

D. How did Jesus change the power of demons?

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. Matthew 12:28–29 (ESV)

E. Can a Christian be demon-possessed?

...for forty days, being tempted by the devil... Luke 4:2 (ESV)

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

F. Can Satan and demons know my thoughts?

...I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' Isaiah 46:9–10 (ESV)

G. How should I respond to demonic influence?

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 (ESV)

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,... Hebrews 2:14 (ESV)

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:15 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Can you identify any past or current difficulties in your life that might have been the product of spiritual opposition?
2. Where do you see Satan's influence in our culture? How can an individual stand against culture-wide demonic values?
3. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What questions do you have about the pieces of armor? While all of the armor is important, what parts of the armor are most important for you to remember?
4. Are there areas of sin in your life where you might be giving the devil a foothold?
5. What is the danger of too much emphasis on spiritual warfare? What is the danger of too little emphasis on spiritual warfare?
6. Are there times when you have experienced victory over a demonic force by speaking to it in the name of Jesus? What did you learn from this message that will prepare you for that kind of conflict?

Demons

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For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:17 (ESV)

1. What does the Bible say about Satan?

A. When was Satan created?

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:31 (ESV)

Ezekiel 28:11-17

B. What was Satan's original sin?

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'" Isaiah 14:12–14 (ESV) — See also 1 Timothy 3:6.

C. What does the Bible say about Satan's personality?

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV) — He is cunning and crafty.

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,... Revelation 12:17 (ESV) — He is angry.

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because

there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 (ESV) — He is a murder and liar.

...Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Revelation 12:10 (ESV) — He loves to accuse us before God and to ourselves.

D. What does Satan do in the world?

and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Revelation 20:3 (ESV) — He deceives the nations.

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–10 (ESV) — He creates false religion, false signs, and false wonders.

...for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV) — He tempts us to sin.

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation... Revelation 2:10 (ESV) — He is behind the persecution of Christians.

2. What does the Bible say about demons?

A. How many demons are in the world?

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth... Revelation 12:3–4 (ESV)

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Revelation 12:9 (ESV)

B. What are the classifications of demons?

Permanently Confined

...the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to

the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. Genesis 6:2–4 (ESV)

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— Jude 6 (ESV)

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 2 Peter 2:4 (ESV)

And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Luke 8:31 (ESV)

Temporarily Confined

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. Revelation 20:1–3 (ESV)

Unconfined

C. How do demons work today?

They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known,... Deuteronomy 32:16–17 (ESV) — Demons are behind all false religions.

but they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did. They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; Psalm 106:35–37 (ESV) — Demons are behind child sacrifice.

Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. Matthew 12:22 (ESV)

And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself... And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" Luke 13:11 and 16 (ESV) — Demons can cause physical or mental illness.

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. James 3:14–15 (ESV) — Demons promote strife and disorder.