

Are Angels and Demons Real?

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This paper has been made into a video that is available on YouTube at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/7VxAHCpyNG8>



*Faith is not something that goes against the evidence, it goes beyond it. The evidence is saying to us,
“There is another country. There is something beyond mere reason.”*

~ Alister E. McGrath

It is the greatest art of the devil to convince us he does not exist

~ Pierre Charles Baudelaire

In our day there is great resistance to anything supernatural. Postmoderns have been inculcated with the philosophy of naturalism which teaches that the only thing that exists is the natural world – that which we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. Our public schools teach Darwinism – the theory that all life originated from non-life, with the implication being that there is nothing beyond nature, or as Richard Dawkins expressed it, “all that is out there is a blind, pitiless indifference.” So when you die your life is over, you will rot in the grave, and there is therefore no solid basis for morality, love, or purpose. Nevertheless, we inherently feel that this is not enough and there must be more to life than this. Some people (and perhaps all of us in small degrees) have a sixth sense which is often described as “paranormal”; where people sense and sometimes interact with the spirit world.

Even naturalistic scientists have to admit that they are unable to explain some phenomenon that go above and beyond nature. They have acknowledged the existence of the soul ([Lanza, 2011](#); [Smith, 2017](#)), and in some near-death experiences individuals were brain-dead, but later reported seeing and

hearing things that took place as their body lay lifeless ([Sunfellow, 2019a, 2019b](#)). Somehow they came back to life and reported their experiences of life after death ([Gray et al., 2023](#); [Moody, 2015](#)).

Given that the spirit world lays beyond our five senses, how can we understand and make sense of it? If we receive or think we receive messages, urgings, or directives from the spirit world, how can we know if they are positive or negative – harmful or beneficial? This is where the Bible comes in – it is the only resource we have that will provide the necessary information and insight for us to understand the spirit world and to know how we should and should not interact with it ([Sorensen, 2025](#)).

The Bible teaches that beyond us there is a world of spirit beings, both good and bad, that are capable of interacting with us. Jehovah, the God of the Bible, is a spirit being with three personalities known as the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. Each of them have separate roles and activities but they exist in a unity of love and purpose. The Trinity is therefore the One God who is the Lord of heaven and earth (e.g., John 1:1-5, Matthew 28:18-20). So interactions with spirit beings can be very subtle and subliminal, or they can be earth-shaking; they can be good and originate from Jehovah, or they may be temptations to evil that originate from demons.

At some point in the remote past Jehovah created lesser spirit beings (the “heavenly host,” Luke 2:13). We have no idea how many there are, but the Bible indicates that there are a very large number of them.

Then I looked, and I heard... the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. (Revelation 5:11)

Angels are pictured in art as flying Adonises or as chubby little children with wings; demons are pictured with horns, scales, and a pitchfork. These artistic renditions may convey some degree of their nature, but in actuality they are powerful beyond our understanding.

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land. (Revelation 10:1-2)

This is humbling for us when we consider our weakness and the awesome power of spirit beings, but so it is: But in spite of their innate power, the mission given to angels by God is to serve and help people, which is why they were given the power that they have.

But to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:13-14)

For he did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. (Hebrews 2:5)

For assuredly he does not give help to angels, but he gives help to the descendant of Abraham. (Hebrews 2:16)

Regardless of their non-human nature, angels have the same free will that people do – the ability decide what they will think and how they will act. The free will of angels and people provides the clue

to understand one of most important theological questions of all: where does evil come from? People have pondered this question for centuries and this inquiry has been given a fancy name – “theodicy.”

Everyone understands that there is evil in the world, and in our postmodern times it is typical to think that evil comes from society. This was taught by the 18th century philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau who believed that people were naturally good, and that evil came from free enterprise and the profit motive. That idea became part of the foundation upon which Karl Marx constructed his socialistic economic theories and is in turn the foundation for leftist politics. However, as parents know, their children, who look and often seem so innocent, are not naturally good. They can, of course, be good at times but children are naturally selfish and must be taught to be good.

Evil therefore comes from within people, because we are genetically prone to selfishness. Everyone has an almost unlimited capacity to rationalize his or her own desires as being good, when in fact they may be bad. Selfishness, like cancer, can easily metastasize into gossip, theft, cruelty, deception, greed, envy, resentment, victimology, depression, suicide, rape, murder, etc. So evil can certainly come from society but only because society is a collection of individuals who have the potential of evil within themselves. It has little to do with capitalism or the profit motive – socialists can be just as evil and greedy as capitalists. Communists movements have by orders of magnitude repressed, tortured and killed more people than any other political movement in history, around 170 million people since 1900 ([Kopel, 2022](#)).

If everyone has the potential of doing evil, where did that come from, and why are genetically disposed to selfishness? It comes from the free will of both angels and humans. To angels we humans are a lower order of being and unworthy of the destiny God intended for us – to eventually rule over the universe. Seen in that light angels could well have become suspicious of God’s motives and then developed fears and resentments about humans eventually taking their place and usurping their role. Furthermore, they were jealous of the human capacity for reproduction and the ability to create their own families and tribes. Apparently, they desired the same capability for themselves, which is what demonic sons of God did later in history:

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose...There were giants [Nephilim] on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. (Genesis 6:1-4)

One of the greatest of all of the angels was Lucifer whose name means “light” and who originally led worship in heaven. He became dissatisfied with his role, which he thought of as debasing himself in serving humans who are far below him. Instead he wanted to take the place of Jehovah and to rule rather than serve. He wanted to become god and have everyone worship him, so he developed an intense craving for power; later he helped to instill the same desire in human world leaders in order to corrupt them in the same way. The most powerful angel wanted ultimate power for himself, so he rebelled against Jehovah. His arrogance and revolt is described as follows:

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon [the heights of the

north]. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: “Is this the one who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the one who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?” All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch, you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people.¹ (Isaiah 14:12-20)

You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold. The workmanship of your settings and sockets was in you, and on the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.

By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned. Therefore, I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God, and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.... All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrifying in appearance, and you will cease to be forever. (Ezekiel 28:12-19)

A number of the other spirit beings felt the same way and they joined Lucifer in his rebellion against God. Revelation 12:4 reveals that Lucifer, now known as Satan (the accuser) and the Devil (slanderer), brought one third of the angels along with him with the idea “Better to reign in hell than to serve in heaven.” Those angels then became demons and exist in defiance and rebellion to Jehovah and in opposition to humanity, so they seek to corrupt, pollute, and tear down everything that God does and stands for. Their goal is to tempt and destroy as many people as possible, and to take us down to hell along with them. Therefore, our world is the battleground of a cosmic war that has lasted throughout history and continues unabated. As Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, but I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The war started in the Garden of Eden and at the beginning of humanity as recorded in Genesis 3 with the temptation of Adam and Eve by Satan. The “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” was one of the trees in the garden which God had commanded the couple to avoid as a test of obedience. Those who think that the sin of Adam and Eve was simply eating fruit from the wrong tree don’t understand the nature of the temptation. Here is what Satan told Eve:

You will not surely die! For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:4-5)

In other words, Satan was tempting Eve with the same feelings and motives that led to his own fall:

¹ Note that the above verses suggest that Satan was responsible for large-scale destruction (“who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities”) which may be related to the “gap theory” from Genesis 1:2 that some believe.

1. That they would not die as God has told them – God was therefore not trustworthy.
2. That God was secretly withholding something – God was therefore not good.
3. Rather than having to obey and serve, they could become a god and a goddess, create their own morality, and eliminate all divine restrictions on their behavior – God was stopping them from being able to fulfill their destiny.

But all of the above were lies, and in disobeying God the Garden of Eden and the physical world was debased. Adam's responsibility of provision became difficult because nature was turned against him, and Eve's responsibility in bearing children became painful because of physiological changes, and both of them would eventually grow old and die. Selfishness and a bent toward sin then became genetic, and all of the societies of history including our own have experienced evil from the same root and due to the fall of our first parents. Because of Adam's surrender, Satan took the authority that should have belonged to Adam and became the god of this world.

Why would God allow this to happen, and if God is good, why is there bad? Following is a famous syllogism by the Greek philosopher Epicurus:

1. If God is willing to prevent evil, but not able, then he is not omnipotent.
2. If he is able but not willing, then he is malevolent.
3. If he is both able and willing, then where does evil come from?
4. If he is neither able nor willing, then why call him God?

However, Epicurus failed to understand the biblical explanation of theodicy:

1. God is omnipotent, moral and good – He is the definition of good.
2. God created intelligent beings (angels and humans) with free will and determined that He would never remove or compromise the free will of His beings. Free will implies that beings can choose good and/or evil.
3. Beings chose evil and God therefore allowed evil to happen.
4. God eventually brings his beings into judgment for the evil they have done because He is just and evil must be atoned for – either by the individual or by the sacrifice of Christ, the God-man.

In other words, God did not create evil, rather He created the possibility of evil. Jehovah decided that unlike animals who function purely by instinct, both angels and humans would be given the gift of free will, which allows them to choose what they will think and do. Without free will, we would be robotic or animalistic; love, which is a chosen action, would be impossible. Therefore, both people and angels were and are free to choose evil rather than good. We are free to choose to obey God and serve others, or disobey and suffer the consequences, which Moses gave long ago to the people of Israel, the vision that was given to Daniel, and the eternal consequences of rejecting God:

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going

over the Jordan to enter and possess.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:15-19)

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:2-3)

Spirit beings are not visible to us, but they have the ability to appear in human form as they did on a number of occasions in the Bible.

And the Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. (Genesis 18:1-2)

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Hebrews 13:2)

Spirit beings may therefore be either good (i.e., angelic) or bad (i.e., demonic). All spirit beings, at least all of the ones that are described in the Bible, seem to have the same basic nature, although we know very little of them and potential differences between them (e.g., are there species of angels and/or demons?).² However, the major difference is in their moral characteristics, in the same way that humans can be either morally good or bad. Of course, human morality is far from absolute – even the most moral individuals have faults, and likewise the worst individuals may have one or more redeeming qualities. But there seems to be a very sharp and perhaps a total moral division among spirit beings – either for God or against him. This may be an attribute of their nature and/or it may be impossible to hide one's orientation. Once a spirit being chooses to join the "dark side" they have essentially rejected God and everything God stands for, so they become everything that God is not. Apparently, it is not possible for demons to repent and return to being an angel, due either to their own choice (i.e., they have taken a vow and will not turn back), or a divine refusal to allow repentance (2 Peter 2:4, Hebrews 2:16).

There is a pronounced hierarchy among spirit beings, with some having very great power and authority, and others much less. The Bible speaks of "cherubim" (angelic leaders) and "seraphim" ("spirits of fire") as being "super angels." However, their exact characteristics and the specific differences between them and regular angels is not fully described. On the good side there are many angels (unnamed) as well as archangels or cherubim (two of which are named in the Bible – Michael and Gabriel). On the bad side there are many demons (unnamed) as well as Satan, who is known by many names, such as the Devil, the Accuser, Belial, Apollyon, the Serpent of Old, the Great Dragon, etc.

There were and are severe consequences for demons:

² Some view "demons" as being distinct from "fallen angels." Demons are said to be the spirits of the Rephaim/Nephilim and seek to inhabit a body, whereas the spirit beings who followed Satan in his rebellion are said to be "fallen angels." But given the fact that this is a point of theological dispute, the term "demon" will be used in the context of this paper for all evil spirit beings.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly. (2 Peter 2:4-6)

And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 6)

This raises the question of why demons would want to risk divine censure. There are a number of possible answers:

1. Demons, like many arrogant people, are in denial about their ultimate destiny. Like some people they “don’t give a damn” and are intent on doing whatever they want to do regardless of the consequences
2. As stated above, the task assigned to angels by God is to be his messengers and to serve people. Satan, the proud spirit, wanted to rule instead (“Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven”). Some of the other angels apparently felt the same way, hence the defection of many of them into Satan’s camp.
3. Demons have intense desires to inhabit and control other beings, especially humans. They also seek to pervert and corrupt both people and nature, and to twist sexuality. Jehovah created plants, animals, and humans to reproduce “after their kinds” with genetic barriers against the comingling of kinds. Miscegenation is therefore wrong in the eyes of Jehovah and prohibited in the Bible. The demonic sons of God of Genesis 6 sought to produce hybrids that would be a slap in Jehovah’s face.
4. Spirit beings seemingly do not have any reproductive capabilities. But Satan wanted to be like God, and therefore capable of producing offspring and creating his own tribe, similar to J.R.R. Tolkien’s depiction of the creation of Orc armies in his *Lord of The Rings* novels.³
5. In response to the sin of Adam and Eve, God indicated that there would be a continual war between Satan and the “seed of the woman” (i.e., the children of the woman including the Messiah who would come later and ultimately crush Satan’s head). Therefore the Devil wanted to corrupt the bloodline leading to Christ in order to pervert and defeat God’s plans.

Having rejected God and everything he stands for, Satan and the demons have become everything that God is not, and therefore they are the epitome of evil. Unlike the “gentlemen” devils of literature such as Mephistopheles in *Faust*, the real Devil and his compadres are totally corrupt, deceptive, vile, malicious, violent, perverted, foul, disgusting, revolting, and evil to the core.

Behind all of these characteristics is an over-weening desire to have one’s own way, as in the words of the Satanist Aleister Crowley, “Do what thou wilt!” Having rejected God and everything he stands for, Satan and the demons have become everything that God is not, and therefore they are the epitome of evil. Unlike the “gentlemen” devils of literature such as Mephistopheles in *Faust*, the real Devil and

³ The Orcs were created by the great enemy Morgoth (Tolkien’s name for Satan) in mockery of elves and men.

his compadres are totally corrupt, deceptive, vile, malicious, violent, perverted, foul, disgusting, revolting, and evil to the core.⁴

Rebellion and alternative lifestyles are cool, especially to teens, as shown by the enormous popularity of Satanic music, such as the heavy metal of Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne, the so-called “Prince of Darkness.” Also attractive is the freedom from restraints in new age religion. After Osbourne’s death, the satire website Babylon Bee had an interesting take on his supposed appearance at the pearly gates ([BabylonBee.com, 2025](https://babylonbee.com/2025/04/05/oszy-osbourne-at-the-pearly-gates/)):

Osbourne was seen by angelic witnesses explaining to St. Peter that his time spent surrounding himself with ghoulish, macabre decor and biting the heads off of bats was just for show.

“About all that Satan worship stuff, you know that was just an act, right, mate?” Osbourne was heard saying to St. Peter. “That ‘I’m the devil’ biz was just a bit of flashy stage presence, yeah? Crazy way to get attention and set yourself apart from other bands. I know it might seem like I’m evil and whatever, but you gotta understand I’m down with the man upstairs, yeah, mate?”

One angelic insider reported that St. Peter remained skeptical. “I’m not sure he was buying it,” the source said.

We can laugh this off with excuses like “the Devil made me do it,” and people often dismiss badness in others as a “having a bad day.” Parents often ignore bad behavior in their children as just a “passing phase.” Evil in people is typically interpreted by psychologists as depression or mental illness and treated with psychotropic drugs. There is therefore a great resistance to seeing evil and patterns of sinful behavior for what they truly are – as spiritual conditions, rebellion against God and others, and possible Satanic involvement and oppression. This is not to say that all or even most depression and mental illness is demonic, but some of it definitely is, and/or may be a contributing factor.

Many if not all serial killers are psychopathic to some degree and characterized by a series of mental attributes such as extreme selfishness, lack of empathy, no regard for law or custom, sexual obsessiveness, lack of conscience, and a twisted view of reality. It is clear that there are brain differences between psychopathic and normal people, but what is not clear is how those differences develop, how evil behavior is triggered, and especially how influences from demonic forces interact within a person ([Blonigen et al., 2005](#); [Bussing, 2023](#); [Haridy, 2017](#); [Simon, 2012](#)). Satan is the ultimate psychopath and as discussed, the demons seek to corrupt us, so all of us have felt temptations to do wrong things – those impulses may come from inside our own minds or seemingly from an outside source. Psychologists typically deny this in an effort to remain “scientific,” meaning that they want to remain aloof from religion and deny that the supernatural exists. But this is despite clear evidence that the supernatural does exist, and that both angels and demons are real.

Satanic influence is almost certainly a factor in all serial killers but especially in individuals such as Jeffrey Dahmer and Ted Bundy ([McEvoy, 2023](#); [Nolasco, 2019](#); [Piccott & Kettler, 2023](#); [Pruitt, 2019](#); [Sarpfari, 2025](#)). They were not abused as children, but both were heavily into pornography and interested in the occult, especially Dahmer who wanted to contact Lucifer and other evil spirits, and

⁴ See for example, Matthew 25:41, John 8:44, John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8, and 2 Peter 2:4-5

who killed and dismembered animals before going after people. Before he was caught Dahmer had plans drawn up to construct an altar using the skulls and bones from his victims.

Bundy said that he had encounters where something took over his mind which he called “the entity.” The tension inside him would grow until the demands of the entity reached a point where he could no longer resist. This being then took control of him and compelled him to torture, rape, and brutally kill unsuspecting young women. The entity – and Bundy, by extension – was gratified by the absolute possession of his victims which involved killing them and gloating over their dead bodies. Bundy was polite, well-dressed, and used charm and deception in his approach, often pretending injury, requesting help, and sometime abducting women in broad daylight without raising suspicion. At the murder trial where he was convicted, he convinced some people of his innocence. One of those was Carole Boone who Bundy married during the trial, and with whom he later had a child.

On the other hand, as a youth, Bundy did have friends and took jobs like delivering newspapers and cutting lawns. He went to church with his parents and became the Methodist Youth Fellowship’s vice president. Notably, for a future killer, he saved the life of a friend’s niece when she was at risk of drowning. As an adult, Bundy had a somewhat normal and loving relationship with his girlfriend and was a surrogate father to her daughter, even during his killing sprees. Like Dahmer, Bundy was aware of what he was doing and denied that he was schizophrenic or had any other mental illness. According to Bundy, “it’s more sophisticated than that,” and he stated that he was consumed by something that he didn’t understand and that he couldn’t contain. Despite trying to maintain a normal life he was increasingly preoccupied and controlled by this entity.

People who investigated Bundy sometimes had strange and demonic experiences such as Bundy’s normally blue eyes turning black, evil odors emanating from him, and facial and bodily contortions. This was followed by a sudden terror in the investigator that Bundy would try to kill him or her. Like Satan, Bundy, was extremely deceptive and manipulative – for example, he helped to convince a female lawyer to oppose the death penalty on his behalf, but after being terrified during interviews with him she refused further involvement and eventually left law practice.

All of this challenges the idea that serial killing is simply due to mental illness and/or psychopathology.

For decades, modern culture has struggled to define and categorize psychological and/or psychiatric conditions. Experts have created hundreds of diagnostic categories that attempt to isolate and classify specific conditions or illnesses so that they can be effectively treated. This has given rise to the term psychopathology, which refers to an illness or dysfunction in the psyche or mind of an individual.

Medical doctors tend to see the disturbance as organic; Behaviorists often describe the issue as a learned or conditioned dysfunction; Psychoanalysts believe psychological problems are due to parental failures, disappointments, and frustrated psychosexual development; Family Therapists view emotional disturbance as a consequence of unhealthy family structure.

But even with all of this debate, professionals still cannot agree regarding the definition, cause, and cure for psychological maladies like depression, phobias, anxiety, addiction, attention deficit disorder, etc. Ask ten mental health professionals and you might well receive ten diagnoses, ten treatment plans, and ten different outcomes. In short, there is

still great confusion about why an individual feels and does what he/she does not wish to feel or do.

Does this mean there are no biological conditions that produce psychiatric symptoms? Are we saying that family, abuse, poverty, and other trauma have no effect on an individual? Not necessarily... But biblical truth is clear that sin is the core issue that defiles, misleads, distorts, and destroys. If sin is the problem, there is no human remedy, and the only cure is in Christ ([Abercrombie, 2013](#)).

Like Bundy, demons can be very cunning and use superficial charm, but their purpose is ultimately to encourage rebellion, addictive behaviors, and evil in individuals that will eventually enslave and destroy them, as well as their family and community.

“Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Interactions with spirit beings can be good and originate from Jehovah and by angels sent from Him, or they may be temptations to evil that originate from demons. Of course, very few of us will become serial killers, but all of us have a bent to sin, and can be influenced by demons.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

So how can we encourage divine input but also protect ourselves against Satan and the demons?

1. Understand that God and the angels will call on you to do good things and become a better person, but they will never force anyone. You must decide for yourself if you will obey God or not, so you are responsible for your actions and your destiny.
2. Understand that temptations to do wrong things may come from our own desires or they may be promptings from demons. But demons cannot influence a person's life unless that person responds and then engages in patterns of sinful actions in which he or she invites the demon in, either directly or indirectly. The old canard “The devil made me do it” would be more accurately stated, “I made me do it” until a pattern of giving one's life to the dark side becomes established.

We speak of “demonic oppression” and “demonic possession” in which demons entice an individual in order to enter him or her, oppress them, and if possible, take full control. Any sin pattern will provide an opening for Satan, but there are “occultic gateways” by which an individual may directly seek demonic influence such as Ouija boards, fortune telling, tarot cards, mediums, spiritism, remote viewing, etc. Those gateways must be avoided.

3. Most importantly, understand that therapy or drugs will not resolve patterns of sin and evil in anyone. The only thing that works is turning one's life over to Jesus Christ and following Him. When we finally become weary of rebellion, God will always take us back if we are sincere. Like Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, God is waiting for us to return to Him, and we can always call on the power of God through prayer to resist.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” (1 Peter 5:6-9)

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:10-13)

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