



## Who Is Satan And How Does He Work?

*"Who is Satan? I mean, is Satan really a person? I feel like Satan is this old school explanation for why bad things happen. Honestly, I'm kind of confused about evil, too. I mean, God is good and He doesn't do anything that is evil, so where does it come from? Maybe I need to rethink my idea about Satan. Maybe he is really, real."*

Fact: Two out of every three teenagers today believe that Satan and the Devil are just symbols of evil (Barna). It is difficult for us to understand the reality of evil and the Devil in our world because we cannot see him, but we can see the path of destruction that he continues to leave in his wake. Getting a grasp of how Satan works is important, because we will not only be less likely to be pulled in by him, but we can warn others about how to protect themselves from him, too.

Here are the basics: Satan is a real fallen angel. He is alive and working in our world right now. His deepest desire is to pull everyone in the world away from God. Scripture tells us that Satan is crafty and he is here to steal, kill and destroy. Now, yes, right now, there is a battle going on for your heart and soul between Satan and God.

Before Satan fell into selfishness and gave into deception and pride, He was a loved and revered angel of our Lord. Satan was beautiful and had unbelievable wisdom, but he grew prideful and arrogant, wanting the glory that was bestowed on God to be given to him. Doesn't sound that far off from the struggles each of us face today?

God, the Creator made all of us to have fellowship with and worship Him. His intention is for all creation to give Him glory. Sadly, Satan wouldn't do it. He wanted the praise and glory for himself. He chose to fall away from God, and in turn, he tempts us to do the same. Satan is wildly creative and cunning in order to get us, God's prized creation, to turn away from Him. We have to be on guard about his deceptive ways.

God tests us and Satan tempts us. God wants us to learn and grow from His testing and Satan, by tempting us, wants us to fail and lose our faith in God. We are all tempted. Maybe we are tempted by one of the "BIGGIES" in our world, like porn, drugs or sex; maybe we are tempted by seemingly smaller things, like lying or exaggerating truth, or choosing not to honor someone. Satan would say that everyone does it and not to worry about it. God calls all of it sin and tells you to repent from it so your fellowship with Him can be restored!

Satan is a liar. He digs into our hearts and minds and lies to us to keep us from depending on, and feeling capable of, being with God. Are there moments when you feel worthless, like this Christian faith isn't for you, because you aren't "good enough?" That's a lie from Satan; it's a way he pins us down and makes us believe that we have no right to our relationship with God or His love. God, through His death and resurrection, tells us that He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.

Colossians 1:13-14 *"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*