

Biblical Topics

Devil/Satan

Devil (Greek: δῖόβολος or *diábolos* = slanderer or accuser) Satan (Hebrew: שָׂטָן *satan*, "adversary"). He is a fallen angel. He is the personal chief of the devils.

The Devil, created good and perfect, was not tempted by anyone else, but the first thought of sin and rebellion against God originated in him.

- 1 John 3:8: He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

The devil opposes the will of God, as we see from the Fall of Man (Genesis 3), the temptation of Christ (Matthew 4), and the betrayal of Judas (John 13:2). He still seeks to keep men in ignorance of God's, and leads them into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice.

Anyone who wants to fight and defeat you is your enemy. The devil is the greatest enemy we could ever have. The best way to be ready for your enemy's advances is to know him extremely well. Below you can find some of the devil's schemes as recorded in Scripture:

- Uses fellow humans close to us - Matthew 3:14 John suggests that Jesus does not need baptizing because He is Son of God. This would have kept Jesus from taking our place under the law and nullified the rest of His life's work.
- No one is exempted - In Matthew 4 he tempts the very Son of God.
- Uses our weak points - Tempted Jesus after 40 days of fasting.
- Misquotes Scripture - Left out a part of Psalm 91:11-12 when tempting Jesus.
- Is very bold
 - Tempts Jesus to give up what Jesus already has.
 - Comes right into God's perfect garden and tempts Adam and Eve.
 - Uses greed to bring money changers into the Temple.
- Liar and Murderer - In John 8:44 Jesus calls the devil both.
- Not flesh and blood - Ephesians 6:12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Christ has defeated the devil by His death and resurrection. He also gives us sure-fire methods for us defeating Satan in His Word as listed below:

- Jesus uses His knowledge of Scripture in turning back the temptations in Matthew 3:15 with these words, "It is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness."
- In Matthew 4 Jesus says: "It is written." The Word is His weapon in all three temptations.
- 1 Peter 5:8-9: Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in

the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

- Ephesians 6:10-18 provides many means for defeating the devil.
- Ephesians 4:27 we are urged: “and do not give the devil a foothold.”
- James 4:7 tells us: “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Even more could be said both in the devil’s schemes and how to resist him. In short:

- The devil will use any and every means possible to have us fall into sin. Luther says that the devil uses everything in the world and our own sinful flesh.
- God’s Word as we hear it in worship and read and study it is the weapon that never fails us. The more we hear, read and inwardly digest it, the better we will be able to resist anything the devil throws at us.

The above information is taken from: “Luther’s Small Catechism” annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.