do you realize the level of authority that was lost in the Garden of Eden? Do you understand the authority you now have because of who you are in Christ?

H. Final disposition:

The final disposition of our enemies has been secured by God (Isaiah 14:15-17). Hell was prepared for Satan and his

angels, not for people (Matthew 25:41). God made us to be His own, to live with Him for all eternity. However, sin cannot be in the presence of a Holy God (Habakkuk 1:13), and if we die in our sin we will join the fallen angels (Revelation 21:8). For a time the fallen angels are roaming the earth doing their dirty work, but the time will come when they will be cosigned to the everlasting lake of fire, never to be free again. Yeah God!!! What is your worst nightmare? Have you ever really thought about what it would be like to be in hell?

I. Other enemies

Having said all that, you need to be aware that Satan and his demons have a couple of influential allies that are just as much our enemies, and they are constantly warring against the spirit. They are both under the sway of the evil spirits, but both are formidable in their own right. They are the world and the flesh.

J. The world

When the Bible speaks of the world it is not speaking of the physical earth, but of the environment in which we live, and the other people that live there. We are told that we are in the world but should not be of the world (John 17:14-16). We are told that we should be a light unto the world (Matthew 5:14-16) and should influence the world to turn to God (Mark 16:15-16, Philippians 2:14-15). However, the world is constantly trying to lead us astray and to corrupt the Church, the family of God. Eighty years ago it was a social disgrace to be divorced. Today it is the norm in the world and divorces come in do-it-yourself kits. The Word of God says, "What God has joined together let no man tear asunder" (Matthew 9:6), but most denominations have rationalized the world's view and accept it. Fifty years ago it was a crime to kill an unborn baby. Today it is the norm in the world with abortion clinics all over. The Word of God says, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13), and many denominations are not sure

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what they believe. Fifty years ago it was a social disgrace to be a homosexual. Today it is accepted over most of the world as an alternative life style. The Word of God says, "Man shall not lay with man as with a woman. It is an abomination to God"(Leviticus 18:22), but many denominations are accepting homosexuals as leaders within the churches. If you stand up for the Word of God you are called a bigot, accused of intolerance, and in many places accused of hate crimes. The world encourages Christians to be open-minded and politically correct. The world is now pushing for legalized drugs and mercy killing, and some nations have endorsed it. In some nations children are used as a financial commodity as sex slaves, and the world may soon be pushing that. The world is no friend of ours. Its one desire is to separate us from God's standards and values and get us to accept its standards and values so our light cannot reveal its sin. Many of God's children say, "I know the Word of God says, "Thus and so", but the world says, "This and that", when they should be saying, "I know the world says, "This and that", but the Word of God says, "Thus and so". We need to live on the right side of the "but".

K. The flesh

When the Bible speaks of the flesh it is not talking about our physical bodies but our carnal nature and physical appetites. It is talking about our natural tendency to be selfish, get revenge and be all ego. The natural man has many appetites all screaming to be satisfied. People like wealth, power, fame, food, sex, drugs, alcohol, and almost unlimited other carnal things. Most are not bad in moderation, but there is never enough to satisfy the flesh. Left to its own arrangements the flesh would sate itself to destruction. It does not take much to keep these appetites alive. They will thrive on any least amount of indulgence. However, if you completely deny the wrong ones you can starve them to death. Then you only have to hold the other ones in check. Most

would recognize these sins of the flesh. However, many may be surprised to find out that Galatians 5:19 tells us that "sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, envy, drunkenness, wild orgies, and other sins like these" are all sins of the flesh. The problem with the natural man is that is who we were before we came to Jesus. The natural man does not die easily and we must continually deny him and put him down.

To recap, the enemy:

- Consists of created spirit beings
- Rebelled against God
- Stands guilty before God
- Is limited in capabilities
- Is led by Satan
- Is dedicated to our destruction
- Attacks the mind
- Is now under our authority
- Will be confined and punished for eternity
- Is aided by the world and the flesh

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SCRIPTURE	MAIN POINT	CONSIDERATIONS/QUESTIONS
B. Nehemiah 9:6 Colossians 1:16	They are created spirit beings	1) Spirits have more in common with humans than with God. 2) When you hear of devils or evil spirits, what do you picture them as being like? 3) To what do you think ranks and levels of authority amongst demons refers?
C. Isaiah 14:12-15 Ezekiel 28:12-19 Revelation 12:7-10 Revelation 12:4 Job 4:18 2 Peter 2:4 Jude 6	They rebelled against God and were cast out God charged the rebellious angels with error	1) When they were cast out it was to earth, not their eternal abode. 2) How does it feel to know that our world has a swarm of angry, evil spirits everywhere? 3) If you could see the spirit world what do think you would be observing? 1) Lucifer had no other tempter, and judgment of him was swift. 2) Do you blame the evil spirits for every wrong desire you ever have? 3) Have you ever considered the role of the world and the flesh in leading you astray?
D. Job 1:6&12 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 Romans 1:28-32 1 Kings 8:39 2 Chronicles 6:30 Romans 8:38&39 2 Peter 2:21 1 John 4:4 Ephesians 1:20&21	They are limited in what they can do	1) Other than the fact that they live and move in the spirit realm, they are not all powerful. 2) Do you fear what demons might do to you? 3) Do you know why God gave you free will?
E. Genesis 3:1-4 Ephesians 2:2 John 8:44 2 Corinthians 4:4 Zechariah 3:1&2 Matthew 4:1 Matthew 4:5&6 Luke 22:31 1 John 4:3	Satan has his own activities	1) In your personal life you are probably dealing with the fallen angels and not Satan himself. 2) Do you think you are a big enough threat to Satan to warrant his personal attention? 3) What do you think gets his attention?

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F. John 10:10 Matthew 13:19 Matthew 8:25-34 Matthew 12:43-45 Matthew 12:22 Matthew 17:14-18 Acts 16:16-18 Genesis 6:5 Matthew 15:18&19 Matthew 26:31	The demons have their specialties	1) Everything they do has only one purpose, to separate us from God and destroy us. 2) Do you sometimes wonder why you have unwanted thoughts and desires? 3) Are you ever burdened by unwanted feelings and emotions?
G. Colossians 2:15 Matthew 4:8-10 Matthew 28:18 Matthew 10:1 Mark 3:14&15 1 Peter 5:8&9 James 4:7 Ephesians 6:11-17	Their authority has been lost	1) On Calvary Christ recovered what Satan stole from mankind in the Garden of Eden. 2) Do you realize the level of authority that was lost in the Garden of Eden? 3) Do you understand the authority you now have because of who you are in Christ?
H. Isaiah 14:15-17 Matthew 25:41 Habakkuk 1:13 Revelation 21:8	Their final state	1) Hell was prepared for Satan and his angels, not for people. 2) What is your worst nightmare? 3) Have you ever really thought about what it would be like to be in hell?
I.	The demons have allies	1) The world and the flesh work with them to separate us from God and destroy us.
J. John 17:14-16 Matthew 5:14-16 Mark 16:15-16 Philippians 2:14-15 Mark 3:14&15 Matthew 9:6 Exodus 20:13 Leviticus 18:22	The world wants to convert us to its values and morals.	1) Though we are in the world we are not to join in its way, but work to convert it to God's ways.
H. Galatians 5:19	The flesh is our old nature struggling to survive.	1) We are in a constant war with the flesh.

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SCRIPTURE	WORDS	MEANING OF ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
C. Isaiah 14:12 Ezekiel 28:14 Revelation 12:4 Revelation 12:7	LUCIFER CHERUB DRAGON ANGELS	1) Hebrew hylel, <i>hay-lale'</i> , morning star, Lucifer 2) Hebrew kruwb, <i>ker-oob'</i> , cherub 3) Greek drakon, <i>drak'-own</i> , a serpent that fascinates, dragon 4) Hebrew malak, <i>mal-awk'</i> , messenger, angel 5) Greek aggelos, <i>ang'-sl-os</i> , messenger, angel
D. Job 1:6	SATAN	1) Hebrew satan, <i>saw-tawn'</i> , arch-enemy of good, adversary, Satan
E. Genesis 3:1 Luke 22:31 1 John 4:3	SERPENT SIFT ANTI-CHRIST	1) Hebrew nachash, <i>naw-kwash'</i> , snake, serpent 2) Greek siniazo, <i>sin-ee-ad'-zo</i> , sieve, to riddle, sift 3) Greek antichristos, <i>an-tee'-khris-tos</i> , opponent of the Messiah, anti-christ
J. Exodus 20:13 Leviticus 18:22	KILL ABOMINATION	1) Hebrew ratsach, <i>raw-tsakh</i> , dash to pieces, kill, murder 2) Hebrew toebah, <i>to-ay-baw'</i> , something disgusting, abhorrence, abominable.