

Satan, Demons & Satanism

QUICK REFERENCE COUNSELING KEYS Excerpt

The Source of All Evil . . .

Have you ever wondered, *Why is there so much evil?* Bewildered people all over the world watch the news, wondering why evil is so prevalent. Many never realize that Satan is the source of evil—a sinister force who has influenced people to be evil from the beginning of time. His sly strategy is to distort the truth of God and to lead the whole world astray.

“The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.”
(Revelation 12:9)

Q: “Since all power originates with God, how does Satan gain such power over so many people?”

Initially, Satan, given free will, as we all were, held a highly ranked position in the angelic army, and God gave him limited power. Ultimately, people choose to give Satan power—some historians believe that Hitler was a tool in Satan’s hand. Satan takes full advantage of those who let him take possession or, at minimum, allow him to secure a stronghold in their lives.

“You once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.”
(Ephesians 2:2)

Q: “Does Satan have the power to know our thoughts?”

The Bible says that only God has the power to know the hearts of all men. Although Satan is highly intelligent (Ezekiel 28:12), he is still a created angel, and creatures do not have the divine attributes of God. King Solomon, known for his exceptional wisdom, states this about the Lord . . .

“You [God], you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind.”
(1 Kings 8:39)

Signs of Possible Satanic Curiosity¹

- Unexplained mood swings
- Avoidance of family members
- Intense rebelliousness
- Change in friends
- Black clothing and jewelry
- Experimentation with drugs
- Hostility toward the church
- Fixation on death
- Preference for heavy metal rock music
- Use of satanic paraphernalia
- Drawing or displaying satanic symbols
- Secret agendas and unexplained activities
- Loss of interest in school, work, or normal activities
- Obsession with occultic books, games, videos, movies

*“There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.”
(Proverbs 14:12)*

Key Verse to Memorize

*“Be sober-minded; be watchful.
Your adversary the devil prowls around
like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
(1 Peter 5:8)*

Key Passage to Read and Reread

1 John 3:7–10

Discern the Diminishing Role of Demons

Satan is not an impersonal force, but a distinct personality commanding an unseen kingdom of evil. His demonic spirits possess power—temporary power—but their doom is sealed.

- Demons know that Jesus Christ is the Holy One of God. (Mark 1:23–24)
- Demons shudder and tremble before God. (James 2:19)
- Demons must submit to Jesus. (1 Peter 3:22)
- Demons cannot escape their final judgment. (2 Peter 2:4)
- Demons know that torture is their destiny. (Matthew 8:29)

*“[Jesus] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.”
(1 Peter 3:22)*

See How Satan’s Power Is Limited

Don’t make the common mistake of assuming that God and Satan possess the same power—or that the power of Satan is equal to the power of God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Cast out of the heavenly realms to roam the earth, Satan has been given power, but only to the degree that the Lord allows.

- Satan cannot be everywhere at once. (Job 1:7)
- Satan has no absolute power over a believer’s possessions. (Job 1:8–11)
- Satan has no absolute power over a believer’s body. (Job 1:12)
- Satan has no absolute power over a believer’s life. (Job 2:3–6)
- Satan must obey Jesus. (Matthew 4:10–11)
- Satan must ask permission to tempt a believer. (Luke 22:31)
- Satan has to leave if he is resisted. (James 4:7)
- Satan cannot protect his followers. (Matthew 25:41)
- Satan cannot prevent his own demise. (Revelation 20:10)

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

Prevention and Protection

We are engaged in a lifelong war with Satan, and often that struggle involves our family and friends. Therefore, we need to be prepared at all times so that we and those we love will not fall into the enemy's hands.

Be aware

Know that satanic influence can touch any family.

Be alert

Be quick to recognize signs and symptoms of satanic involvement.

Be loving

Listen for and hear feelings and emotions that are being communicated.

Be involved

Attend a warm, Bible believing, spiritually-alert church.

Be tough

Realistically present the consequences of satanic involvement.

Be in contact

Get support from ministers, youth leaders, and police experts.

Be in prayer

Ask God for a hedge of protection around your family.

Related Topics . . .

- The Bible: Is It Reliable?
Truth on Trial
- Cults:
The Truth Twisters
- The Occult:
Demystifying the Deeds of Darkness
- Spiritual Warfare:
Strategy for the Battle
- Temptation:
Promise of Pleasure—Lured by a Lie

1. Neil T. Anderson and Steve Russo, *The Seduction of our Children* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1991), 96–97; Mark I. Bubeck, *The Satanic Revival* (San Bernadino, CA: Here's Life, 1991), 26–27.

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