



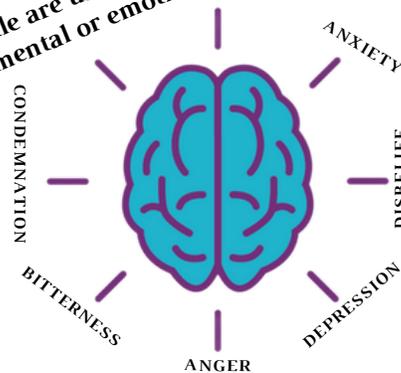
As Christians living in a fallen world, we are not exempt from the daily struggles, often in our minds, the battlefield of the mind. Everything we do, every word we say, and every decision we make naturally begins in our minds.

**[Proverbs 23:7]**

"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, the authorities, the powers of darkness of this world, and the spiritual wickedness in heavenly places."

**[Ephesians 6:12]**

The symptoms of losing the battle are usually manifested in mental or emotional issues:



All these issues hinder our communication and, ultimately, our relationship with God.



## SATAN IS THE REAL ENEMY!

Unlike God, the Almighty, Satan is not all-knowing, and neither is he all-powerful nor all-present. A person's thoughts can only be known by God and that person's own spirit.

## HOW SATAN CAME INTO EXISTENCE

The scripture reveals that Satan is the fallen angel, Lucifer, who was not only the most prominent and powerful in the heavens, but also history's most corrupt celestial creature who led a rebellion against the Creator.

**[Isiah 14:12-21; Ezekiel 28:11-19]**

God created Lucifer, not **Satan**, with the gift of self-determination (which has been given to both angels and human beings). Lucifer became Satan because he had an unbalanced (pride and self-will), unthankful and unbelieving mind, which caused him to think he could defeat God and replace Him as king of the universe.

**We must fill our minds with God's Word to win against the enemy's deception. The scriptural answer to the questions is that**

**Satan cannot read our minds; however, he can influence our thoughts through observing our behavior and walk with the Lord!**



## SATAN IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF LIES

Jesus characterizes Satan as a liar and the father of it. He was a murderer from the beginning and there is no truth in him.

**John 8:44**

Jesus contrasted His work and the enemy's scheme

**John 10:10**

Not only is Satan a liar and a murderer, but he is also an accuser of God's people

**Revelations 12:10**



## Why Does this Matter?

The human mind is a spiritual battlefield, which is ultimately against the liar and the father of lies. In order to win the battle against the enemy, it is essential to accurately understand Satan's limitations so that we don't ascribe too much power to him or be overly fearful of him.

Satan cannot read our minds, he is not Omniscient! Only Jesus knows the thoughts of all people - this demonstrates the divinity of Christ. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit.

- **John 2:24**
- **Matthew 9:1-4**
- **1 Corinthians 2:11**

We must be aware of the enemy's devices. Although he cannot read our minds, he can still influence our thoughts and tempt us to disobey God.

- Eve eats fruit from forbidden tree
- David to take census of Israelites
- Peter to rebuke Jesus
- Judas betrays Jesus

**Genesis 3:1-7**  
**1 Chron. 21: 1-3**  
**Matthew 16:22-23**  
**Luke 22:3-4**

## OTHER DECEPTIONS

Other than the devil, what else is deceitful? Scriptures reveal that the human heart, mind, charms, and the counsels of the wicked are also deceptive.

Human Heart & Mind	Jeremiah 17:9
Charm	Proverbs 31:30
Counsels of the wicked	Proverbs 12:5

## KNOWING SATAN'S LIMITATIONS

Unlike God, the Almighty, Satan is neither all-powerful, all-knowing, nor all-present. Like humans, angels are God's creatures, who possess limitations.

Through the book of Job, Satan's limitations are exposed!

Satan is not Omnipresent	Job 1:7
Satan is not Omniscient	Job 1:11
Satan is not Omnipotent	Job 42:12-17

## TO OVERCOME OUR ADVERSARY

We must fill our hearts and minds with God's Word, which brings:

- Faith
- Assurance
- Holy Desires
- Encouragement
- Joy and Hope

By living in humility and submission to Christ, we can resist the devil.

**James 4:7**



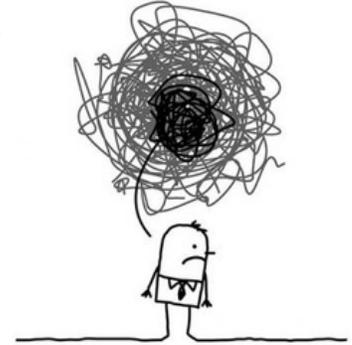
## HOW DOES SATAN DISTORT OUR THOUGHTS ON GOD'S TRUTH?

Most theological errors are not a result of a lack of correct teaching, but distortions of God's truth. This is why every heresy, be it ancient or modern, contains a **seed** of truth within it.

### How Should We Guard Against this attack of the adversary?

There are 2 errors we find ourselves falling into as we develop our Christian walk.

1. Overemphasizing scriptural teaching to the point that we ignore mitigating information required.
2. Doubt.



### Scripture is very clear on the need for personal holiness in our lives.

- Woman caught in adultery - **John 8:11**
- Without holiness we will not see the Savior - **Hebrews 12:14**
- We are created to be like God in righteousness and holiness - **Ephesians 1:20-24**

### The trap of the enemy regarding these admonitions is to distort our view of holiness. We begin to be dogmatic in our observance of best effort at living it, but becoming legalistic.

- Refusing to do servile work on Sunday despite responsibility to love our neighbor - **Mark 2:27**
- In evangelism, refusing to go places we consider impure, failing to carry out the Great Commission - **Matthew 28:19-20**
- In our personal lives, viewing negative thoughts as a gravely unforgivable sin, any action or word that doesn't meet our unrealistic view of holiness as evidence we are not good enough, that we are not really saved, and that we should just give up.



This emphasis on one aspect of the Christian life to the exclusion of mercy and forgiveness is spiritually dangerous, ignoring other biblical data. - **Matthew 23:23**

When we recognize our sin and ask our Lord for the grace of His forgiveness, He grants it to us.

**Proverbs 28:13; Psalms 32:5**

When we Christians find ourselves in sin, we can confess those one to another and be healed.

**James 5:16**

When we confess our sins to the Lord, He is faithful in His mercy, granting us forgiveness and purifying us.

**1 John 1:9**

Such promises would not exist if we were expected to somehow maintain a consistent state of holiness in and of our own power. The very fact that we need a Savior should be enough to make it clear to us that we **cannot** in any way meet the biblical standards of holiness by our own power.

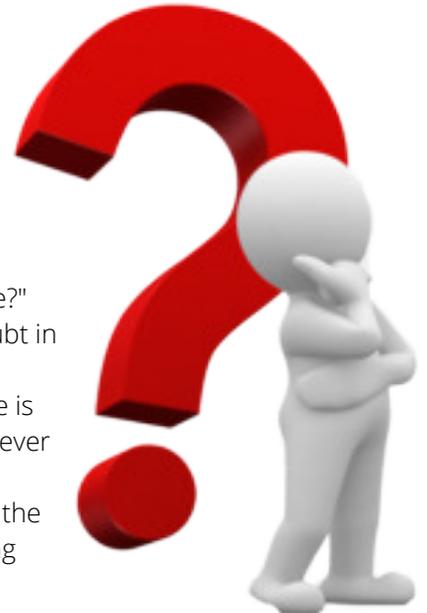


## IS IT REALLY AGAINST GOD'S TRUTH?

The second tactic that the adversary uses as a means to distort our view of God's truth is **DOUBT** in our minds. This is the original tactic used against Eve in the Garden. (Genesis 3:1-6). The serpent did not **directly** attack God's Word to Adam and Eve regarding the forbidden fruit, that would have been met with immediate defenses and distrust.

Instead, Satan introduced DOUBT, "Did God really say not to eat the fruit of the tree?" (Genesis 3:1). Two things happen when the enemy whispers questions born of doubt in our ears.

1. It brings into question the reliability of God's Word. If what we have in scripture is not true, trustworthy, and divinely inspired, then you are free to engage in whatever behaviors you see fit. (Proverbs 21:2 Proverbs 3:5)
2. We begin to doubt God's self-revelation and then our ego, our pride, comes to the forefront. Our ego will seek to maintain a semblance of godliness while ignoring those parts of the gospel that don't meet our personal standards.



Sex before marriage is accepted, lying to keep up pretenses, abortion becomes acceptable, same-sex marriages, and all manner of sin is excused based on man's modern sensibilities. Some may even go further to reject God altogether. (Psalm 14:1; Psalm 53:1)

They begin to reason with themselves, "How could God expect anyone to live by that standard? It isn't possible! It is cruel and isn't loving at all!" Such pride is indicative of diabolic suggestion, as it gives rise to high-handed sin and outright defiance of God. (Isiah 1:18)

## HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST DOUBT!

We have many means at our disposal by which we can avoid and dispel doubt.



### Prayer

We, as Christians, have absolute confidence that when we go to God in prayer, asking Him for answers to whatever it is that troubles us, He will provide the answers. (1 John 5:14-15) Don't just pray alone but share your questions with your pastor or other mature believers who can pray with you and who can answer your questions.

**1 Peter 3:15**



### Guard your Heart

Most doubts come from your heart. We have some emotional pain over experiences, such as death of a loved one, divorce, etc., and they allow emotional doubts to be suggested by Satan

**2 Corinthians 10:5; 1 Peter 1:13**



### Study God's Word

We must dive deeper into the study of God's Word to look for answers that are of a surety there. Faith is strengthened by the hearing and reading the Word of God, so never neglect the Scriptures, especially when you are experiencing doubts.

**Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 2:15**