

Angels & Demons

INTRODUCTION

Angels and Demons—Part 3

Many misunderstandings come with the unseen world of angels and demons. While some have trouble believing the devil and his helpers exist, others give Satan too much credit for the difficulties in life. Misconceptions about God's angelic helpers also abound. We wonder whether we have a guardian angel, or if people receive angel wings when they pass away. There are so many questions—how can we know the right answers?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of ways in which you think the devil operates? What are some of the tactics that he uses? Can you think of examples from your own life where you think the Devil may have been at work?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:8. Why do you think the Devil hates people in general, and he hates Christians in particular?
3. Read Genesis 3:1-4, John 8:44 and 1 Timothy 4:1-4. What are some of the specific ways in which you think the devil lies to us? What are some of the lies he has spread around the world?
4. How can we keep from believing the lies of the Devil?
5. Read Ephesians 4:26 and 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. What are some things that we might do that open the door for the Devil to work in and through the church? Why is it important that we stay united?
6. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

The devil is our enemy. He is a ruthless and devious schemer. He is set on our destruction, so it's important that we understand how he operates. While we are not under the authority of the Devil as Christians, he still has power in our lives. He wants to take advantage of situations in our lives—whenever we disobey God, we provide a context in which the Devil can work.

The Devil works in many ways—the two we uncovered this week are deceit and division. Satan loves to lie, and deceit is the primary way in which he operates. Those whose nature it is to lie will end up in Hell. But as Christians, if we love and pursue the truth and the Word of God, we can conquer deceit. The Devil also likes to divide people. He likes to get us to fight one another, because we can't win against the enemy when we are separated. We should pursue unity with each other and within the church. Satan will take advantage of you in these two ways if he sees an opportunity present itself; therefore, our focus should be on not giving him any chances to operate.

KEY VERSES (HCSB)

2 Corinthians 2:10-11
Ephesians 4:26-27
Luke 4:13
John 8:44
Acts 5:3
1 Timothy 4:1-4
Revelation 21:8
James 3:14-17
Matthew 13:24-39
1 Peter 5:8
Genesis 3:1-4
John 8:44