

# *Defining the Question: What are Angels and Demons?*

Our current culture is highly interested in spiritual things. An interest in angels has pervaded the cultural scene in movies and in popular television shows. Interestingly, the *FAITH Discipleship Journal* does not cover this topic. Due to its popularity in recent years, a basic biblical understanding of the angelic, and their satanic counterparts, demons, can be helpful in both an evangelistic visit and in the everyday life of the believer.

Here are some ways that you may encounter questions regarding the angels and demons during your witnessing experiences:

- “Do angels exist?”
- “Do demons exist?”
- “What are angels, and what do they do?”
- “What are demons?”
- “How do I know if a person is demon possessed?”

Some of these questions are closely tied to spiritual warfare and will be covered in more depth in the next section. However, all of these are related to the topic of angels and demons and will be covered in this section.

## *The Bible Speaks*

In establishing a theology on angels and demons, we must start with angels, for the nature of demons is initially the same. Realize that all biblical references to spirit beings relates to their relationship to God or the relationship between God and man.

### *Angels:*

#### **1. The existence of Angels**

- Jacob’s dream, and later wrestling with an angel. (*Gen 28:12; 32:24-28*)
- Deliverance of 3 Hebrews in the fiery furnace. (*Dan 3, 6*)
- Pictured as protectors and deliverers in the Psalms. (*Psalms 34:7; 35:5-6, 9-11*)
- Connected to the birth of Christ. (*Matt 1:20-23; 2:13; Luke 1:26-39; 2:8-15*)

## **NOTES**

- Announced second coming at Christ's ascension. (*Acts 1:10-10*)
- Seen as worshipping Lamb of God. (*Rev 5:11-12*)
- Seen as administering the wrath of God. (*8-9; 15-16*)

## 2. The Son of God and Angels

- The angels helped Christ after his temptation by Satan. (*Matt 4:11*)
- Present at and announced the resurrection. (*Matt 28:2-7*)
- Christ prophesied that angels would gather the elect at His second coming. (*Matt 22:29-30*)

## 3. The Origin of Angels

- Original Creation
  1. Christ created angels. (*Rom 8:38; Eph 6:12; Col 1:16*)
  2. The angels were created before the earth. (*Job 38:4-7*)
  3. The angel's purpose is to glorify God. (*Col 1:16; Rev 4:6-11*)
- Original Condition
  1. Free moral agents, good and holy, called "sons of God," and lived in the heavenly realm in the presence of God. (*Job 1:6; 2:11; Matt 18:10; Mark 8:38; 13:32*)
  2. Creaturely State—direct creations of God, limited in power, authority, intellect, and holiness, responsible to God as all creatures answer to their Creator.
  3. Since angels are created beings, they are not to be worshiped. (*Rev 22:8-9*)

## 4. The Nature of angels

- Personality
  1. Intelligence—desire to learn, knowledge of prayers and future as revealed by God, limited as revealed by God. (*Mark 13:27; Luke 1:12-16; Heb 1:7, 14; 1 Pe 1:12; Rev 10:5-6, 17:1-18*)
  2. Emotions—joy, awe, reverence, rejoicing. (*Job 38:7; Isaiah 6:3; Luke 15:10*)
  3. Will. (*2 Peter 2:4; Heb 1:6; Jude 9*) Rebellion by Lucifer and others. (*Isaiah 14:12-15; Rev 12:4*)
- Properties
  1. Spirit Beings—immaterial and incorporeal, limited in space. (*Heb 1:14; Dan 9:21-23*)
  2. Spiritual Bodies?—not directly attributed by Scripture, but generally masculine, not subject to death. (*Mark 16:5-6; Gen 18:2, 22; 19:1; Dan 10:18; Luke 20:36*)
  3. Special Appearance

# NOTES

## NOTES

- a. Normally invisible, but can appear according to will of God. (*Col 1:16; Luke 1:11-13, 26-29*)
  - b. Appear as men. (*Gen 18:1-8; Luke 24:4-7*)
  - c. Force of Appearance—cause emotional, mental, and physical agitation of weakness. (*Luke 1:29, 24, 38; Matt 28:4*)
- Spiritual Wings?
    1. Seraphim-6 wings. (*Isaiah 6:2, 6*)
    2. Cherubim-4 wings. (*Ezekiel 1:5-8*)
    3. Gabriel-flew swiftly. (*Daniel 9:21*)
    4. John saw angel of judgement flying. (*Rev 14:6*)
    5. All angels have wings?—uncertain, possibly metaphorical.
  - Spiritual Condition
    1. Classification
      - a. Holy and elect, angels of God. (*Isaiah 14:12-17; 1 Tim 3:6*)
      - b. Evil and unclean spirits, “the devil and his angels.” (*Luke 8:2, 11:24-26*)
    2. Cause
      - a. Satan’s defection. (*Isaiah 14:12-17; 1 Tim 3:6*)
      - b. Other angels followed Satan, possibly 1/3. (*Matt 25:41; Rev 12:4*)
    3. Condition
      - a. Nonviolable and nonredeemable once they decide who to follow. (*2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6*)
      - b. Fallen angels are consigned to the lake of fire. (*Matt 25:41*)
  - Powers
    1. Source—granted and governed by God, they have great powers. (*Rev 4:11; Gen 19:12-16*)
    2. Sphere
      - a. In relation to the world—express human function in excess.
      - b. In relation to angelic world—communicate, have hierarchy, battle opposing angels. (*Dan 10:13; Rev 7:1-3; 12:7-8; 14:17-18; 20:1-3*)

### 5. The Activity of Angels

- Angels are worshippers around God’s throne. (*Psalm 8:5; Dan 7:9-10; Rev 5:11-12*)
- Angels are executors of God’s will. (*Psalm 89:5; Gen 3:24; Exodus 25:18-22; Ezekiel 1:4-24*)
- Angels are witnesses to God’s saving acts. (*Luke 2:8-15*)

22:43; 24:4-8; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thess 4:16; Luke 15:10; Matt 24:30-31)

- Angels are **messengers** at times of revelation. (*Exodus 3:2; Isaiah 6:1-7; Luke 1:28-38; Acts 10:1-8*)
- Angels are **protagonists** at times of conflict. (*Luke 10:18; Joshua 5:13-15; 2 Kings 6:17; Dan 10:13; 12:1; Rev 12:7-9*)
- Angels are **ministers** at times of crisis. (*Gen 19:15; 22:11-12; 1 Kings 19:5-7; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Matt 4:11; Acts 12:7-10; Heb 1:14; Col 2:18*)

## ***Demons***

### **1. Demons are Fallen Angels.**

- Satan was the highest of angelic beings, but fell and became evil. (*Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28*)
- Other angels, possibly 1/3 fell with Satan. (*Ezekiel 28:18; Matt 25:41; Rev 12:4*)

### **2. Types of Demons**

- Limited freedom to oppose God and His people.
- Eternally confined. (*2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6*)
- Presently confined to be released during tribulation. (*Rev 6-19*)

### **3. Personality and Properties of demons.**

- Same as angels, but perverted toward evil. (*Matt 10:1; Mark 1:23; Matt 13:37-42*)

### **4. Powers of demons.**

- Supernatural, but not absolute
  1. intelligence. (*Ezekiel 28:12; 2 Sam 14:20; Mark 1:14, 34; Matt 8:28-29; Luke 8:31; 1 John 4:1-4; Acts 16:16*)
  2. strength. (*Mark 5:1-4; 2 Thes 2:9;*)
  3. presence. (*Dan 9:21-23; 10:10-14; Luke 8*)

### **5. Activities of demons.**

- Extension and promotion of Satan's program. (*Job 1:7; Matt 12:26; Luke 8:30; 1 Tim 4:1; 1 Peter 5:8*)
- Opposition to God and His program. (*Gen 3; 2 Thess 2:3-4; Rom 3:5-8*)
- Promote false religions and cults. (*2 Cor 11:13; Gal 1:6-8; Col 2:18-23; 1 Tim 4:1-4; 1 John 4:1-4*)

## **NOTES**

6. **Oppression** of mankind by demons.

- Distress through outward circumstances. (*Job 1:12-19; 2:7*)
- Degrade man's nature. (*Rom 1:18-32; Eph 2:1-3*)
- Distract from the truth. (*Rom 1:23; 2 Cor 4:3-4; Eph 2:1-3; 1 Tim 4:1-4*)
- Disable the human's body.
  1. Dumbness. (*Matt 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 9:17-29*)
  2. Blindness. (*Matt 12:22*)
  3. Deformity. (*Luke 13:11-17*)
  4. Epilepsy. (*Matt 17:15-18*)
  5. Not the universal cause. (*Matt 4:24; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 7:21; 9:1*)
- Deranging the mind. (*Luke 8:27-29; Mark 9:22*)
- Destroying life. (*Rev 9:14-19; 18:2, 24*)
- Dominating individuals (possession). (*Acts 8:9-24; 13:8-11; 2 Thes 2:7-18*)

7. **Opposition** of the saints by demons.

- Nature of spiritual warfare. (*Eph 6:11-12*)
- Against individuals. (*Job 2:7-9; 1 Cor 5:1-5; 2 Cor 12:7; Eph 6:14-18*)
- Against the Church.
  1. Divisions. (*1 Tim 4:1-3; James 3:14-16*)
  2. Counter mission by blinding people and perverting the Gospel. (*2 Cor 4:3-4, 13-15*)
  3. Cause persecution. (*Rev 2:8-10*)

8. Demons are **overruled** by God.

- Protecting believers, yet allowing for discipleship and discipline. (*Job 40:1-3; 42:1-6; 2 Cor 12:7-10; 1 Tim 1:19-20*)
- Defeating the ungodly. (*1 Kings 22:20-38; Rev 16:13-16*)

## NOTES

# Defining the Question: What is Spiritual Warfare?

Our current culture is highly interested in spiritual things. Beyond just an understanding of the existence of angels and demons, our culture is often pervaded by the desire for spiritual power. As a result, we may come in contact with situations where we have to deal with spiritual warfare issues. Parts of our culture would dismiss the spiritual as non-existent, but the Bible has much to say.

Here are some ways that you may encounter questions regarding the spiritual warfare during your witnessing experiences:

- “What are spirit guides?”
- “Are exorcisms real?”
- “Are horoscopes evil?”
- “I seem to be controlled by something that I can’t see.”
- “Does spiritual warfare really exist, or is it merely an answer for what we can not explain?”

Some of these questions are closely tied to the last section on angels and demons. However, all of these are related to the topic of spiritual warfare and will be covered in this section.

## The Bible Speaks

In establishing a theology on spiritual warfare, we will begin with a brief review of the enemy, moving on into the important principles of engaging in spiritual warfare.

### 1. Satan is the opponent of believers.

- Scripture affirms that Satan continues to attack person who become believers. (*Luke 22:31; 2 Cor 12:7*)
- Entices believers with temptation. (*Eph 4:17-32*)
- Beats up on sinners, leading to a cycle of defeat and discouragement. (*Col 1:13*)
- Cultivates disunity among believers. (*John 17:20-21*)

### 2. Satan is the opponent of unbelievers.

- Blinds the minds of unbelievers to the truth of the Gospel. (*Eph 2:2*)

## NOTES

- Makes sin attractive and alluring, snatching away the seed of the Gospel. (*Matt 13:3-23*)
- Promotes distorted views of the Gospel. (*2 Cor 10:4 ; 11:13*)
- Undermines the exclusivity of the Gospel, rendering it ineffective or unnecessary. (*2 Cor 11:4*)

## *Engaging in Spiritual Warfare*

### 1. Theological premises of warfare.

- Centrality of God.
  1. Chose us. (*Eph 1:4*)
  2. In whom we have redemption. (*Eph 1:7*)
  3. He made us alive. (*Eph 2:5*)
  4. He is over all and in all. (*Eph 4:6*)
  5. God gave himself for the Church. (*Eph 5:25*)
  6. It is God's armor we wear. (*Eph 6:11*)
  7. We share in His victory. (*Col 2:15*)
- The sinfulness of humanity.
  1. Human beings are fallen by nature and by choice. (*Eph 2:2-3*)
  2. Conversion, not deliverance must remain the primary focus. (*Matt 12:43-45*)
- The believer's position in Christ.
  1. Christ is the head of the Church. (*Eph 5:23*)
  2. Christ is far above all rule and authority and power and dominion. (*Eph 1:20-21*)
  3. Christians have new life in Christ through his resurrection power. (*Eph 2:4-6*)
  4. Christians are raised up with Christ, and therefore share in His accomplished victory. (*Eph 2:6; Col 2:15*)
  5. Focus on the already-achieved victory, not the ongoing battles.

### 2. Practical applications in warfare.

- Unity in the Church.
  1. One Lord, one faith, etc. (*Eph 4:4-6*)
  2. Christ reconciled both Jews and Greeks. (*Eph 2:11-18*)
  3. Unity prevents Satan from gaining a foothold. (*Eph 4:1-5*)
- Holiness in lifestyle.
  1. New life is characterized by righteousness, truth, wholesome talk, kindness, thanksgiving, and a forgiving spirit. (*Eph 4:17-5:20*)
  2. Believers have a new nature, and need not suffer defeat to

## NOTES

the old self. (*Eph 4:20-24*)

3. Righteous people expose and denounce the deeds of darkness. (*Eph 5:11-12*)
4. Lack of a holy life in warfare leads to disaster. (*Acts 19:11-20*)

- **Christ-likeness** in relationships.
  1. All relationships are subject to Christ. (*Eph 5:21*)
  2. Relationships are to be governed by submission, sacrifice, nurture, and respect. (*Eph 5:21-6:9*)

### 3. **Praying evangelistically.**

- Tied to the battle. (*Eph 6:11-20*)
- Pray for:
  1. An **open door** to share the Gospel. (*Col 4:2-3*)
  2. The **witness**. (*Eph 6:19-20; Col 4:3-4*)

### 4. **The authority of Scripture.**

- God's Word is sufficient to weaken Satan's stronghold. (*Matt 4:1-11*)
- God's Word is sufficient to bring lost persons to salvation. (*1 Cor 1:17-18*)

## *Entry Points in FAITH Visits*

In our spiritually-minded culture, you may get several questions regarding angels, demons, or other spiritual warfare issues.

1. During the **Introduction** portion of an evangelistic visit, you may discover some past activities or situations in a person's life that alert you to possible demonic or Satanic activity, or of spiritual strongholds that may have developed in the person's life.
2. The **KEY Question** may bring to light the extent of a person's spiritual blindness, based on their previous exposure to the Gospel and their response to it.
3. The concept of **repentance** will be awkward for someone who has been trained by Satan to enjoy sin. Someone under the effect of spiritual warfare will focus on the things that they have to give up in become a Christian rather than the abundant life that is offered.
4. The **Invitation** may bring about some hostility as the truths of the Gospel are brought to home in the person's life. This is evidence that Satan is fighting to steal the sown seed.
5. At any point in an **evangelistic** visit, the person may bring

## NOTES



up the topic of angels, demons, or spiritual warfare. These are popular topics in our culture and can be expected when facing conversations about spiritual matters.

## *How You Can Respond*

Here are some possible ways you can respond when you find yourself in the midst of an aggressive spiritual battle during a witnessing encounter. Be mindful of the Holy Spirit's leading, the power of prayer, and the authority of the Word of God.

1. Be prepared. Failure to prepare your mind through prayer and Bible study prior to the witnessing encounter is dangerous. This does not exclude young believers from witnessing, but is an exhortation to be always learning and growing.
2. Emphasize the importance of multiple people on your FAITH team. Those who are not engaged in the conversation should constantly be in prayer, mindful of the spiritual battle taking place.
3. During evangelistic visits, when evil spiritual influences become apparent, deal with them positively, focusing on the victory in Jesus and the authority of the Word of God.
4. If someone is struggling with the enticements of sin, focus on the positive aspects of salvation and remind them that all actions will be rewarded accordingly, and the pleasure of sin only has a short season.
5. During ministry visits, you may encounter a believer who feels defeated. Remind them that the victory is already won and these are only ongoing battles that will ultimately lead to Satan's destruction.
6. When the topics of angels, demons, or spiritual warfare come up during an evangelistic visit, recognize them as distractions from the enemy. Try to deal with the questions quickly and return to the main reason for the visit.

*This section of material was added to the Sharing a Living Faith class at Lakeview Baptist Church, Auburn, Alabama, by seminary intern Andrew P. Kulp, in order to help FAITH participants understand and communicate the true nature of the spiritual forces at work in this world in the wake of a spiritually-minded culture.*

## **NOTES**