

The power of influence

September 26, 2022

Read **GENESIS 3:1-6** and **MATTHEW 4:1-11**

Since his establishment of evil on earth, Satan has been named the “prince,” “god,” or “ruler” of this world (**John 14:30; John 12:31; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:2; Colossians 1:13**). He is the enemy of God and truth (**Matthew 13:24-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**), and he does everything he can to *persuade* or *influence* individuals (**Genesis 3; Luke 22:31; 1 Timothy 3:7**) and larger groups of people (**1 Thessalonians 3:5; Revelation 2:10**). He “leads the whole world astray” (**Revelation 12:9**). Satan accomplishes this by various means, including appealing to man’s pride (**1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Corinthians 4:6**), interfering with the transmission of truth (**Matthew 13:18-22, 38-39**), and placing false believers within the church (**1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; Revelation 2:9; 3:9**). In **John 8:44**, Jesus says that Satan “is a liar and the father of it.”

Satan can’t make you do anything! But again, he does everything he can to *persuade* or *influence* individuals. How does he do this?

LIES - The devil uses his ordinary activity to disconnect us from God whereby we become more isolated, turned in on ourselves, and more susceptible to believing the lies that the devil is presenting. In his ordinary demonic activity, the devil wants his lies to become the truth in the mind of the human person. Remember, Jesus said, that Satan “is a liar and the father of it.”

DECEPTION - He **QUESTIONS** what God actually said and have us doing the same. He deliberately **DENIES** what God said. He **CHANGES** the Word of God. He does this to make up his own and he will do anything to get us to buy the portrait. If we sit there and listen to his accusations (which are false) we will but into his scheme.

FALSE PROVISION – Satan has nothing to give to you that is of truth.

Above are two scriptures. Look how Satan influenced Adam & Eve in Genesis and look how he couldn’t with Christ in the book Matthew. Never underestimate the power of influence. We play with fire and we will get burnt! **Genesis 3:1a** says “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.” Don’t listen or pay attention to Satan, instead tell him what Jesus said, “It is written.”

SCRIPTURE READING

REVELATION 12:7-10

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If Satan’s main form of attacking us is by manipulating the truth, then how much more important is it to KNOW the truth?!

“A JOURNEY OF THE HEART”