

# Satan's Fiery Darts

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Satan cannot harm us. He has no power to do anything to us. If Satan could destroy humanity he would have done so at the very beginning, 6000 years ago. He did not, because he cannot. Yet this evil force is actively present throughout our world, working to undermine our lives and lead us to our own ruination.

This article will answer three questions:

1. Who is Satan?
2. What can Satan do?
3. How can We Protect Ourselves from Satan?

## Who is Satan

God created everything, including the angels in Heaven. One such creation, a very beautiful angel, even by Heaven's standards, had the name Lucifer. Because of his beauty, Lucifer became proud and desired to rise above God his creator. Satan wanted to be worshiped as God. A third of the angels in Heaven sided with Lucifer and there was an angelic war. Lucifer and his followers lost their bid for power and God cast them all out of Heaven.

This event transformed Lucifer's beauty into ugliness, and he became a spiteful being full of lies, evil, and treachery. From that moment on, the Devil had nothing but pure hatred for God and he embarked on an all out, single-minded, no-holds-barred, scorched earth war to end all wars against God. Satan cannot harm God, so he turns his attention to God's creation, humanity, with the goal of hurting God through our misery.

In Genesis, the Bible records the fall of our first parents. Lucifer did not make Adam and Eve disobey God's sole command, but through cunning, manipulation, lies, and deception, Satan made disobedience seem like a valid option, preferable to obedience. He convinced Eve that God was holding something from her; that she wants what God forbids; that it is in her best interest to choose to disobey God. Adam followed suit, resulting in their separation from God. This act of their freewill changed them on a genetic level so that every one born to the human race would now be infected with a "fallen nature", a mental defect - knowing good and evil, and a default propensity toward self and sin. This is self-awareness (Prior to the fall, mankind lived in blissful innocence).

**Fun Fact:** Self is the root of all sin.

Ever since that first transgression 6000 years ago, a black cloud of sin and death hangs over humanity, and Satan is the unseen ruler of this fallen world.

This is where Christ comes into the picture, dying in our place, paying the penalty for our sin nature, and reconciling God and man. Today, anyone can freely choose a relationship with God because of Christ's sacrifice, becoming justified before God: "just as if he/she had never sinned". That's a bargain and you should consider taking God up on His offer before it is too late. Because, where the world is today, it truly is a limited time offer.

## What Can Satan Do?

While Satan cannot physically touch us, he can manipulate others who unwittingly serve and follow him. Those who do not know God, and do not have God's Spirit to protect them, are highly susceptible to satanic influences and schemes simply because of their fallen nature. This not only destroys their lives, but also the lives of those they encounter. Working selfishly for their own lusts, greed, and inordinate appetites, these men and women follow the Devil's seduction and blindly do his bidding.

Satan does not know what we think, but he knows how we think and that is just as effective. Using our weaknesses against us, he tempts us with our own thoughts, desires, passions, and lusts to choose vices that hurt us and hurt others. It is a true statement that we are our own worst enemy and bring many, if not all the woes we encounter into our own lives, simply by following our self will.

Satan uses every part of our world around us to attack and adversely affect our lives including the people we meet and those we know: family members, co-workers, friends, acquaintances, a casual rendezvous, the chance meeting where subtle suggestions and conversations lead to thoughts and action before you know what you are doing. That thing called "peer pressure" has wrecked countless lives as people make bad choices to fit in, or to follow the crowd, doing what they think is expected or popular, leading to compromise and shame and worse.

With the greatest of subtleties, Satan whispers lies into your ear, half-truths, and suggestions with the goal of creating despair, dissatisfaction, anger, malice, inordinate lust, temptation, fear and so much more. Those "whispers" may be your own thoughts, but contrary to right reason. Those whispers can come from the entertainment industry, pop music, books, teachers at school, the internet, movies, magazines, television, cable, family, friends, virtually everything that touches your life.

If you do not have a strong foundation of right and wrong, truth and fact, and know what is false and wrong, and understand the things in our world that are designed to hurt you, you will most likely be swept away by our current culture in a flood of your own desires and passions. God, The Spirit of God, and God's Word, the Bible, provide the only foundation and anchor that can protect you.

We could work through any number of scenarios you encounter daily. For instance, the daily news. Never before in the history of mankind has everyone had 24/7 access to every terrible thing that happens all over the world. We were not made for that constant barrage of bad news. The bulk of these reports and events are so far removed from our lives that they have nothing to do with us and will never even remotely affect us. Yet, bathing our minds daily with one bad thought and thing after another has a direct impact on how we feel, our mood, friendships, relationships, our outlook, our day-to-day decisions, performance at work, loss of our hope for the future, even our temperament, tending to make us worry and fret over nothing. These are examples of Satan's fiery darts.

Satan not only works through people, but also the corporations and the industries of our world. News corporations employ experts trained in marketing and psychological schemes designed to get your attention and draw you back for more shock and awe, day-after-day, serving up a never-ending parade of distress and mayhem from the four corners of the globe for the sake of their channels ratings. Never mind that much of what you hear is either grossly exaggerated, untrue, or deliberate misinformation. In a real sense, it is pure entertainment for profit, and they admit it, much like a roller coaster gives you ups-and-downs and twists and turns for your amusement. It doesn't go anywhere,

it's just a thrill ride that pumps chemicals into your brain for a feeling. Horror shows and haunted houses do the same thing. Similarly, the mental rush and emotional response people feel from these embellished bad news stories feeds an addiction: there is a part of your brain that reacts to the news stories you hear. This triggers a chemical stimulus that brings you back to the screen repeatedly for yet another fix. Try to do without your daily dose of bad news and you suffer withdrawal. The good news: you can easily kick the habit in a very short time. Just stop subjecting yourself to this abuse. Do something else.

Listen for the conditional words the news media uses every day in almost every story: may, might, maybe, should, could, possibly, if, uncertain, unknown, and many, many more. News stories are full of these words that suggest despair, disaster, and destruction "if". Remove these words and they would have little to say. There is nothing concrete or certain, but there is always a "maybe" and a "might be" and that's what they pedal: the possibility that something bad could maybe might happen somewhere sometime, if. In a matter of days you will have completely forgotten the latest panic and be on to a new story line of another day. Try an experiment: write these news stories down. Looking back six months later, you will see that the bad omens and portends of doom were nothing more than false harbingers that never materialized. Your life never changed because of these "reports". Were they ever real, or really worth your notice?

As a curiosity, turn on the news for 3 seconds throughout the day. What you will see in big bold letters are scare words: **DISASTER, DEATH, MURDER, TERROR, HORRIFYING, UNKNOWN**, and many, many more, all designed to provide a visual stimulus to your brain. And this is every hour of every day. These too, are Satan's fiery darts designed to hurt you.

The entertainment media is also under Satan's spell, presenting violence, hatred, sex, and debauchery to brainwash your mind with unseemly thoughts and attitudes. And every show must have a gun and a sexual innuendo, and lots of salty language befitting a sailor at sea. Our world is a war zone of devilish land mines to sway our affections, clutter our minds, and distract our attention from our own thoughts, and from God, and the truth and stability that is the Bible. These industries will take every opportunity to give you a steady dose of whatever might be the current talking points to sway your mind to their way of thinking. Spoiler, it is not a good way of thinking and much too often it is disinformation.

## How Can We Protect Ourselves?

Satan's weapon is distraction: from our thoughts, from God, and from the Truth of the Bible. The Apostle Paul speaks to Satan's schemes:

**II Corinthians 2:11 ... for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

**Colossians 3:**

- 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**
- 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**
- 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.**

The only true defense anyone has from this contemptuous world is a relationship with God, and His abiding Spirit. The Spirit and the Bible are the only true resources that protect us by providing a

strong foundation of truth, opening our eyes to the reality of the world, exposing the distractions we encounter; drawing our minds from the things of this temporal, uncertain world to the solid rock of God, the Spirit, the Bible, and therein we find peace. You are helpless without these: like a kite in a hurricane.

## Our Armour

Paul wrote about the full armor of God:

**Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

The armor protects us by preventing the Devils distractions.

**12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].**

**13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

The Bible is the truth that Paul speaks of: a strong mooring to keep you in the right place.

**14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;**

**15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

The most important weapon in our arsenal is faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Everyone who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He rewards those **who seek Him diligently**. Every evil thing, bad report, or news story that portends doom and destruction can be wiped away by faith in God who quells our fears and woes.

**16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**

A relationship with God, having the Spirit of God: this is our salvation. Knowing the Word of God provides the truth of God and bolsters faith and assurance every day in real time so that Satan will never again gain an advantage over you.

**17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

Satan distracts, complicates, clutters, and confuses our minds. God centers our thoughts, calms our fears, reassures us in truth. The Bible illuminates our minds and eliminates the things that attack our emotions. God and His Spirit in us guards, guides, and protects our heart, mind, and soul.

## Conclusion

There are unseen forces in this world that vie for our destruction. They cannot harm us. Yet we can inflict infinite harm upon ourselves simply through the choices we make. Every day we encounter the proverbial fork in the road. There are temptations to go the wrong way. The choice we make, the direction we choose will have profound and lasting consequences affecting the rest of our life. Our choices depend on what we know. Without God, we know nothing. We are at the mercy of our lusts and desires leading us to faulty reasoning and bad decisions. With God, and the abiding Spirit of God, we have a foundation for the choices we make, we understand the tactics of our enemy and can see the pitfalls ahead. We are forewarned and foreknowing, making the the right turn at the right time on the road away from the snares of the Devil.

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## Names for Satan in the Bible

The Bible has many names for Satan:

- Abandon (Rev. 9:11).
- Accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10).
- Adversary (1 Peter 5:8).
- Angel of the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11).
- Apollyon (Rev. 9:11).
- Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24).
- Belial (2 For. 6:15)
- The devil (Matt. 4:1).
- Enemy (Matt. 13:39)
- Evil spirit (1 Sam. 16:14).
- Father of lies (John 8:44)
- God of this world (2 For. 4:4).
- Great red dragon (Rev. 12:3,9).
- King of Tyrus (Ezek. 28:12).
- Liar (John 8:44)
- Lucifer (Is a. 14:12)
- Old serpent (Rev. 12:9)
- Tempter (Matt 12:43).
- Power of darkness (Col. 1:13)
- Prince of this world (John 12:31).
- Prince of the devils (Matt. 12:24).
- Prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2).
- Ruler of the darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12).

- Satan (1 Chronic. 21:1)
- Serpent (Gen. 3:4).
- Spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2).
- Unclean spirit (Matt 13:19, 38).
- Wicked one (Matt 13:19, 38).
- Son of the morning (Isa. 14:12-14).
- Murderer from the beginning (John 8: 44)..