

Resisting Satan's Deceptive Ways

1 Peter 5:7-9

Why did Satan fall from heaven? Satan fell because of pride. He desired to be God, not to be a servant of God. Notice the many "I will..." statements in Isaiah 14:12-15. Ezekiel 28:12-15 describes Satan as an exceedingly beautiful angel. Satan was likely the highest of all angels, the anointed cherub, the most beautiful of all of God's creations, but he was not content in his position. Instead, Satan desired to be God, to essentially "kick God off His throne" and take over the rule of the universe. Satan wanted to be God, and interestingly enough, that is essentially what Satan tempted Adam and Eve with in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-5). How did Satan fall from heaven? Actually, a fall is not an accurate description. It would be far more accurate to say God cast Satan out of heaven (Isaiah 14:15; Ezekiel 28:16-17). Satan did not fall from heaven; rather, Satan was pushed. gotquestions.org

- I. The name Satan is not a figure of speech for all evil (synecdoche – a part to explain a whole). Instead, he is to be taken as a literal entity who does exist. He is utterly evil, which means that he is devoid of any redeeming qualities like the fruit of the Spirit. He is sin personified in its darkest, vilest, most disgusting, and revolting expression and he is our enemy. The sin that caused his downfall was pride. He knows and understands pride and its consequences, and he will use it in the heart of man to accomplish his will. On the other hand, **he is powerless against** those who clothe themselves with humility by humbling themselves under God's mighty hand.

1 Peter 5:7
Luke 10:17-18
Isa. 14:12-15
Rev. 2:9-10

Proverbs 16:18 *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

- II. It is important that we know the tactics of our adversary Satan. He cannot touch us, but he can have influence over how we think, act and live if we give him permission to do so by not putting on the full armor of God. He tries to get us to fall through his lies and deceptive ways. It's warfare, and we must be up for the battle. It's a struggle, but we must not give up because of its intensity. He's a murderer, liar, and devourer of anything that is right, just, good and moral. He's an accuser, tempter of sin, and a destroyer of souls. We, as children of God, are to have nothing to do with him and his godless ways. We must be very careful to make sure we do not give the devil a foothold into the precious life we've been given in Christ.

1 Peter 5:8-9
Eph. 4:27
Eph. 6:10-13
Dan. 10:12-13, 20-21
Rev. 20:1-3
John 8:44
2 Cor. 11:14
1 Peter 5:8
1 Jn. 5:19
Rev. 12:9-10
Eph. 2:1-2
Luke 13:16
Matt. 10:1
Matt. 12:45
Rev. 16:13-14
Matt 16:23
1 Jn. 3:7-10

1 Jn. 5:18-19 *We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

- III. Humility, casting all our care upon Jesus, being self-controlled and alert keeps us from being devoured by Satan's deceptive ways. We are commanded to resist him. Resist means to set one's self against. We are commanded to stand firm by putting into practice our faith, which means that we are to be strong, firm and immovable in our heart devotion to Christ. Our allegiance is to Jesus alone as we live as strangers and aliens here in this godless world.

1 Peter 5:9, 1 Jn. 4:4

2 Thessalonians 3:3 *3But the LORD is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.*