

Who are Satan and Demons?

Week 4 – The Reality of the Spirit Realm

Message Mate

- Most people either disbelieve in the existence of Satan or believe with an excessive fear, fascination or faith. Both are dangerous, yet as followers of Jesus we are to be aware of him and his schemes, but not live in fear (2 Cor 2:10-11).
- God created Satan as a cherubim angel who was perfect and full of wisdom and beauty, however Satan became proud of his wisdom and beauty and was expelled from heaven (Ezek 28:12-19). About one third of the angels aligned with Satan (Rev 12:4), yet the archangel Michael and his angels defeated Satan and his angels hurling them to earth (Rev 12:7-9). Satan in the form of a serpent was in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Adam and Eve bringing sin and hence dysfunction, disease and death into creation. Satan wants people to worship him (Mt 4:8,9), reject God (Job 2:4,5) and undo God's work (Mk 4:15).
- Satan is also known as the evil one (bringer of evil - Mt 13:19), Satan (enemy – Mk 4:15) and the devil (accuser Lk8:12). He seeks to slander and malign or twist truth. He is characterized by a range of other descriptions. Unlike God who is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing) and omnipresent (present everywhere), Satan uses demons to do his work at various places around the world since he is not omnipresent or omniscient, and his power is subordinate to God.
- Demons are mentioned extensively in the bible. Jesus came to destroy the devil's work and set many people free from demonic influences (1 Jn 3:8). Through Jesus' death on the cross, he defeated the power of sin, death and the devil (Jn 12:31, Heb 2:14, Col 2:13-15). Jesus is coming again and will defeat Satan for eternity (Rev 20:10).
- Scriptures show what Satan or his demons can do to us. They can tempt us to do the wrong thing (Matt 4:4-11), can accuse us (Zech 3:1,2), can block or hinder what God is calling us to do (Dan 10, 1 Thess 2:18), can deceive us by counterfeiting God including signs, wonders and miracles (2 Thess 2:9-10) and can cause sickness or disease (Luke 13:10-17).
- But when someone accepts the truth of God and puts their faith in Jesus Christ they are set free from the power of sin and the devil (2 Tim 2:25,26) through forgiveness of their sins (2 Cor 2:10,11). As you turn nearer to God, you can increasingly resist the devil (James 4:7,8). Although trials and temptations will still come, remember, "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 Jn 4:4).

Some Questions to Consider

1. Do you believe in the reality of Satan? Has this always been the case? Do or have you ever lived in disbelief, or with excessive fear, fascination or even faith in Satan?
2. Satan's aims include trying to get people to worship him (this could include idols or anything that is not God), to reject God (or curse or renounce God) and undo God's work. What has been your experience or what have you observed about how this may be done subtly or blatantly?
3. The word devil means accuser, and is one who accuses, slander or maligns the truth. Satan used this ploy with Eve in Genesis 3 and continues to lie, malign and twist truth. Discuss the quote from Dennis McCallum, *"But not Satan. He knows that in the spiritual realm, the players gain or lose power based on issues of truth and faith in what is true."*
4. Satan is not omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing) and omnipresent (present everywhere). Discuss how knowing this affects your view of God and Satan, and the spiritual warfare happening on earth or involving you?
5. 1 John 3:8b says, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." Discuss how Hebrews 2:14 and Colossians 2:13-15 give the assurance of Jesus' victory over sin, death and the devil.
6. Read 2 Timothy 2:25,26 and 2 Corinthians 2:10,11 and discuss the power of repentance and forgiveness in overcoming the power of Satan.

Pray –

Pray using James 4:7,8a as the basis of your prayers.

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. (James 4:7,8a NIV)

Pray with thanks that "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 Jn 4:4).