



Questions About Angels and Demons

A GotQuestions.org Bible Study



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How to Use This Bible Study

Welcome to the Got Questions Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!

In these studies you will find GotQuestions content, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to have eternal life through Him.

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





Lesson 1:

What are spiritual beings?

A spiritual being is a supernatural, incorporeal being. The Bible begins with the assertion that God, a spiritual being, created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). Other spiritual beings mentioned in Scripture include angels, demons, and Satan.



What stories from the Bible can you think of that include spiritual beings?

The supernatural worldview is found throughout the Bible—from creation to Revelation and everywhere in between. While we may never fully understand everything that has to do with spiritual beings this side

of heaven, believers worship God, who is spirit (John 4:24), and look forward to His kingdom, which is not of this world (John 18:36).



What is, and how does the Bible reflect, a supernatural worldview?



Why is understanding that our world is not simply natural but supernatural necessary for understanding the Bible, God, and humanity?

God is a spiritual being. God has no physical form, and nothing in this world can be made to represent Him (Exodus 20:4; Deuteronomy 4:12; Acts 17:29). There are other spiritual beings who are not of the same status, greatness, or ability as God. The psalmist declares, “The heavens praise your wonders, Lord, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings? In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him. Who is like you, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness

surrounds you” (Psalm 89:5–8). In just this section of Scripture, we are made aware of an assembly of holy ones, heavenly beings, and the Lord God Almighty who is greater than all other spiritual beings.

God created the spiritual beings. They are known as God’s heavenly host (Psalm 148:2, Luke 2:13). When God laid the foundation of the earth, “the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy” (Job 38:7). These spiritual beings existed before God made humanity.



What do these verses reveal about God and His supremacy over all other spiritual beings?

Deuteronomy 4:19:

Deuteronomy 10:17:

1 Kings 8:23:

Nehemiah 9:6:

Psalms 89:6:

Psalm 113:5-6:

Isaiah 45:5:

Isaiah 45:21:

Mark 2:7:

If a being is “spiritual,” that being is not a human or an animal—both human beings and animals exist with a physical body. The term spiritual being does not tell us what the being does or communicate its status. Angels, for example, are spiritual beings (Psalm 104:4). Yet angels is a blanket term for many different types of spiritual beings. Angels exist within a hierarchy and have various functions. Some angels are loyal to God, and others, the fallen angels, are loyal to the devil (Matthew 25:41). Messenger angels (Genesis 32:3, 7; Deuteronomy 2:26), archangels (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 1:9), cherubim (Genesis 3:24), seraphim (Isaiah 6:2), watchers (Daniel 4:13,17, 23), the Angel of Yahweh (Genesis 35:7), and the divine council (Jeremiah 23:18) all seem to be part of God’s heavenly host.

Along with loyal members of the heavenly host, there are other spiritual beings who form the powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). These rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and spiritual forces of evil also reside in the heavenly realms. The wicked spiritual beings include demons (Mark 1:34) or “unclean spirits,” false gods and goddesses (Exodus 15:11; Deuteronomy 11:16; 32:17), and renegade “sons of God” (Genesis 6:2, 4). These are all spiritual beings, but their loyalty is not to the Lord of hosts. Our battle in this world is not against flesh and blood but against these spiritual forces in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12).



Read Ephesians 6:10-20. How does knowing that our battle is spiritual cause you to run to God?

The devil is also a spiritual being who aspired to become above God (Isaiah 14:12–15). His pride led to his fall, and he continues in his wickedness. While the devil is referred to as the ruler of this world (John

12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4), his power is not equal to God's. The devil can only do what God allows. His demise is sure, along with that of all the demons who follow him (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:3).



Read Colossians 2:6-15. What is the connection between our spiritual reality and our physical reality?

We cannot see the spiritual realm, and we would never be able to see God, except for the Incarnation. The Son of God, the Word who always was God (John 1:1), took on human flesh and dwelt among us (verse 14). Jesus Christ is the “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers

or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him” (Colossians 1:15–16). Jesus, God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and His perfect sacrifice on the cross provided redemption once for all (Hebrews 7:27; 9:12, 28; 10:10). In addition to providing us with reconciliation to God, the sacrifice of Christ also “disarmed the powers and authorities” of the spiritual realm (Colossians 2:15).



In what ways does Christ's incarnation change our spiritual reality? See Ephesians 1:3-23.

Among all the spiritual beings, there is no one like our God. There is none greater. No other spiritual being is worthy of our worship.



Read Deuteronomy 10:17, 33:26-28; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 95:4-7, 113:5-6, 136:2, 148:1-5; Isaiah 45:5-6, 21; Micah 7:18; and Mark 2:7. What sets God above all other spiritual beings? For what specific things is He worthy of worship?



For what aspects of God's supremacy do you praise God?

At the end of our lives, we will enter a spiritual realm. Upon their death, believers in Christ are carried by the angels to the place where the Lord is (see Luke 16:22). Unbelievers will face eternity in hell, separated from God. For believers, faith will become sight.



If you are not saved, think about this: you were created with a spirit, meaning you will live on even after death. The day we step into eternity may come sooner than we think. Those who accept Jesus' sacrifice as the payment for their sins and who believe in His resurrection are going to heaven. Those who reject Christ will spend eternity in hell. "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:18). Do you know where you will spend eternity? If not, we encourage you to read: www.gotquestions.org/going-to-heaven.html.

If you are saved, what are you looking forward to with your faith becoming sight?

Read Psalm 29. Verse 2 tells us: "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." Using this Psalm, praise God for His majesty and what sets Him apart from all other spiritual beings.



Lesson 2:

How interested are Christians supposed to be in the spiritual world?

The simple answer to this question is “very interested.”



What do you think of when you hear the term “spiritual world”?



What about the spiritual world interests you? What questions or concerns do you have about the spiritual world or about studying the spiritual world?

A human being is comprised of body, soul, and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23; 3 John 1:2; Psalm 16:9). However, human beings tend to rely on the body for

input and the soul for decisions, while ignoring the spirit. This is unfortunate.



Look up Genesis 2:7, Job 32:8, Psalm 146:4, Ecclesiastes 12:7, Zechariah 12:1, 1 Corinthians 2:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, and James 2:26. What do we learn about the human spirit?

The human spirit without God is like a deflated balloon. When a sinner repents and turns to Jesus for salvation, God sends His Holy Spirit to dwell within the spirit of that believer (Luke 24:49; John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 6:19). The

Holy Spirit breathes life into that deflated human spirit, and a new creature is born (2 Corinthians 5:17). The more room a person gives to the Holy Spirit, the more power he or she experiences in living for God.



Based on the verses below, how does the Holy Spirit work with the spirit of the believer?

Romans 5:5:

Romans 8:10:

Romans 8:16-17:

1 Corinthians 2:14:

1 Corinthians 6:17-20:

1 John 4:13:

God is spirit (John 4:24). If we want to know God, we must experience Him spiritually. Although God works in tangible, physical ways through His creation (Psalm 8:3; 107:24), we come to know Him personally through the union of our spirits with His (Romans 8:16). As we allow the Holy Spirit free rein in our lives, we learn to live by

the Spirit, rather than by emotion, impulse, or fleshly indulgence (Galatians 5:16, 25; Romans 8:14). We learn to discern the voice of God as distinct from our own thoughts (John 10:27). All of this takes place within the spirit, invisible to the other senses, but is as real as touch, taste, or smell.



What does it mean to live by the Spirit? Look up Galatians 5:16-25.



How do the tangible experiences and things in your life help you connect with God spiritually?

However, the term spiritual does not necessarily mean “godly.” Satan is also a spirit and does his evil work by attacking our minds (James 3:14-15), our bodies (Luke 9:42; 2 Corinthians 12:7), and our spirits (Matthew 16:23; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Some have delved into an exploration of the spirit world to their own destruction. The seven sons of Sceva are a case in point. They were assuming a knowledge of the spiritual realm and an authority they did not possess. They learned the hard way that spiritual warfare is not to be taken lightly; it can only be fought successfully by those who are in Christ and equipped for battle (Acts 19:13-16). Also, many people consider themselves “spiritual” while completely bypassing the true God who is the King of the spirit world (Mark 3:11). Such people are deceived by the “god of this age [who] has blinded the minds of unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The Bible is clear that the spirit world is every bit as real as the physical universe (Ephesians 6:12). There is an unseen battle taking place around us every moment between God’s holy angels and the forces of darkness (Daniel 10:12-14; Ephesians 6:10-17; Jude 1:9). If we are vigilant as the Lord commands, we will not be caught unprepared by Satan’s attacks (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 2:11). And we have the promise of God that His Holy Spirit is stronger than any of Satan’s schemes (1 John 4:4). God has given His children everything we need to stand firm against any spiritual attack of our enemy. The apostle Paul calls this the “armor of God” (Ephesians 6:11).



2 Corinthians 4:16-18 reads: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Why should we care about the spiritual world?

The spirit world is very real, but an unbalanced focus on demonic powers is not healthy and does not glorify God. The Holy Spirit is the only Spirit we should ever invite into our

lives, and He has all the power we need to overcome anything Satan may use to try to defeat us (Isaiah 54:17).



Where would you like to grow spiritually? Ask God to help you grow in those areas.

Lesson 3:

What does the Bible say about angels?

Angels are personal spiritual beings who have intelligence, emotions, and will. This is true of both the good and evil angels (demons). Angels possess intelligence (Matthew 8:29; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Peter 1:12), show emotion (Luke 2:13; James 2:19; Revelation 12:17), and exercise will (Luke 8:28-31; 2 Timothy 2:26; Jude 1:6). Angels are spirit beings (Hebrews 1:14) without true physical bodies. Although they do not have physical bodies, they are still personalities and occasionally take on physical bodies. .



What do you know about angels—what they look like, what they do, where they live, can they die, etc? What sources have influenced this knowledge?

Because they are created beings, angels' knowledge is limited. This means they do not know all things as God does (Matthew 24:36). They do seem to have greater knowledge than humans, however, which may be due to three things. First, angels were created as an order of creatures higher than humans. They innately possess greater knowledge. Second, the angels know what God's Word says (James 2:19; Revelation 12:12). Third, angels

gain knowledge through long observation of human activities. Unlike humans, angels do not have to study the past; they have experienced it. Therefore, they know how others have acted and reacted in situations and can predict with a greater degree of accuracy how we may act in similar circumstances.



What can we learn about the creation and nature of the angels from these verses?

Nehemiah 9:6:

Job 4:17-18:

Job 38:5-7:

Psalm 8:

Psalm 33:6:

Psalm 103:20-22:

Psalm 148:1-6:

Matthew 22:30:

Matthew 24:36:

Luke 2:13-15:

2 Peter 2:11:

Revelation 10:1; 14:17; 18:1; 20:1:

Revelation 22:8-9:



The Bible states that there are different types or descriptions of angels that fall under two general categories: fallen and faithful. The fallen angels will be studied in a later lesson, but what do these verses tell us about “unfallen” angels? What do they do or what are they like?

Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18-20:

Genesis 18:1-8, 16, 22; 19:1-22:

1 Kings 22:19; Psalm 103:21; 148:2:

Isaiah 6:1-7:

Daniel 4:13, 17, 23:

Daniel 10:21; 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7-10:

Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:18-19, 26-38:

Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:20-21; 3:10; Colossians 1:16; 2:10; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 Timothy 5:21:

Though they have wills, angels, like all creatures, are subject to the will of God. Good angels are sent by God to help believers (Hebrews 1:14). Here are some activities the Bible ascribes to angels:

They praise God (Psalm 148:1-2; Isaiah 6:3). They worship God (Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:8-13). They rejoice in what God does (Job 38:6-7). They serve God (Psalm 103:20; Revelation 22:9). They appear before

God (Job 1:6; 2:1). They are instruments of God's judgments (Revelation 7:1; 8:2). They bring answers to prayer (Acts 12:5-10). They aid in winning people to Christ (Acts 8:26; 10:3). They observe Christian order, work, and suffering (1 Corinthians 4:9; 11:10; Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12). They encourage in times of danger (Acts 27:23-24). They care for the righteous at the time of death (Luke 16:22).



Pick 3 functions of angels listed above and look up the references listed. What do you learn about what angels do? Which of these functions surprise you?



Which functions do angels and humans share? In what ways are these functions different between angels and humans?

Angels are an entirely different order of being than humans. Human beings do not become angels after they die. Angels will never become, and never were, human beings. God created the angels, just as He created humanity. The Bible nowhere states that angels are created in the image and likeness of God, as humans

are (Genesis 1:26). Angels are spiritual beings that can, to a certain degree, take on physical form. Humans are primarily physical beings, but with a spiritual aspect. The greatest thing we can learn from the holy angels is their instant, unquestioning obedience to God's commands.



Believers and “unfallen” angels both serve and praise God. While God has a purpose and plan for the spiritual beings, God’s plan of redemption and restoration came to humanity, not to the angels. How do our roles come together in God’s kingdom based on the verses below?

1 Peter 1:10-12:

1 Peter 3:22:

1 Corinthians 6:2-3:

Revelation 2:25-28:

Revelation 3:20-21:



Read Psalm 148. This psalm calls all creation, including angels and humans, to praise God. For what can you praise Him today?



Lesson 4:

Do angels have free will?

Although the Bible mentions angels over 250 times, the references are usually incidental to some other topic. Learning what the Bible has to say about angels can certainly aid in an understanding of God and His ways, but what is learned about the angels themselves must usually be drawn from implicit, rather than explicit, descriptions.



What has changed in your thinking about angels from our previous lessons?

Angels are spiritual beings who have personalities that include emotions (Luke 2:13–14), intelligence (2 Corinthians 11:3, 14), and wills (2 Timothy 2:26).

From: www.gotquestions.org/why-did-God-give-us-free-will.html and www.gotquestions.org/free-will-in-heaven.html:

“Free will” cannot mean we are free to do anything we want to do.

We need an acceptable definition of free will. We have free will, but not in the way most people think. Our freedom consists in the fact that we are free to choose according to our desires. As long as we have a minimum of two available options, we must make a choice, and we will always do so according to our strongest desire.



Why are you thankful that God gave you free will/the ability to make decisions?



How does sin interact with free will?

Satan was an angel who was cast out of heaven along with many other angels who decided to follow him and chose to sin (2 Peter 2:4). Satan's will is mentioned directly in 2 Timothy 2:26. The Bible speaks of demons who, by their own choice, "did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their

proper dwelling" (Jude 1:6). Demons demonstrate their free will in several passages of Scripture. Legion chose a herd of pigs as their destination (Luke 8:32). In Micaiah's vision of God's throne room, God allows a spirit to choose how to bring ruin upon King Ahab (1 Kings 22:19–22).

From www.gotquestions.org/where-did-sin-come-from.html:

God did not create sin, but He created beings with free will who have the ability to sin. This includes Satan, fallen angels (demons), and humans. To be clear, sin is a falling short of God's standards. Sin is not an entity or a thing that "exists"; it has no independent being. Rather, sin is a lack of something, a failure to fully obey God's law and live up to His glory (Romans 3:23). God could either make sin impossible, or He could make beings free to choose, but He could not logically do both.

Since Adam's sin, humans have inherited Adam's spiritual corruption and have been born with a sin nature. We are naturally inclined to sin (Romans 6-7; James 1:13–15).



How do you explain the origin of sin since God did not create it?

Before some of the angels exercised their free will to rebel against God, they could have been in a sort of “probation period,” similar to Adam and Eve’s time in the garden. Those angels who did not choose to sin and follow Satan have become the “elect” angels (1 Timothy 5:21), confirmed in holiness. These angels are also referred to as “holy angels” (Mark 8:38) and “holy ones” (Psalm 89:5). Those angels who did choose to sin in siding with Satan have become the “unclean spirits” (Mark 1:23) or demons.

Even if the elect angels are confirmed in their holiness, it doesn’t mean they have lost their free will. Certainly, every living creature has choices to make at any given moment. It’s possible that the holy angels still have the ability to sin, but that does not mean that they will sin. Being holy angels, they always do God’s bidding. Being volitional creatures, the elect angels have a desire to praise and serve God, and they choose to do so. God’s will always matches their own will.



How can the elect angels be holy and sinless if they still have free will?



What assurance does it give us for when we enter heaven that the elect angels are sinless yet have free will?

Humans have free will, but they struggle with sin because the human nature has been corrupted by sin. This is why all humans sin (Romans 5:12) and find it much more difficult to “be good” than to “be bad.” The

holy angels are without a sinful nature. They are not inclined toward sin but rather toward righteousness, doing everything that pleases God.

From www.gotquestions.org/free-will-in-heaven.html:

When we are saved, we are liberated from our natural bondage to sin. The Holy Spirit sovereignly regenerates us and in grace gives us the ability to want what we ought to want, namely, forgiveness, salvation, and the lordship of Christ. When we trust in Jesus for salvation, we begin a moral progression, a journey toward holiness in which we put to death daily the sinful impulses that reside within us and strive toward godliness. In heaven we will be completely devoid of sin; our only desires will be for the things of God—things that bless us, fulfill us, and give us life. This is true liberty (see Romans 8:21). We will retain our free will in heaven, but our will is sanctified there. The sin nature will be gone.



Read Romans 8:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. How does God’s regeneration of us affect our free will?



How have you seen your will transformed by God since salvation?

In conclusion, the holy angels have a free will, but the Bible makes it clear that they do not sin in their service to God. The apostle John, in describing the eternal state, wrote there will be no mourning, crying, or pain

in that place and time (Revelation 21:4), and anyone who does evil will never be permitted to enter the city of God (Revelation 21:27). The angels who are present in that holy city are therefore sinless.



Because Christ has redeemed us, we too have the hope that we will be sinless in heaven, like the angels. Read Revelation 21:4 and 27. How does knowing there will be no more sin in heaven comfort or encourage you?

Read Psalm 103. Using the psalm, praise God for the mercies He bestows upon us. Praise Him also for creating us with the ability to make choices and the freedom from the sin nature that He gives us when we are saved.



Lesson 5:

What does the Bible say about demons?

Demons are fallen angels, as Revelation 12:9 indicates: “The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” Satan’s fall from heaven is symbolically described in Isaiah 14:12–15 and Ezekiel 28:12–15. When he fell, Satan took some of the angels with him—one third of them, according to Revelation 12:4. Jude 1:6 also mentions angels who sinned. So, biblically, demons are fallen angels who, along with Satan, chose to rebel against God.



What do you know about fallen angels—what they look like, what they do, where they live, how much power they have, etc? What sources have influenced this knowledge?



Read Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-15, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:4, Jude 6. What can we learn about the fall of the angels from these verses?

Some of the demons are already locked “in darkness, bound with everlasting chains” (Jude 1:6) for their sin. Others are free to roam and are referred to as “the powers of this dark world and . . . the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” in Ephesians 6:12 (cf.

Colossians 2:15). The demons still follow Satan as their leader and do battle with the holy angels in an attempt to thwart God’s plan and hinder God’s people (Daniel 10:13).



What do the following verses reveal about what demons are like?

Leviticus 17:7:

Deuteronomy 32:17:

Matthew 8:31:

Matthew 9:34; 12:24:

Luke 8:35:

James 2:19:

Revelation 9:20:

Demons, as spirit beings, have the ability to take possession of a physical body. Demonic possession occurs when a person’s body is completely controlled

by a demon. This cannot happen to a child of God, since the Holy Spirit resides in the heart of the believer in Christ (1 John 4:4).



What do these verses reveal about how demons cannot possess believers?

Luke 9:1:

Luke 11:14-28:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

1 Corinthians 10:21:

1 John 4:4:



How does knowing that demons cannot possess a believer comfort you?

Jesus, during His earthly ministry, encountered many demons. Of course, none of them were a match for the power of Christ: “Many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word” (Matthew 8:16). Jesus’ authority over the demons was one of the proofs that He was indeed the Son of

God (Luke 11:20). The demons who encountered Jesus knew who He was, and they feared Him: “‘What do you want with us, Son of God?’ [the demons] shouted. ‘Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?’” (Matthew 8:29). The demons know their end will be one of torment.



What do these verses say about what demons know and how much power they have?

Luke 11:20-22:

James 2:19:

Mark 3:11:

Matthew 8:29:

Acts 16:16-18:

Satan and his demons now look to destroy the work of God and deceive anyone they can (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:14–15). The demons are described as evil spirits (Matthew 10:1), unclean spirits (Mark 1:27), lying spirits (1 Kings 22:23), and angels of Satan (Revelation 12:9). Satan and his demons deceive the world (2 Corinthians 4:4), promulgate false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1), attack Christians (2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 5:8), and combat the holy angels (Revelation 12:4–9).



What is the relationship between the fallen angels and humanity? How do evil spirits influence humanity? See the verses above as well as 1 John 4:1 and Ephesians 6:10-13.

The demons/fallen angels are enemies of God, but they are defeated enemies. Christ has “disarmed the powers and authorities,” and He has “made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:15). As we submit to God and resist the devil, we have nothing to fear. “The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).



Read 1 John 4:4. Believers are assured that the One who is in us is greater than any evil spirit. How does this assurance give you confidence in living life for Christ?



Lesson 6:

Why did God allow Satan and the demons to sin?

With both the angels and humanity, God chose to present a choice. While the Bible does not give many details regarding the rebellion of Satan and the fallen angels, it seems that Satan—probably the greatest of all the angels (Ezekiel 28:12-18)—in pride chose to rebel against God in order to seek to become his own god. Satan (Lucifer) did not want to worship or obey God; he wanted to be God (Isaiah 14:12-14). Revelation 12:4 is understood to be a figurative description of one-third of the angels choosing to follow Satan in his rebellion, becoming the fallen angels—demons.



What caused Satan's fall? See Ezekiel 28:17-19 and 1 Timothy 3:6.



Why is pride such a blinding sin that leads to destruction? See Proverbs 6:16-18, 11:2, 18:12, 26:12, and 29:23; Daniel 5:20; Obadiah 1:3; Romans 12:16.



What consequences have you experienced as a result of pride in your own life?

Unlike humanity, however, the choice the angels had to follow Satan or remain faithful to God was an eternal choice. The Bible presents no opportunity for the fallen angels to repent and be forgiven. Jesus came for the salvation of humanity not of the angels (Hebrews 2:16). Nor does the Bible indicate that it is possible for more of the angels to sin. The angels who remain faithful to God are described as the “elect angels” (1 Timothy 5:21). Satan and the fallen angels knew God in all His glory. For them to rebel, despite what they knew about God, was the utmost of evil. As a result, God does not

give Satan and the other fallen angels the opportunity to repent. Further, the Bible gives us no reason to believe they would repent even if God gave them the chance (1 Peter 5:8). God gave Satan and the angels the same choice He gave Adam and Eve, to obey Him or not. The angels had a free-will choice to make; God did not force or encourage any of the angels to sin. Satan and the fallen angels sinned of their own free will and therefore are worthy of God’s eternal wrath in the lake of fire.



What do we learn about God’s character in giving the angels free will?

Why did God give the angels this choice, when He knew what the results would be? God knew that one-third of the angels would rebel and therefore be cursed to the eternal fire. God also knew that Satan would further

his rebellion by tempting humanity into sin. So, why did God allow it? The Bible does not explicitly give the answer to this question. The same can be asked of almost any evil action. Why does God allow it?



We so easily say it's not fair that God created us knowing we would sin instead of seeing the mercy of God in giving us a choice and not forcing us. How do these different perspectives impact our hearts and attitudes toward God?

Ultimately, it comes back to God's sovereignty over His creation. The psalmist tells us, "As for God, His way is perfect" (Psalm 18:30). If God's ways are "perfect," then we can trust that whatever He does—and whatever He allows—is also perfect. So the perfect plan from our perfect God was to allow sin. Our minds are not God's mind, nor are our ways His ways, as He reminds us in Isaiah 55:8-9.

From www.gotquestions.org/problem-of-evil.html:

The Bible makes it clear that evil is something God neither intended nor created. Rather, moral evil is a necessary possibility. If we are truly free, then we are free to choose something other than God's will—that is, we can choose moral evil. Scripture points out that there are consequences for defying the will of God—personal, communal, physical, and spiritual.



Evil exists. God didn't create evil, but He allows it. What are some difficulties you wrestle with as a result of this?



Looking at the following verses, what has God done in response to evil?

Genesis 3:14-21:

Genesis 4:10-15:

Deuteronomy 30:15-18:

Jonah 3:6-10:

Psalms 145:20:

Matthew 23:37:

John 3:16:

Romans 1:18-19:

Romans 5:8-9:

Revelation 20:11-15:



In allowing evil, God limits it and responds to it. What does this say about His character?



The judgment of evil is sure. Matthew 25:41 reads: “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” In the meantime, God does not judge evil immediately. Why? See 1 Timothy 2:3-6 and 2 Peter 3:9.



God’s sovereignty and judgment as well as His mercy and grace are at work in allowing but also dealing with evil. How does seeing God’s character in response to your own sin cause you to praise Him?

Lesson 7:

What does the Bible say about demon possession?

The Bible gives some examples of people possessed or influenced by demons. From these examples we can find some symptoms of demonic influence and gain insight as to how a demon possesses someone.



What is the difference between demonic influence and demonic possession?

Here are some of the biblical passages: Matthew 9:32-33; 12:22; 17:18; Mark 5:1-20; 7:26-30; Luke 4:33-36; Luke 22:3; Acts 16:16-18. In some of these passages, the demon possession causes physical ailments such as inability to speak, epileptic symptoms, blindness, etc. In other cases, it causes the individual to do evil, Judas being the main example. In Acts 16:16-18, the spirit apparently gives a slave girl some ability to know things beyond her own learning. The demon-possessed man of the Gadarenes, who was possessed by a multitude of demons (Legion), had superhuman strength and lived naked among the tombstones. King Saul, after rebelling against the LORD, was troubled by an evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:14-15; 18:10-11; 19:9-10) with the apparent effect of a depressed mood and an increased desire to kill David.

Thus, there is a wide variety of possible symptoms of demon possession, such as a physical impairment that cannot be attributed to an actual physiological problem, a personality change such as depression or aggression, supernatural strength, immodesty, antisocial behavior, and perhaps the ability to share information that one has no natural way of knowing. It is important to note that nearly all, if not all, of these characteristics may have other explanations, so it is important not to label every depressed person or epileptic individual as demon-possessed. On the other hand, Western cultures probably do not take satanic involvement in people's lives seriously enough.



How are we called to respond to demonic activity in our lives? See Ephesians 4:26-27 and 6:10-18; James 4:7-10; and 1 Peter 5:8-9.

In addition to these physical or emotional distinctions, one can also look at spiritual attributes showing demonic influence. These may include a refusal to forgive (2 Corinthians 2:10-11) and the belief in and

spread of false doctrine, especially concerning Jesus Christ and His atoning work (2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 John 4:1-3).



How does seeing your sin as part of demonic or evil influence impact your view of your sin?

Concerning the involvement of demons in the lives of Christians, the apostle Peter is an illustration of the fact that a believer can be influenced by the devil (Matthew 16:23). Some refer to Christians who are under a strong demonic influence as being “demonized,” but never is there an example in Scripture of a believer in Christ

being possessed by a demon. Most theologians believe that a Christian cannot be possessed because he has the Holy Spirit abiding within (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19), and the Spirit of God would not share residence with a demon.



How do people in our modern world open themselves up to demonic influence?

We are not told exactly how one opens himself up for possession. If Judas' case is representative, he opened his heart to evil—in his case by his greed (John 12:6). So it may be possible that if one allows his heart to be ruled by some habitual sin, it becomes an invitation for a demon to enter. From missionaries' experiences, demon possession also seems to be related to the worship of heathen idols and the possession of occult materials. Scripture repeatedly relates idol worship to the actual worship of demons (Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17; Psalm 106:37; 1 Corinthians 10:20), so it should not be

surprising that involvement with idolatry could lead to demon possession.

Based on the above scriptural passages and some of the experiences of missionaries, we can conclude that many people open their lives up to demon involvement through the embracing of some sin or through occultic involvement (either knowingly or unknowingly). Examples may include immorality, drug/alcohol abuse that alters one's state of consciousness, rebellion, bitterness, and transcendental meditation.



What should be our response to sin, knowing that we have a real enemy who wants nothing more than to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)?

There is an additional consideration. Satan and his evil host can do nothing the Lord does not allow them to do (Job 1-2). This being the case, Satan, thinking he is accomplishing his own purposes, is actually accomplishing God's good purposes, as in the case of Judas' betrayal. Some people develop an unhealthy

fascination with the occult and demonic activity. This is unwise and unbiblical. If we pursue God, if we are clothing ourselves with His armor and relying upon His strength (Ephesians 6:10-18), we have nothing to fear from the evil ones, for God rules over all!



Ask God to reveal any sin in your life that the devil would like to use to bring you down. For each of those sins, repent and remind yourself that: “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Lesson 8:

Who is Satan in the Bible?

Satan is described in the Bible as an angelic enemy of God and, by extension, the enemy and opponent of those who follow God.



What do you know about Satan—what does he look like, what does he do, where does he live, how much power does he have, etc? What sources have influenced this knowledge?

Although everything God created was good (Genesis 1:31), Satan chose to rebel against the Lord, and many other angels followed his rebellion (Ezekiel 28:15; Isaiah 14:12–17). Satan tempted Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden, and Adam followed her into sin, plunging the whole human race into a curse (Genesis 3:16–19;

Romans 5:12). Pictured as a serpent and dragon in the Bible (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9), Satan is a murderer and the father of lies. He promotes false doctrines and craftily seeks to keep unbelievers in spiritual bondage (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:14; 1 Timothy 4:1).



What do these verses reveal about what Satan is like?

Job 1:6-12:

Isaiah 14:12-15:

John 8:44:

2 Corinthians 11:14-15:

1 Peter 5:8:

1 John 3:8:

Revelation 12:9:

There are many things said in the Bible about Satan, but it is important to also establish what is not said about him. There are many misconceptions regarding the devil, including the following:

- Satan is not a personal being, but rather is only a force of evil.
- He is equal to God, thus creating a form of dualism.
- He resides in and is the ruler of hell.
- He can do whatever he pleases.
- He is omnipresent.
- He received a ransom from Jesus when Jesus died on the cross.

All these views are wrong and are not found in Scripture. False ideas about Satan come from a variety of sources. For instance, the belief that the devil is equal to God and is His opposite comes from the dualism in Zoroastrianism. The belief that Jesus died to pay a ransom to the devil was theorized by Origen. John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, not the Bible, describes Satan as the king of hell (I:261–263).



Why is understanding the nature of Satan important?

Concerning Satan, the Bible gives the following information:

- Satan is a personal being, with a mind, emotions, and a will (Job 1; Matthew 4:1–12).
- He is a created being and is not equal to God (Ezekiel 28:15).
- Satan does not rule hell. Hell was created as a punishment for Satan and his demons (Matthew 25:41). Neither does Satan live in hell, as the Bible describes how he can enter heaven and roam the earth (Job 1:6–7).
- The devil can only do what God allows (Job 1:12).
- Satan is not omnipresent. But he does oversee a horde of demons, called “the powers of this dark world and... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). He uses this network to tempt and deceive people.
- He actively works to nullify the effect of the Word of God in people’s hearts (Matthew 13:3–4, 19), and he blinds the intellect of those who do not believe so they cannot understand the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4).



What are Satan’s limitations? What power does God have over Satan?

The Bible describes how Christians should be mindful of the schemes of Satan: “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Believers must resist him soberly, vigilantly, and steadfastly, aware of the reality of his plans to tempt us to make us unfruitful for the Lord (2 Corinthians 2:11). When tempted, the believer should submit himself to the Lord and resist the devil, and Satan will flee (James 4:7).

In addition to being a tempter, Satan is also “the accuser of our brothers” (Revelation 12:10, ESV). He enjoys listing the many sins of believers, but the Lord Jesus, our Advocate, defeats the accusations because He has paid the price for our sins (1 John 2:1–2). Christians can be confident of their salvation because Jesus has done the work for us through His death and resurrection (Ephesians 2:8–9, Romans 4:25).



John 10:10 says: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” How does understanding Satan’s aim change how you view sin and evil?

Satan is described as the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and has dominion over the world and its system (John 12:31; 1 John 5:19), but his authority will not last forever. During the tribulation, the devil will deceive the masses and raise up for himself the Antichrist, who will rule for seven years (Revelation 13:5–8). Since Satan has always wanted people to worship him as God, this will be a part of his deception as well, since many will worship Satan at that time (Revelation 13:4). He will also attempt to destroy the remnant of Israel but will not be successful (Revelation 12:13–16).

At the end of the tribulation, Jesus will return, destroy the Antichrist and false prophet, and imprison Satan for 1,000 years (Revelation 19:19–20; 20:1–3). After that time, Satan will be released and will lead one last rebellion (Revelation 20:7–9); then Satan will finally be thrown into the lake of fire, forever to be tormented for his rebellion and works of evil (Revelation 20:10). The dominion of Satan over the world may seem unassailable, but the devil cannot withstand the power of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.



How do you reconcile the truth of God’s justice and goodness with allowing Satan to do all he does instead of just destroying him?



Praise God that He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). Write down how God is greater so you can remind yourself of this when you are struggling with sin or doubt, when you are being tempted, when you are down or anxious, etc.



Lesson 9:

How does Satan tempt us?

Satan and his demons are constantly tempting human beings to sin against God, and the Bible gives us many examples. The devil “prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Satan fills people’s hearts with lies (Acts 5:3). He is “the tempter” (1 Thessalonians 3:5).



What is the relationship between temptation and sin? Is temptation a sin? See 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:15, and James 1:14-15.

In Satan’s temptation of Eve in Genesis 3 and in his temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4, we see the tactics he used and still uses with us. While varied in their details, most temptations fall into one of three categories listed in 1 John 2:16: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.



What is the lust of the flesh? See 1 John 2:15-17 and Galatians 5:19-21.



What is the lust of the eyes? See Genesis 3:6 and Matthew 4:8-9.



What is the pride of life? See Isaiah 14:12-15 and 1 John 2:15-17.

In Satan's first temptation of Jesus, he appealed to the lust of the flesh. Jesus was very hungry, and Satan tempted Him to use His power to make bread for Himself. Jesus resisted the temptation, but the encounter shows that Satan does not play fair. He

exploits our physical weaknesses and kicks us when we're down. He knows the weak places in our flesh and looks for opportunities to stir illicit passions inside our hearts.



When are you most vulnerable to be tempted? How can acknowledging this help you overcome temptation?

When Satan tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, he suggested to her that the Lord was keeping something delicious from her (Genesis 3:6). When he tempts us with the lust of the flesh, he points to a natural desire and suggests that we should meet it in our own selfish way. Eve's natural desire for food was not wrong, but

Satan exploited it. That desire became sin when she fulfilled it in an ungodly way. Sexual immorality begins with a natural desire for intimacy. But if we have not allowed Jesus to become a greater passion, the tempter may convince us that we must meet this need our own way.



How is Jesus your greatest passion? How do we keep Jesus as our greatest passion?

The second way Satan tempts us is through the lust of the eyes. Eve's eyes told her something about the fruit that conflicted with what God had said about it. Eve's eyes rebelled against God's commandment and "saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye" (Genesis 3:6). Our eyes play a major role in our decision-making. We see something we want, and our flesh agrees that we must have it. In this age of visual overstimulation, our eyes take in millions of bits of information through the day, and, unless we filter that information through a pure heart (Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24:4), our eyes will lead us into sin.

Samson started his downhill slide with the lust of the eyes. Judges 14–16 details Samson's flirtation with sin and the tragic results. As God's chosen leader, Samson had no business hanging out in Philistine territory, much less flirting with their women. But his eyes led him into sin: "Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw . . . one of the daughters of the Philistines. So he came back and told his father and mother, 'I saw a woman. . . . Get her for me, for she *looks good* to me'" (Judges 14:1–3, emphasis added, NASB).



When have you allowed things that catch your eye to dictate your desires or decisions? What was the outcome of doing that?

When Satan tempted Jesus, he tried to get the Son of God to lust with His eyes, showing the Lord all the kingdoms of the world and offering to give Him everything—without the cross. Jesus defeated Satan’s temptation

with the Word of God (Luke 4:8; cf. Deuteronomy 6:13). Despite what His eyes saw, Jesus would not be swayed by it. Therefore, in Jesus’ case, Satan could not exploit the lust of the eyes.



How do we more vigilantly guard our eyes to be more careful about what catches our attention?

The pride of life is a weakness we all succumb to at times. Satan tempts us with the desire to be our own gods, and he is adept at stroking our ego. Eve’s desire to be made wise led her to sin in Genesis 3. In her pride of life, she rejected the Lord’s right to rule over her and chose instead to make her own decisions. In essence,

she became her own god. Christians can play into Satan’s hands when we hold out on full surrender to the lordship of Jesus. We tend to give more consideration to pleasing other people than to pleasing God. We like to retain “veto power,” just in case God wants us to do something we don’t want to do.



How is the pride of life a struggle of control?

Satan tempted Jesus with the pride of life in Luke 4:9–11. He gave Jesus an opportunity to “show off” and publicly prove that He was the Son of God. The act would involve a spectacular miracle, the Father’s

care, and many angels. Jesus’ response to Satan’s third temptation was to again quote Scripture (Luke 4:12; cf. Deuteronomy 6:16).



Looking at Jesus' responses to Satan (Luke 4:4, 8, and 12), what can you learn from them?

Satan tempts us in many ways, but “we are not unaware of his schemes” (2 Corinthians 2:11). We know he masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), trying to make evil look good. We know he manipulates with false guilt, exploits natural weaknesses, and twists Scripture. We know he deceives and distracts

and destroys. He has many fiery darts, but they are all quenched with the shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16). We can overcome the temptations of Satan, because “the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).



We need to know God's Word to combat Satan and temptation. What are some verses you can use to remind yourself of what is true when you are tempted?

Satan may tempt us through the lust of the flesh, but we “do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:4). Satan may tempt us through the lust of the eyes, but our prayer is “Turn my eyes away

from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word” (Psalm 119:37). Satan may tempt us through the pride of life, but we humble ourselves continually before the Lord (1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10).



Think about your current temptations. Write a prayer for where you are currently tempted and how you would like to see God intervene. What truths of Scripture will you hold onto to find victory over your sin and temptation?



Lesson 10:

Do we need to be aware of the spiritual battle that is taking place around us?

It is crucial that every Christian understands that he/she is in a spiritual battle. There is no way to get out of it. Awareness of the spiritual battle around us is very important. Not only awareness, but vigilance, preparedness, courage, and the right weaponry are crucial elements of engaging in spiritual warfare.



What does it mean that every Christian is in a spiritual battle?

In the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:3–5, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience

of Christ” (NASB). It is clear that “our warfare” as Christians is spiritual. We are not fighting a physical battle or a human battle. It is on a spiritual level—its enemies, its prerogatives, its fortresses, and its weapons are all spiritual. If we attempt to fight the spiritual with human weapons, we will fail and the enemy will be victorious.



Reviewing 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Colossians 2:6-15, what is our role in this spiritual battle? What is God's role?

It is important to note that Paul is not speaking about battling demons here. When Jesus and the apostles cast demons out, it was, along with the other signs and wonders they exhibited, primarily to prove the authority of what they said. It was important at that time for God to give the apostles a powerful “proof” that they were

indeed from God and were His spokesmen. The fidelity of Scripture depends on the authority of the apostles, so God gave the apostles His power to authenticate their teachings. The kind of spiritual battle that every Christian engages in is primarily a battle of the mind and heart.



Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 and 1 John 5:4-5. What do they reveal about the spiritual battle that we are in?

The spiritual battle is quite personal for each Christian. The devil is like a “roaring lion” seeking to devour, and we must remain vigilant against him (1 Peter 5:8). The enemy of our souls has “flaming arrows” that can only be extinguished by the shield of faith as handled by a believer equipped with the full armor of God (see Ephesians 6:10–17). Jesus told us to “watch and pray” so as not to fall into temptation (Mark 14:38).

According to 2 Corinthians 10:4–5, there are spiritual fortresses in this world, made of the “arguments” and

“pretensions.” The word arguments is, in the Greek, *logismos*. It means “ideas, concepts, reasonings, philosophies.” People of the world build up these *logismos* to protect themselves against the truth of God. Sadly, these fortresses often become prisons and eventually tombs. As Christians, we have a calling to break down these fortresses and rescue the inhabitants. It is dangerous and difficult work, but we have a divine arsenal always at our disposal. Unfortunately, one of the enemy’s best tricks is getting us to fight with human weapons rather than divine.



Using the armor of God passage from Ephesians 6:10-20, how do we use these weapons in our actual lives?

Belt of truth (vs 14):

Breastplate of righteousness (vs 14):

Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace (vs 15):

Shield of faith (vs 16):

Helmet of salvation (vs 17):

Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (vs 17):

Praying in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests (vs 18):

Being alert and always praying for all the Lord’s people (vs 18):

When fighting against worldly philosophies, human wit and weaponry are of no avail. Marketing techniques, counter-philosophies, persuasive words of human wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:4), rationalism, organization, skill, entertainment, mystique, better lighting, better music—these are all human weapons. None of these things will win the spiritual war. The only thing that is effective—the only offensive weapon we possess—is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). This sword gives us many freedoms

as soldiers in this spiritual battle. We have freedom from fear, knowing that God is fighting for us (Joshua 1:7–9) and that He will not forsake us. We have freedom from guilt, knowing that we are not responsible for the souls of those who reject God’s message after we have proclaimed it to them (Mark 6:11). We have freedom from despair, knowing that, if we are persecuted and hated, Christ was persecuted and hated first (John 15:18) and that our battle wounds will be richly and lovingly tended to in heaven (Matthew 5:10).



Which verses or passages from God’s Word have been especially meaningful to you as you have engaged in spiritual battle?

All of these freedoms come from using the powerful weapon of God—His Word. If we use human weaponry to fight the temptations of the wicked one, we will sustain failures and disappointment. Conversely, the victories of God are full of hope. “Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast

the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:22-23, NASB). The hearts of those who hear and accept the true, full message of the gospel as given by the apostles are “sprinkled clean” and “washed with pure water.” What is this water? It is the Word of God that strengthens us as we fight (Ephesians 5:26; John 7:38).



Reflect on your role versus God’s role in fighting the spiritual forces of wickedness. Write down a prayer reflecting your heart in wanting to better rely on His Word and His Spirit to engage in spiritual battle?



Wrap Up

Now that you have studied ten lessons on questions about angels and demons, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



How has your understanding of angels and demons changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study?



What will you change in your life as a result of this study?



Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of angels and demons? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?



Reference List

Lesson 1: www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-beings.html

Lesson 2: www.gotquestions.org/spirit-world.html

Lesson 3: www.gotquestions.org/angels-Bible.html

Lesson 4: www.gotquestions.org/angels-free-will.html

Lesson 5: www.gotquestions.org/demons-Bible.html

Lesson 6: www.gotquestions.org/angels-sin.html

Lesson 7: www.gotquestions.org/demon-possession.html

Lesson 8: www.gotquestions.org/Satan-in-the-Bible.html

Lesson 9: www.gotquestions.org/how-does-Satan-tempt-us.html

Lesson 10: www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-battle.html

All Bible references are quoted from the NIV unless otherwise stated.