

Angels & Demons

INTRODUCTION

Angels and Demons—Part 4

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. Why do you think Christians sometimes don't like to talk about Satan or demons? Do you think we should be afraid of them? Explain your answer.
2. As Christians, we have three main adversaries in this life—the world, the flesh and the devil. (See Galatians 5:19-21, 1 John 2: 15-17 and 1 John 3:7-9). How would you define or describe these adversaries? How can we know which enemy we are facing at a particular time?
3. Read Job 2:4-10 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What do we learn from these verses about the devil and disease? Why would God allow the devil to afflict us? What do we learn from these verses about how we should respond when we are afflicted?
4. Read Matthew 5:11-12, 43-48, 1 Peter 4:17-19 and 1 Peter 5:8-11. Why do you think God allows Christians to be persecuted? What should our response be when others mistreat us?
5. What practical steps can we take to become stronger in our battles against the world, the flesh and the devil?

APPLICATION

Satan works in five main ways: deceit, division, disease, disqualification, and death or destruction. We get sick because we live in a world scarred by sin. Death and the causes leading to death were introduced to the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. The Devil tries to sideline us and disqualify us, especially when we are about to accomplish something significant for God. We can always rebound from our failures, but the Devil likes to make it tough for us along the way.

We are all capable of falling into the Devil's traps. We need to be mindful of his schemes, because he wants to use deceit, division, disqualification, and death to destroy us. However, he can't touch us without God's permission. Sometimes God allows it for the purpose of turning us back to Him. We can pray to God any time we are faced with these difficulties—we can ask Him to help us. But even when God chooses not to remove the affliction, we know that His grace is enough for us.

Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.

KEY VERSES (HCSB)

1 Peter 5:8-11	Galatians 5:19-21
Ephesians 4:26-27	1 John 2:15-17
2 Corinthians 12:7-10	1 John 3:7-9
Luke 13:10-11, 16	Job 2:4-10
1 Corinthians 5:5	Matthew 5:11-12, 43-48
John 8:44	1 Peter 4:17-19