

the devil

who holds all the power?

Before we start talking about the devil, it is good to highlight first what Jesus said about Himself: **'I have been given all power in heaven and on earth!'**

📖 Matthew 28:18

the devil really exists

The devil may seem like a **fairy-tale figure**. But he really exists and lives in the spiritual world that is invisible to us.

He was first an important **angel** of God. But he rebelled because he was jealous of God; he wanted power and to be equal to God. A third of all angels joined in his rebellion against God. We call these angels "**demons**".

We often think that the devil is "the adversary of God". Like he is on the same level. But that is not the case. The devil is an angel who left God (which is why we sometimes call the devil a "fallen angel"). So he is far below the level of God Himself.

📖 Isaiah 14:11-15

📖 Ezekiel 28:11-19 (the 'king of Tyre' here is a model for the devil)

📖 Luke 10:18

📖 Revelation 12:3,4 (the 'stars' here are the demons, and the 'dragon' is the devil)

de devil in the Bible

The devil is also referred to in the Bible as:

- a serpent (Genesis 3:1-5 and 13-15)
- a fallen star (Isaiah 14:11-15)
- a devouring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- a beast (Revelation 19:20)
- a dragon (Revelation 20:2)
- satan (Revelation 12:8,9, 20:2)
- evil, the evil one, the enemy, the tempter, the accuser, the trialer, ...

Demons are compared to snakes and scorpions (Luke 10:19). They are also called evil, unclean or demonic spirits.



the devil is a liar

The devil is a liar. He often packs lies into things that *seem* true, but when you look closer, you see that it is not true.

📖 John 8:44

📖 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

📖 1 Timothy 4:1,2

You may contrast God's truth from the Bible with the devil's lies:

lies of the devil	truth of God
<i>You are worth nothing</i>	Psalm 8:4-7 Psalm 23 John 16:27
<i>You have to deserve God's love</i>	Romans 3:22-25
<i>You can never be sure about your salvation</i>	John 3:16 Romans 3:22-25
<i>The Bible is not 100% reliable</i>	2 Timothy 3:16,17 2 Peter 1:20,21 Isaiah 51:4
<i>Jesus doesn't do miracles anymore</i>	Hebrews 13:8 Isaiah 53:5 Matthew 8:16-17 Psalm 103:3
<i>Jesus does not want to heal everyone</i>	Matthew 4:23, 8:16-17, 9:35, 10:1, 12:15, 14:36.
<i>You are powerless</i>	Mark 9:23 John 14:12

prayer

- ▶ If you recognise these lies in your life, it is good to read texts from the Bible out loud to yourself.



You may also ask God to let you know whether something is good or not. This is called '**discernment of spirits**' or '**the gift of recognising spirits**'.

 1 Corinthians 12:10

what does the devil want?

The devil wants to destroy everything God has conceived and made. He wants to

influence our lives and uses all kinds of ways to do so.

-  Leviticus 19:31
-  Deuteronomy 18:10-13

The things you read here in the Bible can be seen, for example, in:

- horoscopes, astrology, constellations
- certain meditation techniques encountered in yoga, certain eastern martial arts, etc.
- forecasting, palm reading, going to a medium
- glass spinning, commuting, dowsing, looking for earth rays, reading tarot cards, etc.
- certain alternative therapies, such as acupuncture, hypnosis and reiki
- sorcery, witchcraft, wicca, white magic, black magic, satan worship
- certain music, books, films, games and the like - you can often tell by the pictures and lyrics.
- halloween, worship of the dead

These things are called '**occult**' things (occult = hidden).

You may not have known it, but when you engage in these things, you give the devil and demons permission and space to have influence in your life. He will gladly take advantage of that.

sin is a door too

You can also open the door to the devil by not breaking with sin in your life. You continue with it even though you know it is not right.

feelings and thoughts









The devil also tries to influence your feelings, thoughts and opinions. What you *feel* is not always the truth. God's Word is the truth. So know the Bible and know Jesus.

to think about

- ▶ Where do I see the devil's influence in my own life?
- ▶ Have I somehow given him that space myself?

go against it

Jesus is God and therefore much stronger and more powerful than the devil. So are we, because Jesus is with us! Therefore, the Bible says we can go against the devil. And that we will win.

-  Matthew 10:1+8
-  Mark 3:15, 6:7+13, 16:17
-  Luke 9:1, 10:17+19
-  Acts 8:7, 19:12
-  Ephesians 6:10-18
-  2 Thessalonians 3:3
-  James 4:7
-  1 Peter 5:8-9

are you bothered by the devil?

Level 1: the devil wants to influence people externally through events. Or he tries to influence their thoughts or opinions.

Level 2: the devil can have a grip on someone. On his or her body, mind, will or emotions. This is called '**bondage**'. Christians too can suffer from this. That is why it is always good to pray for freedom,

especially if someone has just become a Christian.

You can identify this by thoughts or events that keep coming back. Or when things don't improve. Such as:

- ▶ thoughts of suicide
- ▶ hurting yourself
- ▶ hearing voices
- ▶ nightmares
- ▶ seeing things, animals or people - for example, people who have already died
- ▶ thoughts of sex that do not match what the Bible says about sex
- ▶ confusing thoughts about who you are
- ▶ gloominess, depression
- ▶ anxiety
- ▶ addiction
- ▶ aggression, hatred
- ▶ violent thoughts or dreams
- ▶ illness, headaches and other pain
- ▶ conspicuous minor or major accidents
- ▶ difficulty having children
- ▶ difficulty finding or keeping a job

This may be caused, for example, by:

- someone has engaged in occult things (see earlier)
- someone has gone against the rules of the Bible
- someone does not want to forgive and holds on to revenge feelings
- someone has parents or other family members who have engaged in satanic activity
- violent events in someone's life.

Level 3: the devil possesses someone. This is called '**possession**'. You then see the things of level 2 to an even greater extent. Someone who follows Jesus receives the Holy Spirit. Then the devil cannot fully possess you.

pray for freedom

1. First of all: **radically stop** thinking and doing wrong things. Clean up. Throw things away. Delete things from your phone or laptop. Don't do this halfway. Don't think, 'Oh well, this one can stay. I'm strong!' If necessary: break certain friendships.
2. Pray for freedom. For example, you can pray the following:

prayer

It is good to say this prayer **out loud**.

- ▶ Jesus, I want to be 100% Yours.
- ▶ I don't want to give room anymore to the devil and his demons.
- ▶ I break with ... (fill in the blank).
- ▶ Devil and demons, you have no right to me anymore. I belong to Jesus.
- ▶ Jesus, come with Your Holy Spirit and fill me completely.
- ▶ I thank You that You make free!

Read out loud texts from the Bible included in this study as well.

3. Check if you notice a difference in the time ahead. If not, find someone who has experience in praying for freedom (praying for deliverance). If you can't find one, *email us*, Revivor. Then we will see how we can help you.

why didn't God kill the devil?

The devil has not been locked up or killed by God. That will happen, but God is waiting to do it because He wants everyone to have the chance to choose Him.

 2 Peter 3:9



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