

# Lesson 6 - Freedom

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**The Bible teaches us that we have an “Adversary”, called the “devil”.**

Some religious institutions teach the devil is an invention of man, that he is really a personification of the bad in you, that he is a product of the imagination. However, if the Bible illuminates us concerning the existence of Satan and his demons, then the Lord wants us to know our enemy exists and that it's important.

We need to know the true nature of evil and where it originates. When we do, it gives us an understanding of the world around us and dispels the confusion about who or what is responsible for the evil here.

Jesus gives us a great insight in John 10:10-11:

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”*

Every time the devil shows up, he does so for one purpose and one only: to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus is exactly the opposite. Every time He interacts with us it's to give us God's kind of life and His life more abundantly!

James 1:16-17 says:

*“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

This scripture says, “Don't be deceived...” Every good gift and every perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights who NEVER changes. There's no “variableness” with Him. He's perfectly stable!

Malachi 3:6 says: *“I am the Lord, I change not.”*

In the beginning God created a perfect world and He is exclusively responsible for all the GOOD in it! In Genesis chapter 1, the words “*God saw that it was good*” is mentioned 6 times. When finished, God surveyed everything He had made and acknowledged it was “*very good*.” God is ONLY responsible for the GOOD! Not the bad!

God did not originate sin, sickness, disaster, violence or death. These things abound in the world because sin entered through Adam and Eve's sin. They ate from the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” in the Garden of Eden and disobeyed God's command. In doing so they opened the door for sin, rebellion against God and the devil to do his work in the earth.

We should NEVER to be confused about the nature of God, we need only look at the life of Jesus! He said in John 14:9 “*He that has seen Me has seen the Father...*” Jesus NEVER harmed anyone, NEVER did anyone wrong! He PERFECTLY revealed the character of God and His everlasting love for us, even to the extreme of giving His life for the sheep! JESUS is the “Good Shepherd!” He's ALWAYS has been and ALWAYS WILL BE on our side!

Hebrews 1:3 declares Jesus was “*the brightness of His (God's) glory and the express image of His person!*” Jesus was the perfect and complete expression of the character and person of God the Father. Think about that!

Consequently, 1 John 1:5 says:

*“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that GOD IS LIGHT and in Him is no darkness at all.” There is NO darkness in God! The Bible says, “He is GOOD and HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER!”*

1 John 4:8 says:

*“God IS LOVE!”*

So if God IS LOVE, GOOD, MERCIFUL and FULL OF LIGHT, where does the evil and darkness come from?

## Where Evil Comes From?

Ezekiel 28:12-15:

This chapter talks about Satan's creation and subsequent fall. It says he was created as a beautiful "anointed" angel of God. He walked around the throne of God, but his heart was lifted up with pride. He wanted to be like God and rebelled against Him.

In Ezekiel 28:16-17 he said, "*I will exalt my throne above God's...*" Satan's motivation became corrupt. He was lifted up with pride. He wanted to replace God and rule over all creation, but God had a DIFFERENT PLAN! God's plan was to create mankind and for man to rule over His creation!

In Genesis 1:26-28. God created man in His own image and gave him authority over all the works of His hands. God blessed man and said to him, "*Be fruitful, multiply and have dominion.*"

It's no wonder Satan hates mankind. God GAVE US exactly what Satan wanted! We are created in God's image and He gave US dominion over all His creation!

When Adam decided to obey the temptation of the devil in the Garden of Eden, he gave Satan the ability to corrupt and rule over the earth. But THANK GOD, what Adam gave away, Jesus RECLAIMED through His DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

Colossians 2:13-15 speaks about what Jesus accomplished ON THE CROSS for us:

*"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and power, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it!"*

While this verse may seem complicated to understand at first, it states that Jesus completely conquered and GAINED AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY over the devil on our behalf. His victory was SO COMPLETE that Jesus literally put the devil and his cohorts (principalities and powers) on PUBLIC DISPLAY, DEMONSTRATING THEIR DEFEAT TO ALL!

The advantage that the devil gained over mankind through Adam's sin was completely OVERTURNED and REVERSED! Although the devil is still at work in the world, he does NOT HAVE AUTHORITY OVER US!

Colossians 1:12-13 says, "*(GOD) has DELIVERED US from the authority of darkness and TRANSLATED US into the kingdom of His dear son.*" This means we are NO LONGER under the authority of the devil! We are completely outside his jurisdiction! We are residing in and under the influence of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This is why 1 Peter 5:8 says:

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."* Notice, the key words here are "MAY devour". He can't "devour" those who belong to Jesus and take authority over the devil as the Bible instructs us to.

James 4:7 says:

*"Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* One translation says, "*flee from you in terror!*"

Jesus said in Mark 16:17:

*"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons..."*

These promises and instructions from God's Word clearly show that WE CAN do something about the devil, ANYTIME he interferes with our lives or walk with God!

Jesus also said in Luke 10:19:

*"Behold, I give you the authority to trample (to smite, hit, to strike as with a single blow) on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* These are wonderful promises from Jesus! Jesus gave us AUTHORITY OVER the devil and power to resist him in His Name! And NOTHING shall by ANY MEANS harm us!!! WHAT A TREMENDOUS PROMISE! Believe it today!

God DID give mankind authority over Satan, but it requires “resisting” him by faith. That means you BELIEVE THESE PROMISES and YOU DON’T TAKE ‘NO’ for an answer from the devil! You USE THE MIGHTY NAME OF JESUS and COMMAND HIM TO FLEE! When you DO, he always WILL! NO exceptions!

## Satan Has Two Strategies

**Satan or “the devil,” now has two common strategies:**

- 1) To make people believe he does not exist, so they accuse God of doing the evil.
- 2) To make believers afraid of him and to convince them Christ did not defeat him on the cross.

Satan WAS absolutely defeated by the work of Jesus on the cross! Satan wants to keep people ignorant of this fact!

Also, don’t try to see devils everywhere. We should always be more GOD CONSCIOUS than anything! The devil and demons are limited to time and place. GOD ISN’T! We must take all Bible truths and walk down the MIDDLE of the road with them. We should not end up in the ditch on one side or the other.

**However, Jesus DID take authority over devils and He also educated His disciples about how to do so:**

Read Matthew 8:16

*“When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick”*

Read Mark 1:34:

*“Then He [Jesus] healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons...”*

Mark 6:7 says, *“And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and GAVE THEM power over unclean spirits.”*

Again, in Luke 10:19 Jesus says:

*“Behold, I GIVE YOU THE AUTHORITY to trample on serpents and scorpions, and OVER ALL the power of the enemy...”* That’s DEFINITELY powerful!!

You sometimes hear Christians talking about the devil as if he has great power, ability or influence. This is wrong. He can NEVER be compared to God. He CANNOT CONTEND with God! He is NOT even in GOD’S CLASS! God created HUNDREDS of BILLIONS of GALAXIES and Satan has never created anything, NOT even a ball bearing!

So although we can’t be complacent, we MUST acknowledge that Jesus DEFEATED THE DEVIL and gave us TOTAL AUTHORITY over him! We are to “resist [him] steadfast in the faith” according to 1 Peter 5:9! If Jesus thought this was important enough to teach His disciples, then it should be important to us!

## We Are to Walk in and Excercise The Authority Jesus Gave Us!

**So How Does Satan Operate?**

**1) Through temptation** - Like when Jesus was in the desert

Matthew 4:3 says, *“Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”*

**2) Through lies and deceit** - Satan is the “father of lies.”

John 8:44 Jesus said, *“When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*

### **3) Through accusation - He is the “accuser of brethren”**

Revelation 12:10 says, *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”*

### **4) Through strife, conflicts and arguments**

James 3:15-16 says, *“This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”*

The devil want us to entrap us with temptation to sin, ensnare us with lies and deceit, burden us with accusations and condemnation and destroy relationships with strife and arguments. Only living life according to God’s Word allows us to stay free from these traps!

Walking in GOD’S LOVE gives us power over strife. Knowing what Christ has done for us frees us from accusation and condemnation! The truth of God’s Word in our heart gives us power to overcome sin!

In Psalm 119:11, King David said:

*“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”*

**God’s Word of truth also cuts through all the lies and deceit of the enemy like a sharp two-edged sword.**

Hebrews 4:12 says:

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Also, when the devil tries to build an argument of accusation against you, you can remind him the BLOOD OF JESUS has cleansed you from ALL wrong-doing and that you are a NEW CREATION! Jesus has canceled the devil’s arguments against you through the CROSS and as a result, YOU have the BLESSING of GOD and YOU’RE A CHILD OF GOD!

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 says:

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. And ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD!...”*

We overcome strife, arguments and conflicts by walking in love.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:7-8, it says LOVE *“bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And LOVE NEVER FAILS!”*

And always remember that faith in what the devil says produces fear, but faith in what God’s Word says always produces peace. Always believe God’s Word. It is final authority and it will stand eternally.

If we are NOT IGNORANT of Satan’s devices, he CANNOT gain advantage over us! - 2 Corinthians 2:11

## **WE ARE FREE IN JESUS!**

John 8:31-32 says:

*“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Free here means “unrestrained”, liberated!*

If that wasn’t enough, Jesus also said, *“He whom the Son sets free is free indeed!”* - John 8:36

Paul said, *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free.”* - Galatians 5:1

It DOES take effort on our part. We STAY FREE by exercising our God-given authority over sin, temptation and the devil. Walking in the light of God’s Word keeps us FREE from their influence!

Again, our God-given authority lies, above all, in the MOST POWERFUL Name in heaven and earth, THE NAME OF JESUS!

## KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN DELIVERED / LIBERATED!

Notice again in Colossians 1:12-14, it says:

*“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love...”*

Notice it says WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED! That is the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel!  
**THE WORK IS ALREADY DONE!**

That’s why now the Bible says, *“Neither give place to the devil.”* The word *“place”* means, DON’T GIVE HIM SPACE, POSITION, LOCATION OR OPPORTUNITY! Don’t let him back in!

It’s up to us to know how he works and to resist him! Stay away from places and things you know will be a temptation. Put into practice those things which strengthen your walk with God, like:

- 1) A Daily Devotional time with God - Read a chapter of the Bible, talk to God in prayer and commit each day to Him
- 2) Listen to good Bible teaching. Read books that build you up in Christ.
- 3) Go to Church CONSISTENTLY and don’t let anything rob that time.
- 4) Surround yourself and enjoy time with people who walk with the Lord.

## YOU ARE FREE! SO STAY FREE!

**Read God’s Word daily and walk in the light of what you know.** - Psalm 119:105

**Thank God for the work of the cross and the power of the precious blood of Jesus that has cleansed you.** - Revelation 12:10,11

**See your true position in Christ, seated in heavenly places.** - Ephesians 2:5,6

**Be quick to confess any sin committed and give no place to the enemy** - 1 John 1:9

**Continue in fellowship with other believers by going to church faithfully.** - Hebrews 10:24,25

**Live in close communion with the Holy Spirit and keep a clear conscience.** - Romans 9:1

**Rebuke the devil when you need to in the Name of Jesus!** - Mark 16:17

Remember, going to Church consistently strengthens your walk with God every week. You’ll find after a while you are growing stronger and stronger as a Christian and the things that used to cause you trouble WILL LOOK INSIGNIFICANT in you future!

## A WONDERFUL LIFE AWAITS YOU IN CHRIST!

**Memorise** James 4:7

*“Submit yourself therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you!”*