

# Ephesians: What's God Saying to You? What are You Going to Do About It?

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## I. Introduction

You may not believe in Satan, but he's very much real. He's the most formidable enemy you'll ever face and yet you can't see him. He's superbly deceptive, the most crafty, and stealth beyond imagination, i.e., you never see his attacks coming. He deceives you but you think it's your own voice. He talks you into destroying yourself without the slightest clue that he talked you into it. However, Satan is not so formidable after all. Once you see how Satan attacks and how easy it is for Jesus to free you with His truth, you can defeat Satan every time.

## II. Ephesians: What is God Saying to You and What are You Going to Do About It?

### Chapter 6

Before the Lord found us we lived and breathed a certain way. It was Satan's spirit who controlled us; we lived according to his will, 2:2. Satan's schemes, 6:11, deceived us and left us confused, darkened, ignorant, and blind. We were left with a complete inability to see the truth, thoroughly alienated from God's light, 4:17-19. But we're no longer alienated from God, 2:13; we're children of God's light not Satan's darkness, 5:8. How do we stay in God's light?

*How Satan attacks and what we can do about it.* How does Satan get us? In essence, it's a battle of wits. Dictionary.com defines "wits" as "the ability to reason and act, esp quickly."<sup>1</sup> Every time something happens to us, our minds begin to race, to reason. Then we act on that reason. We analyze the situation and act, or rather, react, and it happens very quickly. Satan knows this; he knows how humans think and react. So he's waiting for us. He slips in, interprets the situation, then tells us what to do, as he did with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3) and every other individual in the Bible. If we come to this battle by ourselves, if we have a battle of wits with Satan, he will win every time. Now, you may be thinking, "When did I battle wits with Satan? I don't recall having a conversation with him." Most of the time (99.9999%) these conversations are unconscious, i.e., we're unaware that we're actually talking with Satan. But before we ever realize it, we've accepted Satan's lies and his advice on what to do next.

However, it doesn't have to be this way. If we seek the Lord's guidance, if we stand on the Lord's wits, His wisdom, His ability to reason through every situation in life, then we will defeat Satan's lies (Proverbs 3:5-6). By the way, you don't have a choice, Christian or not, you don't have a choice: regardless of who you are, every second of your life, you're either responding to Satan (Ephesians 2:2) or God. Every decision you make is a consensus between you and God or you and Satan. You're either doing God's will or Satan's; you're either on God's side or Satan's (James 4:4-7). This means that all the evil we see around us, in politics, in race, in poverty, etc., etc., is not *just* a battle between two sides, as if one side is right and the other is wrong. We say things like, "If we could just get those idiots to agree with us, everything would be great." What you fail to realize is that Satan is driving the whole thing. What we fail to realize is that he just got us to hate the other side. His goal is not reconciliation, his goal is not racial harmony, or equality, or anything else. His goal is very simple: destruction (John 10:10).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/wits#>

## **How Satan attacks, a case study: Job,**

Whenever we're thinking about our life and problems alongside God, we never panic, we never stumble, we never worry, we never take a wrong turn. In fact, the most difficult problem, even if we don't fully understand it, we're able to handle. Why? Because though we may not know exactly what just happened, we know Him who is faithful. We know that God still loves us and will provide no matter the dilemma. We say like Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). But when we listen to that other voice, you know the one, the one that's always negative, always pointing out how bad it is and how bad you are, the one that tells you that God doesn't care or if He does, He's a masochist. When we give ear to that voice, we're doomed. This is what Satan does to Job, his wife, and his three friends. Notice that Satan's method of attack is always the same: Isolation, Deception, and Accusation.

You may be thinking, "But how can you tell when Satan is speaking to you; how do we know that it's not our own foolish thinking at work?" You can tell who's talking to you by what you say and by what you do. Pay close attention to what Job says initially and where he got it from, what he says afterward and where he got *it* from, what his wife says and where she got it from, what his friends do initially and where they got that from, and what Job's friends then go on to say and where they got that from. A way to tell who's speaking to you is by simply asking, "Who wants me to think that, Jesus or Satan?" "Who wants me to believe that, Jesus or Satan?" "Who wants me to say that, Jesus or Satan?" "Who wants me to do that, Jesus or Satan?"

**Job 1-2**, Job was a very wealthy man with a large family. But he was also very godly, so godly that he worried about his children's potential sins, 1:1-6. God says to Satan that Job is the most godly man on the planet, 1:8. Satan replies that Job is godly because God's given him extreme wealth; but if God took it all away, then Job would curse God to His face, 1:9-11. God allows Satan to strip Job of his wealth and to kill his sons and daughters, 1:12-19—notice who's responsible for all this: 1:16, 19. What was Job's response to what God did to him? He worshipped God, 1:20, he knows that it was God who gave it all to him and that He took it away, 1:21, and he says that the Lord's name should be praised. Is Job nuts?!? Whose voice is Job listening to? Who wants Job to believe that the Lord gave him all his wealth? Who wants Job to believe that God took it all away? Who wants Job to praise the Lord's name after He took everything from him, Jesus or Satan? Satan wanted Job to curse God.

God points out to Satan that Job didn't curse Him but held on to his integrity even though He took all his wealth. Satan replies that Job would curse God if He took Job's health. God then allows Satan to hurt Job, but not to kill him, 2:1-6. So Satan struck Job with painful boils which covered his entire person; all Job could do is scrape his skin with a piece of pottery, 2:7-8. His wife then speaks, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" 2:9. Whose voice is she listening to? Who wants her to tell her husband to curse God? Job replies, "You speak as one of the *foolish* women speaks," 2:10—what did God say would happen to our thinking if we listened to Satan's voice? Complete and utter idiocy (Ephesians 4:17-19). Job goes on, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" 2:10. Who is Job listening to? Who does Job believe did this to him? Does Job understand that it is God who gives adversity? Who wants Job to believe that he should curse God for doing this to him? Satan was dying for Job to curse God, but he refused, 2:10. Job's three friends come to comfort and mourn with him. They're devastated and moved to tears when they see their broken friend. So they sit with him for seven days without a word because Job's grief was tremendous, 2:11-13. Whose voice are Job's friends listening to? Who wants them to simply sit and mourn with Job instead of talking about his situation, Jesus or Satan?

**Job 3**, after a week of silence, Job speaks: in a most vivid and horrific way, Job wishes that he had never been born, 3:1-22. Who is Job listening to now, Jesus or Satan? Who wants Job to believe that it would've been better if he had never been born *at all*? Why does Job wish he had never been born; what's he focused on and who wants him to focus on that (3:23-26)? How did Job go from understanding that it was God who took everything away and yet he still praised him, 1:21; 2:10, to wishing he had been a miscarriage? Who wants him to think this, to say this, to believe and act on this? What is the interpretation of your troubles and where did you get it from?

### III. Conclusion

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts 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.*