

Not Today Satan!

Week 2

What Can Satan Really Do?

Main Scripture

2 Corinthians 11:14 – “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.”

Understanding Satan's Nature and Limits

- Satan doesn't approach us openly as 'the devil.'
- He sounds convincing, appealing, and reasonable — like the crowing of the crows.
- Uses intimidation, insecurity, confusion, distraction, temptation, to influence our decisions.
- **Limited Power:**
 - Not omnipresent (not everywhere at once).
 - Not omnipotent (not all-powerful).
 - Not omniscient (not all-knowing).

Enemy / Opponent

- **1 Peter 5:8:** Prowls like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour — **but cannot devour everyone.**
- **2 Corinthians 2:11:** Outwitted by Satan's schemes — often through unforgiveness.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:18:** Satan can hinder; it's a spiritual battle involving more than just us and God.

Deceiver / Tempter

- **Genesis 3:1-5:** Deceives Eve by twisting God's Word.
- **Revelation 12:9, 20: 7-8:** Deceives nations and leads many astray.
- **Matthew 4:1-11:** Tempts Jesus — waits till He's vulnerable (hungry, tired).
- **John 13:2, 27:** Influences Judas to betray Jesus.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:5:** Temptation is a setup — not permission.
- **2 Corinthians 11:3:** Deceives and leads minds astray, causing focus to waver from God's truth.
- **Acts 5:3:** Suggests sin (e.g., lying to the Holy Spirit).
- **2 Timothy 1:7:** Spirit of fear.

- **2 Corinthians 4:4**: Blinds the minds of unbelievers, keeping them from seeing the gospel.

The Accuser

- **Job 1:6-11**: Accuses Job before God.
- **Zechariah 3:1**: Accuses Joshua the high priest.
- **Revelation 12:10**: Guilt and guilt-tripping as “the accuser of our brothers and sisters.”
- **1 Samuel 16:14-16, 23**: Torments with lies, fear, rage, jealousy.

Demons & Unclean Spirits

Possession & Oppression:

- **Mark 5:1–15**: Man in Gerasene
- **Luke 8:2**: Mary Magdalene’s deliverance
- **Acts 16:16–18**: Spirit of divination cast out

Infirmity & Affliction:

- **Luke 13:11, 16**: Woman with spirit of infirmity
- **Matthew 9:32-33**: Mute man healed
- **Matthew 17:15-18**: Epilepsy signs, demon rebuked, suicidal prompts.

Organized Evil Kingdom

- Hierarchy:

- **Ephesians 6:12** – Rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, spiritual forces.
- **Matthew 12:24-26** – Satan’s divided kingdom.
- **Daniel 10:12-13, 20** – Princes over nations like Persia, Greece.

- Schemes & Strategies:

- **2 Corinthians 11:3** — Cunning like a serpent.
- **1 Timothy 4:1** — Deceiving spirits through lies.

Common Misconceptions & False Accusations

- Blaming Satan for every hardship (traffic, broken things).
- Misinterpreting normal temptations (**James 1:14-15**).
- Thinking all sickness is demonic; many are natural causes.
- Struggles with mental health often psychological, physical, or spiritual.
- Financial struggles are often due to habits, discipline, or economic conditions.

Sources of Problems Besides the Devil

The Flesh:

- **Galatians 5:19-21** — works of sinful human nature.

The World:

- **1 John 2:15-17** — lust of the flesh, eyes, pride of life.
- **Romans 12:2** — conforming to worldly patterns.

Broken Creation:

- **Romans 8:20-22** — creation groans under decay.
- **Matthew 5:45**

Summary: The balance between everything is the devil, and nothing is the devil.

- “Satan is real. Demons are active. There is an organized evil kingdom. But not everything in life is **‘the devil made me do it.’**
- Sometimes it’s the flesh.
- Sometimes it’s the world.
- Sometimes it’s just life.
- Spiritual warfare begins with discernment—knowing the difference.”