



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

**B**asic

**I**nstructions

**B**efore

**L**eaving

**E**arth



# Basic Information For New Believers In Christ

(revised August 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 bn)



S4C's English Version



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**Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

**—2 Timothy 2:15**

The purpose of this Manual is to encourage and assist Believers young and older to study The Word of God for yourself. The more you understand about The God you serve the more you will love and serve Him while sharing The Gospel with others. This Manual will help you to dissect the Word of God while The Holy Spirit guides you to His Truth and understanding of who our Savior is. It is the responsibility of every person to know who God is and to understand our purpose in Him and that only comes through studying The Word of God for yourself, please pray before each study and allow The Holy Spirit to reveal to you His plan for your walk in Jesus Christ.



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## You're In the Royal Army Now, Soldier!

**Matthew 16:24-26**

**Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus**

**24** Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25** For whoever would save his life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?



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## Our Daily Confession

### BY FAITH

I will not believe what I see, But what God has promised me

### BY FAITH

I will receive courage to step out and gain strength to go through

### BY FAITH

I will live by God's word each day And His instructions I must obey

### BY FAITH

I am confident and assured with certainty, that all my desires, hopes and dream

Can become a reality through God's will for my life

### BY FAITH

I will not be afraid, worry or doubt, believing, trusting and depending on God's power to

work all things out to His own glory

### BY FAITH

I will receive God's promise

And be a blessing to others

### BY FAITH

I will trust God to keep His promise and

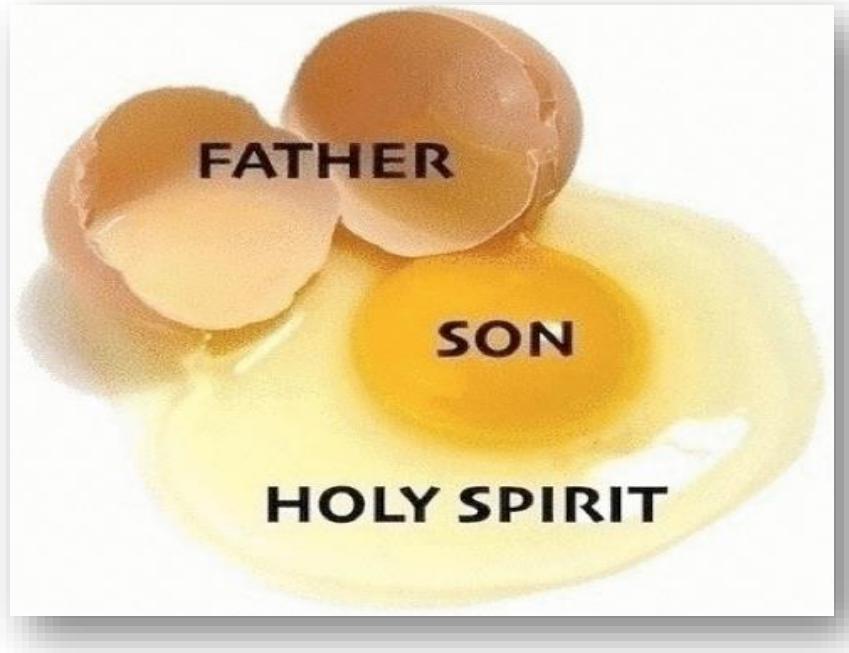
Give me my rewards stored up for me since the foundation of this world

***For without FAITH it is impossible  
to please God***

Poem taken from "Jesus, The greatest Name I Know" Vol.2 by: Donna M. Walker (c) 1996



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1 John 5:7-9

New King James Version

(7) For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

New King James Version

(8) And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one

New International Version

(9) We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son





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**John 7:37**  
**New American Standard Bible**

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink"

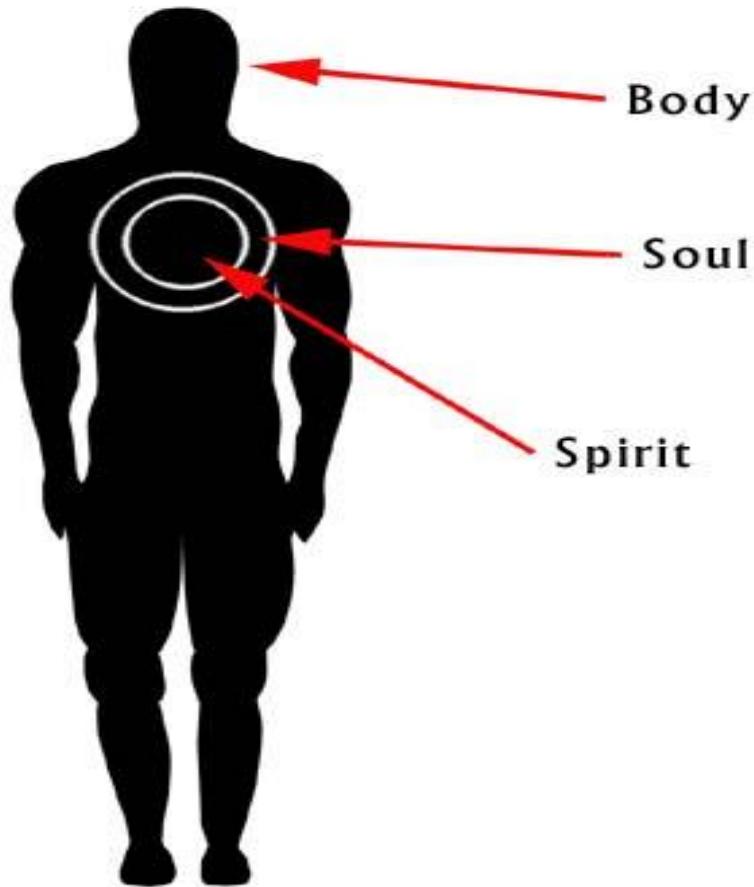




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## THE TRIUNE MAN

The Bible says that man is a three-part being

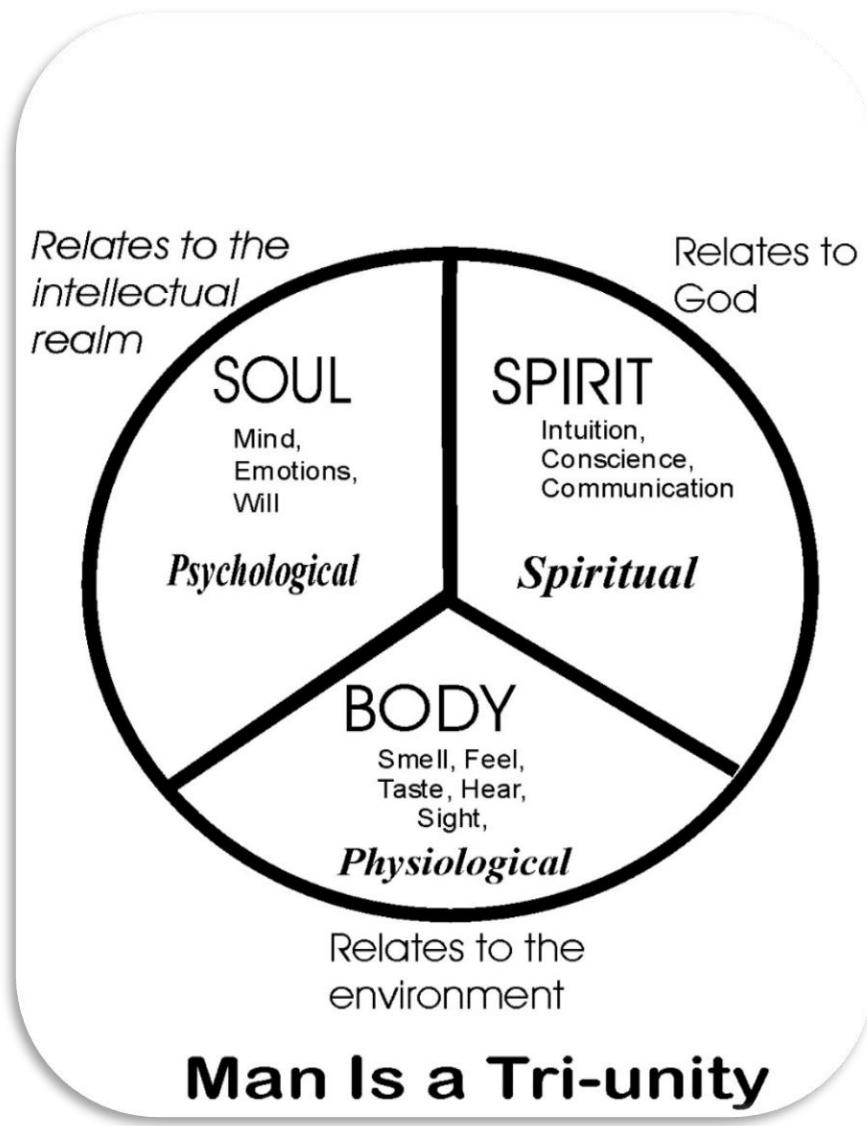


Genesis 1:27  
New American Standard Bible

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them



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**1 Thessalonians 5:23**  
[International Standard Version](#)

May the God of peace himself make you holy in every way. And may your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—remain blameless when our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, appears.



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## Ambassador Skills and Qualifications

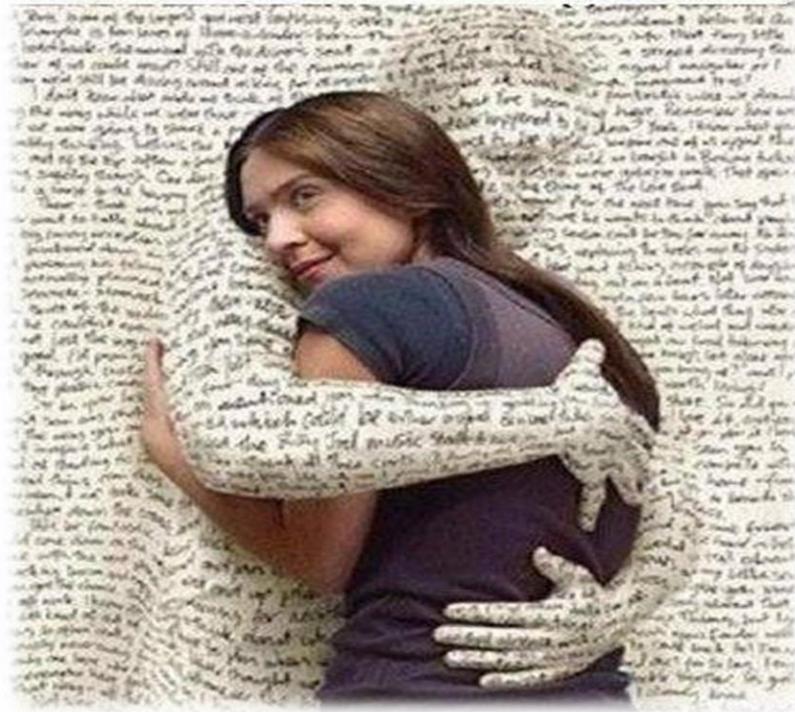
While the duties of an ambassador can vary, their primary focus is on diplomacy and representing their country abroad. Most ambassadors have at least a bachelor's degree, Foreign Service experience, and the following skills:

- **Diplomacy** – the ambassador's role is primarily diplomatic in nature, so the ability to successfully manage foreign relations and support positive interactions between nations is a necessity
- **Negotiation skills** – because they frequently lead negotiations on a variety of topics, ambassadors need to be pragmatic and skilled negotiators with a solid understanding of their nation's positions and interests
- **Relationship building** – ambassadors build relationships with foreign leaders and diplomats, so the ability to develop and maintain positive relations is a major benefit in this position
- **Personnel management** – ambassadors oversee and direct Foreign Service personnel and support other agencies in their host countries, so they need to be effective and impactful leaders
- **Conflict resolution** – closely related to the ability to negotiate to advance their country's interests, ambassadors frequently play a vital role in resolving or preventing international conflicts



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**Only The Word of God Can do this...**



You say: 'It's impossible.'

**God says:** All things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

You say: 'I'm too tired.'

**God says:** I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: 'Nobody really loves me.'

**God says:** I love you. (John 3:16 & John 3:34 )

You say: 'I can't go on.'

**God says:** My grace is sufficient. (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: 'I can't figure things out.'

**God says:** I will direct your steps. (Proverbs 3:5-6)



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You say: 'I can't do it.'

**God says:** You can do all things. (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able".

**God says:** I am able. (II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it".

**God says:** It will be worth it. (Roman 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself".

**God says:** I Forgive you. (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage".

**God says:** I will supply all your needs. (Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid".

**God says:** I have not given you a spirit of fear.  
(II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated".

**God says:** Cast all your cares on ME. (I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I'm not smart enough".

**God says:** I give you wisdom. (I Corinthians 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone".

**God says:** I will never leave you or forsake you.  
(Hebrews 13:5)



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### Signs You Might Be a Lukewarm Christian

**You** think mostly about how to be comfortable and happy on this earth with little thought of Heaven and eternal life.

**You** give God the leftovers rather than the first fruits of yourself.

**You** seek God but usually only if you are in a bind.

**You** don't share your faith with the lost but you have really good excuses why this is.

**You** say you believe in God but if we were to record your Monday-Saturday it would reveal that you live as if God doesn't even exist.

**You** spend more on your cell phone bill than you give to God.

**Someone** outside of who you see on Sundays asks you what you love most and Jesus doesn't even get mentioned.

**You** would rather your kids be happy and popular rather than holy and devoted to God.

**You** are quick to volunteer at your kid's school or sporting event but make excuses why you cannot volunteer at church.

**You** know you practice sin but justify by saying "doesn't everyone?"

### Revelation 3:16

'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth

"And you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am going to vomit you from my mouth."



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### What does the Bible say about anointing oil?"

Anointing oil, mentioned 20 times in Scripture, was used in the Old Testament for pouring on the head of the high priest and his descendants and the sprinkling of the tabernacle and its furnishings to mark them as Holy and set apart to the Lord ([Exodus 25:6](#); [Leviticus 8:30](#); [Numbers 4:16](#)). Three times it is called the "holy, anointing oil," and the Jews were strictly forbidden from reproducing it for personal use ([Exodus 30:32-33](#)). The recipe for anointing oil is found in [Exodus 30:23-24](#); it contained myrrh, cinnamon and other natural ingredients. There is no indication that the oil or the ingredients had any supernatural power. Rather, the strictness of the guidelines for creating the oil was a test of the obedience of the Israelites, a demonstration of the absolute Holiness of God.

Only five New Testament passages refer to the practice of anointing with oil, and none of them offer an explanation for its use. We can draw our conclusions from context. In [Matthew 6:17](#) Jesus mentions the everyday practice of anointing oneself with oil. In [Mark 6:13](#) the disciples anoint the sick and heal them. In [Mark 14:3-9](#) Mary anoints Jesus' feet as an act of worship. In [James 5:14](#) the church elders anoint the sick with oil for healing. In [Hebrews 1:8-9](#) God says to Christ as He returns triumphantly to heaven, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever," and God anoints Jesus "with the oil of gladness."

Most likely the use of oil, as reflected in this passage, was a symbolic act. In Bible times the practice of anointing with oil was frequently representative of God's approval (see [1 Sam. 10:1](#); [Psa. 89:20](#)). Many biblical scholars are fairly confident, therefore, that the application of oil in James 5:14 was a symbolic act invoked in conjunction with supernatural healing.

Should Christians use anointing oil today? There is nothing in Scripture that commands or even suggests that we should use similar oil today, but neither is there anything to forbid it. Oil is often used as a symbol for the Holy Spirit in the Bible as in the [Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins](#) ([Matthew 25:1-13](#)). Christians have the Spirit who leads us into all truth and "anoints" us continually with His grace and comfort. "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth" ([1 John 2:20](#)).





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### What is the purpose of The Tallit?

A tallit (also called tallit gadol or by its Yiddish name, tallis) is a Jewish prayer shawl worn by men and women during morning prayer services and on the Sabbath and on holidays. They are used to prepare the mind and heart for prayer and inspire elation and reverence for God. Like yarmulkes, Jewish prayer shawls or tallit can be very simple or very complex in design. A vibrantly decorated wool or silk tallit can reflect specific symbols, stories, places and events in Jewish culture or simply indicate states such as contemplation or celebration. The only requirements of Jewish tallit construction are that it be a shawl long enough to be worn over the shoulders, as a garment and that it not be made of a combination of wool and linen. Many women choose to wear silk tallit, which are lightweight and often decorated with gorgeous detail.

Many Jewish tallit feature the Hebrew blessing for donning a tallit across the atarah (the long side that lays closest to the neck). One quirk to note: Since sacred writings are not permitted to be taken into a bathroom, if the blessing is written on your tallit, you'll have to remove it (and most likely hang it on a nearby tallit rack) before proceeding into the restroom!

### Religious Significance of a Jewish Tallit

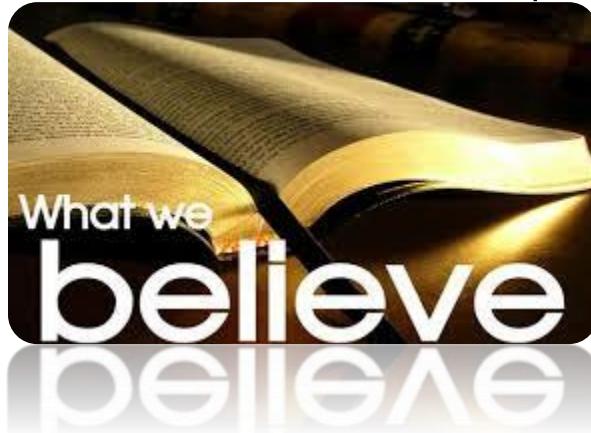
The religious significance of Jewish tallit lies not in itself, but in the specifically-detailed fringes, or tzitzit, that are tied to each corner based on a passage in the Torah (Numbers 15:37-41) instructing wearers of "four-cornered garments" to do so in order to remember God's commandments. Because they are exempt from any mitzvah that involves time constraints and considered innately closer to God by their very nature, women are not required to wear a tallit as a preparation for prayer or reminder of their faith. Therefore, wearing a Jewish tallit is a woman's personal choice based on her own desire for contemplation and expression of reverence.

### The Blessing for Donning a Jewish Tallit

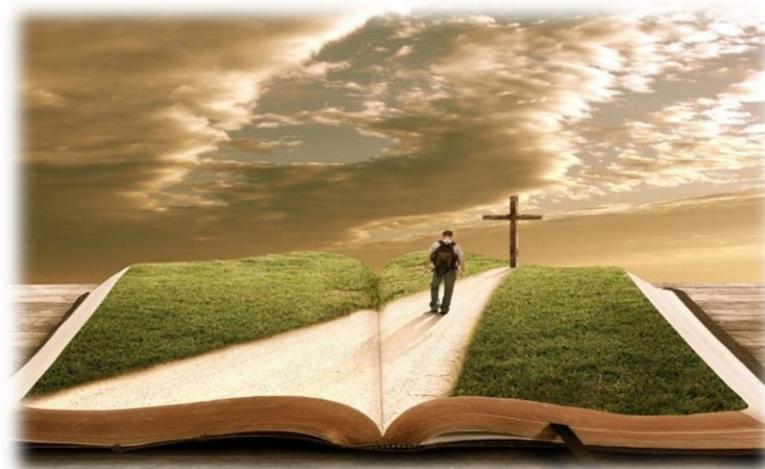
Hold the tallit outstretched in both hands and recite the blessing before throwing the tallit across your shoulders and briefly covering your head and face with your hands. The blessing in Hebrew is "Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu l'hit'ateif ba-tzitzit." ("Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to wrap ourselves in the tzitzit.") Once the blessing is said, the tallit is thrown and the head is covered, you can then adjust the tallit as needed over your shoulders.



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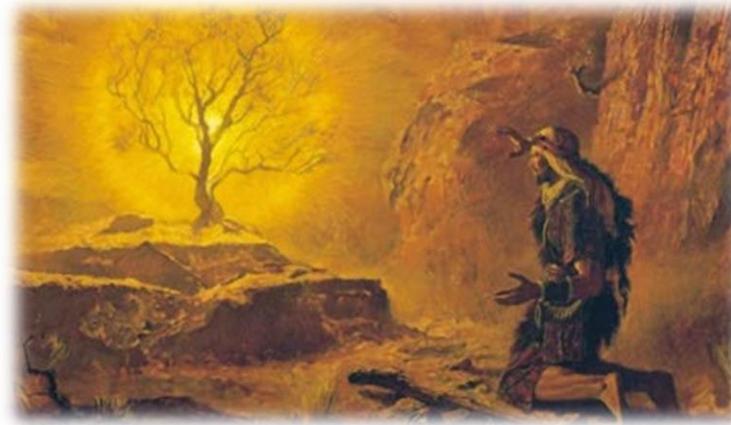


That there is but one true and living God: maker of heaven and earth and all that is in them, Alpha and Omega (the beginning the end) who ever was, and is and shall be, time without end Amen. That He is infinitely Holy, mighty, tender, loving and glorious. Worthy of all possible love and honor, confidence, and obedience, majesty, dominion, both now and forever, and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three equal in every divine perfection, executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.





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## The Father

Whose glory is so exceedingly bright that mortal man cannot look upon his face and live, but whose heart was so filled with love and pity for his lost and sin-benighted: (overtaken by darkness – unenlightened, ignorant – moral or intellectual darkness) children that he freely gave his only begotten son to redeem and reconcile them unto himself.

**John 3:16**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Job 37:1-24**

God's Works and Wisdom

**Job 38: 1-3**

God challenges Job

**Job 38: 4-41 (&) Job 39: 1-30**

God challenges Job, while showing him his own ignorance.

**John 1: 1-5**

In the beginning the word was God and the word was with God.



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Co-exists and co-eternal with the Father, who, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary took upon Himself the form of man, bore our sins, carried our sorrows, and by the shedding of His precious blood upon the cross of Calvary, purchased redemption for all that would believe in Him. Then, bursting the bonds of death and hell rose from the grave and ascended on high leading captivity captive, that as the great mediator between God and man. He stands at the right hand of God the Father making intercession for those whom he laid down His life.

### **Matthew 8: 28-34**

When Jesus speaks, demons must obey

### **Luke 4: 41**

Devils cry out, “Thou art Christ the Son of God”

### **1 John 5: 7-12**

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost  
and these three are one.

### **Genesis 1: 26-27**

And God said; Let Us make man in our image, after our likeness ...

(Regaining a likeness of God is one of the accomplishments of salvation. Our spiritual likeness is restored in justification).

### **Revelation 19: 11-16**

... KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.



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The third person of the Godhead, the Spirit of the father. Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and omniscient performing an inexpressibly important mission upon earth, convicting of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment drawing sinners to the Savior. Rebuking, pleading, searching, comforting, guiding, quickening-(to come or return to life), teaching, glorifying, baptizing and enduing-(to provide with some quality or trait) with power from on high those who yield to His tender ministrations, preparing them for the great day of the Lord's appearing.

### **John 15:26**

But when the comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.

### **Romans 8:14-17**

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

### **Matthew 28:19**

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

### **John 16: 7-14**

... for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove-(to rebuke for fault or misdeed) the world of sin ...



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## What Is Speaking in Tongues?

Speaking in tongues is a form of communication to God. It is a prayer, and doing so speaks directly to God alone, according to [1 Corinthians 14:2](#), “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.”

Paul further emphasized this in his letter to the Corinthians, “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful”

[\(1 Corinthians 14:14\)](#).

Thus, the practice of speaking in tongues was important during Paul’s time to efficiently communicate with God through prayer.

## What Else Does the Bible Say about Speaking in Tongues

Aside from it being a form of prayer, speaking in tongues is also a form of praising God. It is, thereby, also a form of worship to the Almighty God. Paul further writes in his letter to the Corinthians, *So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding*

[\(1 Corinthians 14:15\)](#)





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Here, Paul specifically mentioned the word “sing with my spirit” and “sing with my understanding” which means praising God as explained in [\*\*Ephesians 5:19\*\*](#), “Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord. Paul further writes, “Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say ‘Amen’ to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified” ([\*\*1 Corinthians 14:16-17\*\*](#)), giving more emphasis on speaking in tongues as a form of praising God.

### **Speaking in Tongues Is a Form of Building the Self**

Aside from it being a form of prayer and praise, speaking in tongues is also a form of building oneself. It enables a person to improve oneself morally and spiritually through God, as Paul explains, “The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church” ([\*\*1 Corinthians 14:4\*\*](#)).

It is further emphasized in [\*\*Jude 20\*\*](#): “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God.”





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## Speaking in Tongues Is Done in Private

When is it best to speak in tongues? Paul writes that it is best practiced in private, as he says,

“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful” ([1 Corinthians 14:14](#)).

What Paul means by his words is that speaking in tongues in private is praising God through the Spirit. It may not be understood as he emphasized “my mind is unfruitful” but he emphasized that the Spirit is praising and worshiping, instead.

When speaking in tongues, the mind alone cannot decipher what is happening, but the Spirit can understand it. Paul further writes,

*So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding* ([1 Corinthians 14:15](#)).

## The Gift of Tongues Is from the Holy Spirit and Spoken Only to God

Speaking in tongues is only spoken to God. Like other gifts, speaking in tongues is a gift from the Holy Spirit. Not everyone is bestowed of this gift. Paul writes,

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers,*



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*to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines ([1 Corinthians 12:7-11](#)).*

This verse means that each and everyone has a gift from the Spirit but is different from each other. Some have talents that others do not have, and it is true with the gift of speaking in tongues. Now, because speaking in tongues is a gift from the Spirit, therefore, it is only spoken to God Almighty.

## **Speaking in Tongues Is Not Used to Preach the Gospel**

Speaking in tongues is not used to preach the gospel, according to the biblical perspective. All three accounts of the act of speaking in tongues written in the Bible showed signs of supernatural phenomena and were not made when Paul was delivering the gospel. These three accounts are as follows:

**First**, in [Acts 2:2-3](#),

*Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

**Second**, in [Acts 10:44-48](#),

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on [Gentiles](#). For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.*



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*Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.*

**Lastly, in [Acts 19:1-7](#),**

*While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of [repentance](#).*

*He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.*

**Please understand that Speaking In Tongues is NOT! The Gift of all Gifts as some would have you believe, Speaking In Tongues is one of many gifts The Holy Spirit gives His's Children so, if you are speaking in Tongues or not if you are living your life for Jesus Christ YOU ARE SAVED!**



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We believe that man was created in the image of God, before whom he walked in holiness and purity, but that by voluntary disobedience and transgression- (violation of a law, rule, command), he fell from the Eden of purity and innocence to the depths of sin and iniquity- (**wickedness, sinfulness, grossly immoral acts,**), and that in consequence of this, all mankind are sinners sold unto Satan. Sinners not by constraint but by choice shaped in iniquity and utterly void by nature of that holiness required by the law of God. Positively inclined to evil, quality and without excuse justly deserving the condemnation of a just and holy God.

### Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them and God said unto them. Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The first dispensation- (divinely appointed or revealed) was governed by the “Edenic covenant” Adam had six obligations: (1) to replenish the earth with children V.28 (2) to use nature for his physical needs including food and shelter V.28 (3) to have dominion over animal life V.28 (4) to eat fruit and vegetables V.29 (5) to labor for his sustenance

Ch: 2 V.15 (6) to obey God by abstaining from eating the forbidden fruit. Adam’s failure under this covenant results in his expulsion from the garden and in the fall of the human race from a state of innocence into a condition characterized by sin Ch: 3 V.15



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### The Plan Of Redemption

We believe that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, the just for the unjust; freely, and by divine appointment of the Father. Jesus taking the sinner's place, bearing mankind's sins, receiving mankind's condemnation and dying mankind's death fully paying the penalty, and signing with His life's blood the pardon of everyone who should believe upon him.

Upon your faith and acceptance of the atonement purchased on Mount Calvary by Jesus Christ, the vilest sinner can and will be cleansed of all their iniquities- (sins, no matter what they are) and made whiter than snow. This gift is extended to **all people** no matter what your sin, no matter what your age, no matter where you are when you ask him, no matter what you're doing when you ask, just come as you are right now. If you ask God for forgiveness the gift of salvation is yours, and God will take you from that point (no matter what) and make you into what he desires for you and what he has made you to truly be for him, Guaranteed. God wants all people no matter what they are or think they are God said he would save you NOW! Just ASK! God in Jesus name.

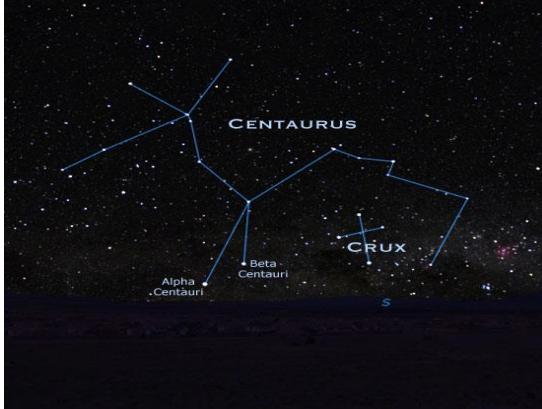
**Isaiah 55:7**

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, ...

**Titus 2:14 / Isaiah 53:5 / Isaiah 1:18 /Hebrews 7:25**



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### Salvation Through Grace

We believe that the salvation of sinners is made whole through grace. That we have no righteousness, or goodness of our own wherewith to seek divine favor, and must come therefore, throwing ourselves upon the unfailing mercy and love of Him who bought us, and washed us in His own blood, pleading the merits and the righteousness of Christ the Savior.

Standing upon His word and accepting the free gift of love and divine pardon that only comes from above, by the blood of the lamb.

**By Grace are ye saved**

Ephesians 2:8

**...There is none righteousness, no, not one**

Romans 3:10

**... All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God**

Romans 3:23

**Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life**

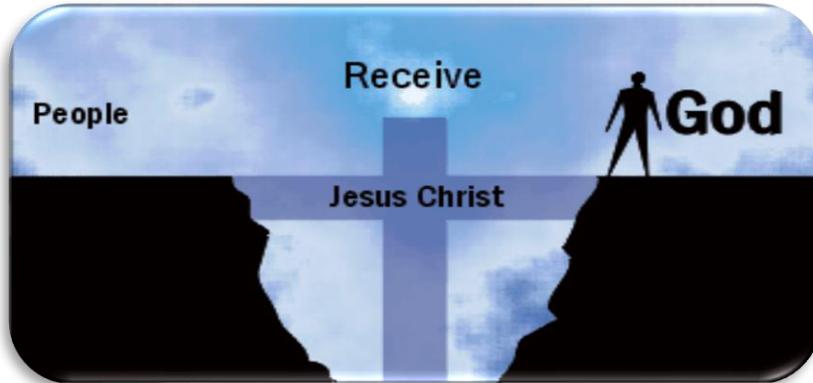
John 6:47

**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**

Romans 6:23



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## Repentance & Acceptance

We believe that upon sincere repentance, Godly sorrow for sin, and a whole-hearted acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ. They who call upon Him may be justified by faith, through His precious blood, and that in place of condemnation they will receive divine salvation- (no longer sentenced to Hell) grace, mercy, peace, joy, and assurance of favor with God. That with open arms of mercy, and pardon, the Savior waits to receive each penitent who will in unfeigned- (genuine), Contrition- (sincere remorse), and supplication for mercy. Open the door to your heart and accept Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**

**1 John 1:19**

**Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ ...**

**Romans 5:1-2**

**There is therefore now no condemnation to them, which are in Christ Jesus,  
who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit**

**Romans 8:1**

**... Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out**

**Luke 1:77-79**



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### Baptism

In the New Testament, baptism was practiced by John the Baptist and Jesus' disciples, and commanded by Jesus himself (see [Matthew 28:16-20](#)) as a permanent ritual, or sacrament, that would introduce people into the Christian church. Those who are baptized are considered Christians, whether baptized as infants or as adults.

Baptism itself is a ritual of *cleansing*. As originally practiced, it involved being fully immersed in flowing water such as the Jordan River. In non-religious terms, baptism is a bath. The purpose of a bath physically is to clean the body of dirt and impurities.

Spiritually, therefore, baptism represents the cleansing of a person from evil, falsity, and sin. This is the first step in the process of being born again, or spiritual rebirth.

That is why baptism is presented in the New Testament as "the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (see [Matthew 3:11](#); [Mark 1:4](#); [Luke 3:3](#); [Acts 2:38, 13:24, 19:4](#)). Baptism is not about mere *physical* cleansing; it is a ritual symbolic of the *spiritual* cleansing of repentance from our sins, and thereby accepting God's forgiveness, entering into the Christian religion, and being born again as a new creation in Christ (see [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

In Christianity, baptism takes the place of all the Old Testament rituals of washing and purification.

Luke 3:16 and [Matthew 3:11](#) speak of three forms of baptism:

[Baptism with water](#) – [Baptism with The Holy spirit](#) – [Baptism with Fire](#)

Since baptism generally represents a cleansing of Christian believers from evil, falsity, and sin, each of these forms of baptism represent a cleansing at a different level of a Christian's life

([John 14:16,17](#) / [Acts 1:5-8](#) / [1 Corinthians 3:16](#))  
([Luke 3:16](#) / [Mark 1:8-9](#) / [Mathew 3:11](#) / [John 1:33](#))



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## The Church Is The Bride Of Christ

The imagery and symbolism of marriage is applied to Christ and the body of believers known as the church. The church is comprised of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and have received eternal life. Christ, the [Bridegroom](#), has sacrificially and lovingly chosen the church to be His bride ([Ephesians 5:25–27](#)). Just as there was a betrothal period in biblical times during which the bride and groom were separated until the wedding, so is the bride of Christ separate from her Bridegroom during the church age. Her responsibility during the betrothal period is to be faithful to Him ([2 Corinthians 11:2](#); [Ephesians 5:24](#)). At the [rapture](#), the church will be united with the Bridegroom and the official “wedding ceremony” will take place and, with it, the eternal union of Christ and His bride will be actualized ([Revelation 19:7–9](#); [21:1–2](#)).

## “The Bride Groom”

A bridegroom is a man just married or just about to be married. A bridegroom is the male version of a bride, a woman who is just married or just about to be married. The word *bridegroom* comes from the Old English *brydguma*, which was a combination of *bryd* (“bride”) and *guma* (“man”). The word *bridegroom* appears in the Bible in both Testaments and carries the same meaning: the husband of the bride.

The word *bridegroom* is used often in the Bible as a metaphor for God, specifically for Jesus Christ. The church is likened to a bride with Christ as her bridegroom. When Jesus was with His disciples, He answered a question about fasting with an analogy involving a bridegroom: “How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast” ([Mark 2:19–20](#)).

Jesus is the bridegroom, and His disciples are the wedding guests. [John the Baptist](#) presented himself as the “friend who attends the bridegroom,” which is the person we would today call the “best man” ([John 3:29](#)). John said,



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"The bride belongs to the bridegroom," and by this he referred to Jesus and the church, His spiritual bride, who stands by His side and invites people in, saying, "Come! Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life" ([Revelation 22:17](#)).

This church—the [Bride of Christ](#)—is not one specific local church or denomination but the entire body of believers throughout the ages. All who have trusted the Lord and received salvation by grace through faith are collectively His Bride. This analogy exists in several New Testament passages. Paul gives believers instructions about marriage, saying, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" ([Ephesians 5:25](#)). Paul also refers to the church as a virgin waiting for her bridegroom ([2 Corinthians 11:2](#)) and uses the relationship between Christ and the church as an example of the importance of wives' submission to their husbands ([Ephesians 5:24](#)).

The [New Jerusalem](#) is also referred to "as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband" in [Revelation 21:2](#), another passage that alludes to Christ as a bridegroom (verse 9).

In the eternal state, believers will have access to the heavenly city known as [New Jerusalem](#), also called "the holy city" in [Revelation 21:2](#) and [10](#). The New Jerusalem is not the church, but it takes on some of the church's characteristics. In his vision of the end of the age, the apostle John sees the city coming down from heaven adorned "as a bride," meaning that the city will be gloriously radiant and the inhabitants of the city, the redeemed of the Lord, will be holy and pure, wearing white garments of holiness and righteousness.

Some have misinterpreted verse 9 to mean the holy city is the bride of Christ, but that cannot be because Christ died for His people, not for a city. The city is called the bride because it encompasses all who are the bride, just as all the students of a school are sometimes called "the school."

Believers in Jesus Christ are the bride of Christ, and we wait with great anticipation for the day when we will be united with our Bridegroom. Until then, we remain faithful to Him and say with all the redeemed of the Lord, "Come, Lord Jesus!" ([Revelation 22:20](#)).



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## How is the Church the Body of Christ?

The phrase “the Body of Christ” is a common New Testament metaphor for the Church (all those who are truly saved). The Church is called “one body in Christ” in [Romans 12:5](#), “one body” in [1 Corinthians 10:17](#), “the body of Christ” in [1 Corinthians 12:27](#) and [Ephesians 4:12](#), and “the body” in [Hebrews 13:3](#). The Church is clearly equated with “the body” of Christ in [Ephesians 5:23](#) and [Colossians 1:24](#).

When Christ entered our world, He took on a physical body “prepared” for Him ([Hebrews 10:5](#); [Philippians 2:7](#)). Through His physical body, Jesus demonstrated the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly—especially through His sacrificial death on the cross ([Romans 5:8](#)). After His bodily ascension, Christ continues His work in the world through those He has redeemed—the Church now demonstrates the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly. In this way, the Church functions as “the Body of Christ.”

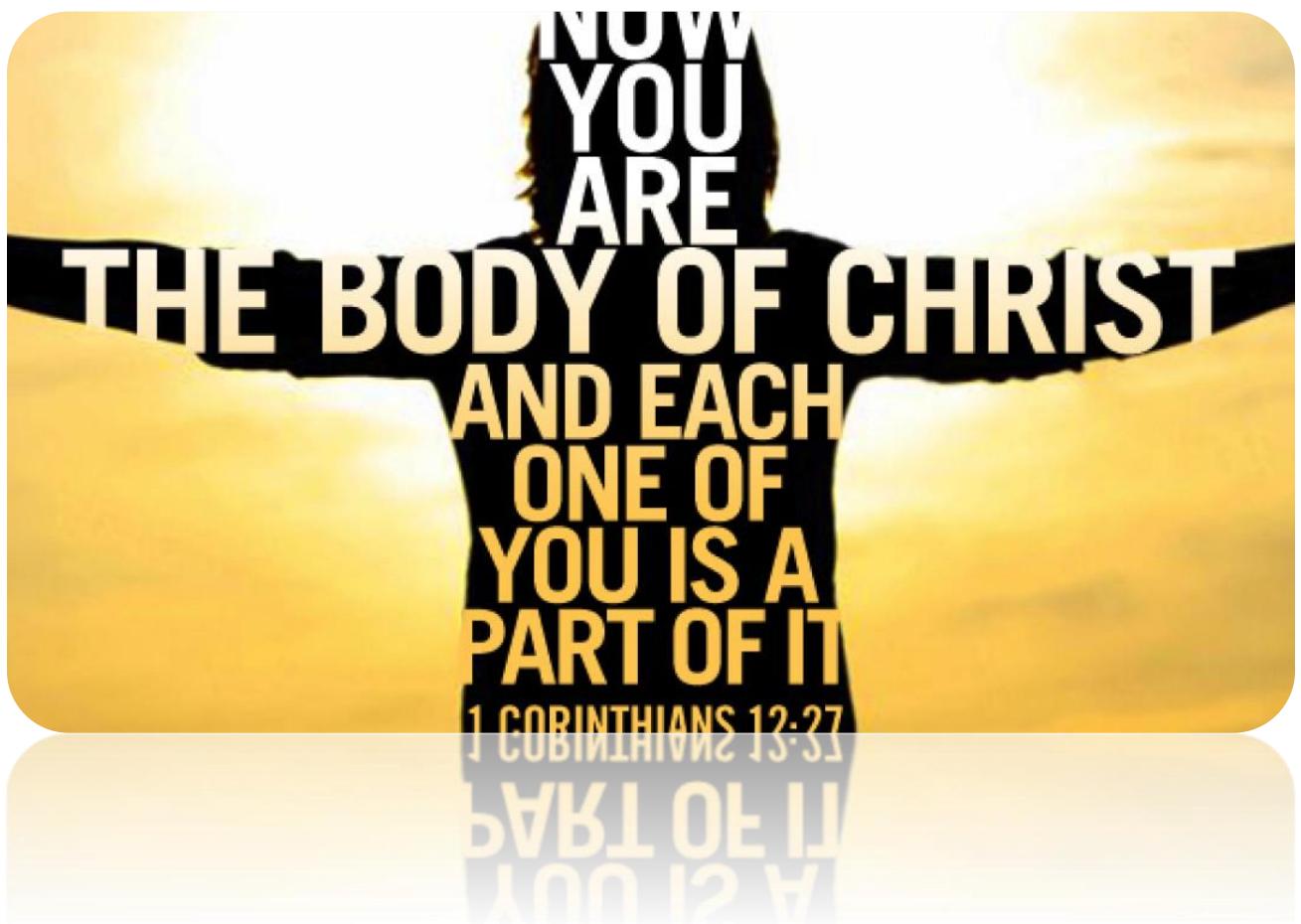
The Church may be called the Body of Christ because of these facts:

- 1) Members of the Body of Christ are joined to Christ in salvation ([Ephesians 4:15-16](#)).
- 2) Members of the Body of Christ follow Christ as their Head ([Ephesians 1:22-23](#)).
- 3) Members of the Body of Christ are the physical representation of Christ in this world. The Church is the organism through which Christ manifests His life to the world today.
- 4) Members of the Body of Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Christ ([Romans 8:9](#)).
- 5) Members of the Body of Christ possess a diversity of gifts suited to particular functions ([1 Corinthians 12:4-31](#)). “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ” (verse 12).
- 6) Members of the Body of Christ share a common bond with all other Christians, regardless of background, race, or ministry. “There should be no division in the body, but . . . its parts should have equal concern for each other” ([1 Corinthians 12:25](#)).



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- 7) Members of the Body of Christ are secure in their salvation ([John 10:28-30](#)). For a Christian to lose his salvation, God would have to perform an “amputation” on the Body of Christ!
- 8) Members of the Body of Christ partake of Christ’s death and resurrection ([Colossians 2:12](#)).
- 9) Members of the Body of Christ share Christ’s inheritance ([Romans 8:17](#)).
- 10) Members of the Body of Christ receive the gift of Christ’s righteousness ([Romans 5:17](#)).





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### For mental healing”

- **Pulling down strongholds in the mind.** You have given us weapons with divine power to utterly destroy strongholds. We demolish arguments and every lie that sets itself up against the knowledge of You, and we take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ. - [2 Cor. 10:3-5](#)
- **The devil is a liar.** He blinded the minds of those who are perishing and placed ([John 8:44](#); [2 Cor. 4:4](#); [2 Cor. 11:3](#))
- **Renewing of their minds so they are able to agree with the Lord's good and perfect will.** ([Rom. 12:2](#))
- **Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light.** ([Acts 26:18](#))
- **Drive out any fears they experience with His perfect love.** ([1 John 4:18](#))
- **The mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.** (“Now the mind of the flesh is death [both now and forever—because it pursues sin]; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace [the spiritual well-being that comes from walking with God—both now and forever];” [ROMANS 8:6 AMP](#))
- **Knowing the extent of the Lord's love.** (“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” [Ephesians 3:17-19 ESV](#); “Every single moment you are thinking of me! How precious and wonderful to consider that you cherish me constantly in your every thought! O God, your desires toward me are more than the grains of sand on every shore! When I awake each morning, you're still with me.” [Psalms 139:17-18 TPT](#))
- **Knowing the Lord.** (“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,” [Ephesians 1:17 NKJV](#))
- **That their hearts may be flooded with His light.** (“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.” [Ephesians 1:18 NLT](#))
- **Staying in the sweetness of His presence.** (“Here's the one thing I crave from God, the one thing I seek above all else: I want the privilege of living with Him every moment in His house, finding the sweet loveliness of His face, filled with awe, delighting in His glory and grace. I want to live my life so close to Him that He takes pleasure in my every prayer.” [Psalms 27:4 TPT](#))
- **Meditating on the Word.** (“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” [Joshua 1:8 ESV](#); “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. [Psalm 1:1-2 ESV](#); “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” [Philippians 4:8](#))
- **Guard your words.** (“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips [to keep me from speaking thoughtlessly].) [PSALMS 141:3 AMP](#)...**why we need to watch what we say** - “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.” [Proverbs 18:21 AMP](#)
- **The joy of the Lord.** “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” [John 15:11 ESV](#)
- **Declaration against suicide.** “I will not die, but live, And declare the works and recount the illustrious acts of the LORD.” [Psalms 118:17 AMP](#)
- **Breaking anxiety** - [Isaiah 26:3](#), [Matthew 6:34](#), [Proverbs 12:25](#), [Philippians 4:6](#), [Luke 12:24](#), [Psalms 37:23](#), [Psalms 139:16](#), [Matthew 11:28](#), [Psalms 55:22](#)
- **Having the same mindset as Christ Jesus** - [Philippians 2:5](#)



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## For physical healing:

- **Requesting the indwelling of the Holy Spirit & the fruits of His Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23**
- **Persistence in prayer.** ("For everyone who keeps on asking receives, and he who keeps on seeking finds, and to him who keeps on knocking, it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will [instead] give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will [instead] give him a snake? If you then, evil (sinful by nature) as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give what is good and advantageous to those who keep on asking Him." Matthew 7:7-11 AMP)
- **Healing through the cross.** "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed." I Peter 2:24 NKJV; "In fact, it was our diseases He bore, our pains from which He suffered; yet we regarded Him as punished, stricken and afflicted by God. But He was wounded because of our crimes, crushed because of our sins; the disciplining that makes us whole fell on Him, and by His bruises\* we are healed." - Yesha 'yahu (Isa 53:4-5 CJB)
- **The Lord is our Healer.** ("If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer." Exodus 15:26 ESV)
- **The Lord restores our health.** "You will bring [us] to health and healing; you will heal [us] and reveal to [us] the abundance of peace and truth." Jeremiah 33:6 ESV; "For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have called you an outcast: 'It is Zion, for whom no one cares!'" Jeremiah 30:17 ESV)
- **The Lord is our shield.** "He hides away sound and godly Wisdom and stores it for the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with Him); He is a shield to those who walk uprightly and in integrity," Proverbs 2:7 AMPC; "The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand."- Psalms 121:5 NKJV)
- **The Lord is an all consuming fire.** "For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29 ESV
- **The authority of healing given to believers.** ("Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;" Mark 16:16-17 ESV; "They will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:18 ESV))
- **Placing infirmities under your feet.** "Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."-I Corinthians 15:28 NKJV.
- **The Lord liberates.** ("The breaker [the Messiah, who opens the way] shall go up before them [liberating them]. They will break out, pass through the gate and go out; So their King goes on before them, The LORD at their head." Micah 2:13 AMP; "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17 ESV; "So if the Son makes you free, then you are unquestionably free." John 8:36 AMP)
- **The Lord will destroy the works of the enemy.** "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." I John 3:8b NKJV
- **Victory through Christ Jesus.** "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57 ESV



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- **Prospering in all things.** [\*\*III John 1:2\*\*](#), "I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."
- **Wisdom for better health.** "For by me (wisdom from God) your days will be multiplied, And years of life shall be increased." [\*\*Proverbs 9:11 AMP\*\*](#)
- **No weapon formed will prosper.** "No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And every tongue that rises against you in judgment you will condemn. This [peace, righteousness, security, and triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And this is their vindication from Me," says the LORD." [\*\*Isaiah 54:17 AMP\*\*](#)
- **Hezekiah's prayer.** "Please, O LORD, remember now [with compassion] how I have walked before You in faithfulness and truth and with a whole heart [entirely devoted to You], and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly." [\*\*2 Kings 20:3 AMP\*\*](#)





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## Who Is Satan In The Scriptures?

He is constantly represented in the Bible as a **personal entity**. Personal names and personal pronouns as well as personal acts are so frequently attributed to him that it is impossible to view Satan as the mere **personification** of evil.

The great enemy of God is most commonly referred to in the Bible as “**the devil**” or “**Satan**.” He is termed the devil thirty-three times in the New Testament, and called Satan thirty-six times.

But he is also designated by many other titles. He is:

- Abaddon, Apollyon, the great dragon, the old serpent, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 9: 11; 12:9),
- the adversary (1 Pet. 5:8),
- the accuser of our brethren (Rev. 12:10),
- Beelzebub (Mt. 12:24),
- Belial (2 Cor. 6:15),
- an enemy (Mt. 13:28),
- the evil one (Mt. 13:19),
- the father of lies, a liar, a murderer (Jn. 8:44),
- the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4),
- the ruler of this world (Jn. 12:31),
- the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2), and,
- the tempter (Mt. 4:3).





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## Why did God create a Devil?

In my [last post](#) I looked at the account of the Fall of man. The book of Genesis records Satan (which means ‘accuser’) in the guise of a serpent orchestrating this tragedy. But this raises an important question: Why would God create a ‘bad’ *devil* (which means ‘adversary’) to corrupt His good creation?

### Lucifer – The Shining One

In fact the Bible records that God actually created a powerful, intelligent, and beautiful angelic being (the chief among all angels) called Lucifer (meaning ‘Shining One’) – and that he was very good. But Lucifer also had a will with which he could freely choose. A passage in Isaiah 14 records the choice before him.

*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 the North.  
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High.” (Isaiah 14:12-14)*

Lucifer, [like Adam](#), had a choice. He could accept that God was God or he could choose to decide that he would be god unto himself. His repeated “I wills” show that he chose to defy God and declared himself to be ‘Most High’. A passage in Ezekiel gives a parallel account of the fall of Lucifer





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You were in Eden, the garden of God.

... I ordained and anointed you  
as the mighty angelic guardian.

You had access to the holy mountain of God  
and walked among the stones of fire.

"You were blameless in all you did  
from the day you were created  
until the day evil was found in you.  
... and you sinned.

So I banished you in disgrace  
from the mountain of God.

I expelled you, O mighty guardian,  
from your place among the stones of fire.

Your heart was filled with pride  
because of all your beauty.

Your wisdom was corrupted  
by your love of splendor.

So I threw you to the ground. (**Ezekiel 28:13-17**)

Lucifer's beauty, wisdom and might – all the good things created in him by God – led him to pride. His pride led to his rebellion and fall, but he never lost (and thus still retains) any of his power and traits. He is leading a cosmic revolt against his Creator to see who will be God. His strategy was to enlist mankind to join him – by tempting them to succumb to the same choice that he made – to love themselves, become autonomous from God, and defy Him. The heart of the test of Adam's will was the same as Lucifer's; it was just arrayed with a different garb. They both chose to be 'god' to themselves. This was (and is) the ultimate 'god delusion'.

### Satan – working through others

The passage in Isaiah is directed to the 'King of Babylon' and the Ezekiel passage is addressed to the 'King of Tyre'. But from the descriptions given, it is obvious that no human is addressed. The "I wills" in Isaiah describe a being who was cast to the earth in punishment for wanting to place his throne above the stars of God. The passage in Ezekiel addresses one who is an 'angelic guardian' who once moved in Eden and the 'mountain of God'. This tendency of Satan (or Lucifer) to position himself behind or through someone else is consistent. In the Genesis fall he speaks through the serpent. In Isaiah he rules through the King of Babylon, and in Ezekiel he possesses the King of Tyre.



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## Why did Lucifer revolt against God?

But why would Lucifer want to defy and usurp the rule of the One omniscient and omnipotent Creator? An important aspect of being ‘smart’ is to know whether or not you can defeat a potential opponent. Lucifer may have had (and still has) power, but even his limited creature-power would have been insufficient for a successful revolt against His Creator. So why risk all and go for something he could not win? I would think that a ‘smart’ angel would have recognized his limitations pitted against Omniscience & Omnipotence combined – and held back his revolt? So why didn’t he? This question puzzled me for many years.

What helped me was to realize that Lucifer could only come to the conclusion that God was His omnipotent Creator by faith – the same as for us. Let me explain. The Bible associates the origin of angels with the first week of creation. We see this in Isaiah 14 above, but this is consistent through the Bible. So for example a creation passage in Job tells us:

**Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said...**  
**“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?**  
**Tell me, if you understand....**  
**while the morning stars sang together**  
**and all the angels shouted for joy? (Job 38:1-7)**

Picture Lucifer being created and becoming conscious sometime in creation week, somewhere in the cosmos. All he knows is that now he exists and is self-aware, and there is also another Being who *claims* to have created him and all the cosmos. But how does Lucifer know that this claim is true? Perhaps, this alleged creator popped into existence in the cosmos just before Lucifer had popped into existence. And because this ‘creator’ arrived earlier on the scene, so to speak, he was (perhaps) more powerful and (perhaps) more knowledgeable than he was – but then again perhaps not. Could it be that both he and the alleged creator had both popped into existence? Lucifer could only accept God’s Word to him that He had created Him and that God himself was eternal and infinite. And in his pride he chose to believe the fantasy that he had birthed in his own mind.



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You might think it fanciful that Lucifer would believe that both he and God (and the other angels) just ‘popped’ into existence. But this is the *same* basic idea behind the latest and greatest of modern cosmology. There was a cosmic fluctuation of nothing – and then out of this fluctuation arose the universe – that is the essence of modern atheistic cosmological speculations. Fundamentally, everyone – from Lucifer to Richard Dawkins & Stephen Hawking to you & I must decide **by faith** whether the universe is self-contained or was brought forth and is sustained ***by The Creator Jesus Christ.***

In other words, seeing is *not* believing. Lucifer would have seen and conversed with God. But he still would have had to accept ‘by faith’ that God had created him. Many people say that if God would just ‘appear’ to them then they would believe. But through the Bible, many people saw and heard God – that was never the issue. But the crux of the issue was whether they would accept and trust His Word about Himself and themselves. From Adam & Eve, to Cain & Abel, to Noah, to the Egyptians at the first Passover, to the Israelite crossing of the Red Sea all the way to those who saw the miracles of **Jesus** – ‘seeing’ never resulted in trust. The fall of Lucifer is consistent with this.

### What is the Devil doing today?

*So God did not make a ‘bad devil’, but created a powerful and intelligent angelic being who through his pride has led a revolt against God* – and in so doing was corrupted (while still retaining) his original splendor. You, I, and all of mankind have become part of the battleground in this contest between God and his ‘adversary’ (devil). The strategy on the part of the devil is not to go about in sinister black cloaks like the ‘Black Riders’ in the Lord of the Rings and put evil curses on us, but with his retained splendor he simply seeks to deceive us from the redemption that God has signaled at the *beginning of time*, through *Abraham*, through *Moses*, and then accomplished in the death and *resurrection of Jesus*. As the Bible says:





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Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness.  
(2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

### Satan in the Old Testament

The Hebrew term **satan** etymologically denoted “**adversary**,” being related to a verb suggesting the idea of “**lying in wait**.” The word was frequently used in a very general sense of adversary.

#### Satan in the Garden

Our first knowledge of Satan is derived from the temptation account in Genesis. Numerous attempts to refute the historicity of this narrative have been attempted. Professor Melancthon Jacobus speaks to this very point:

“That there was a real serpent in this transaction cannot be doubted any more than we can doubt the real history throughout. Here, where the facts speak, further explanations are not necessary, nor fitted to the time of the beginning. (1) The real serpent is contrasted with the other animals, (vs. 1). (2) In the New Testament allusion is made to a real serpent in referring to the history, (2 Cor. 11:3, 14; 1 Jn. 3:8; Rev. 20:2). Yet (3) that there was in the transaction a superior agent, Satan himself, who only made use of the serpent, is plain from his being referred to as ‘the Old Serpent, called the Devil and Satan,’ (Rev. 12:9) — ‘a murderer from the beginning,’ (Jn. 8:44). Satan is also spoken of as the arch seducer, who is even transformed into an angel of light,’ (2 Cor. 11: 14). The reference may be to this event. Almost all the Asiatic nations hold the serpent to be a wicked being that has brought evil into the world.





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## Satan in the New Testament

### Satan Tempted Christ

As the serpent seduced Eve (Gen. 3:6) through the manifold channels of lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the vainglory of life (1 Jn. 2:16), so he sought to solicit Christ to sin similarly (Mt. 4:1-11).

Interestingly, he is denominated “**the tempter**” in that narrative. The Greek term is **peirazon**, a present tense participle literally expanded, “**the always tempting me**,” which suggests his characteristic activity.

Had the devil succeeded in causing Christ to sin, the Lord could not have served as the spotless sin offering (2 Pet. 1:19; 2 Cor. 5:21), and the entire human race would have been forever lost!

### Satan's Affliction on Mankind

Disease, infirmity and death are ultimately the responsibility of Satan. How? By his introduction of sin into the world, he brought about such woes and hence, he is really the murderer of the human family (cf. Jn. 8:44).

This is why it is said that a certain Jewish woman, who had been afflicted with an infirmity for eighteen years, was bound of Satan (Lk. 13:16), and Peter declared that Jesus went about doing good “healing all that were oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10:38).





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### **Satan: Enemy of the Apostles**

The New Testament represents the devil as a deadly foe of the apostles of Christ, who by their saving message, opposed his work.

The Lord informed Peter: “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat” (Lk. 22:31).

Many commentators have over-looked the fact that the pronoun “you” (*humas*) is plural, revealing that Jesus was issuing a warning regarding all the apostles. Yet, recognizing the special weakness of Peter, the Master adds: “but I made supplication for thee (*sou*, singular) that thy faith fail not”

Moreover, Paul’s thorn in the flesh was a “messenger of Satan” (2 Cor. 12:7), and when the apostle would have visited the Thessalonian brethren, Satan hindered him (2 Thess. 2: 18).

**You must ALWAY'S remember that the devil can only do what he is permitted to do by God.**



The promise of Genesis 3:15 will then be totally fulfilled:  
“He [the woman’s seed, i.e., Christ] shall bruise thy [the serpent’s] head.”



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## Satan is not Deity

It is certainly clear that Satan is not of the nature of deity. Deity is all powerful (Gen. 17:1). Deity cannot be restrained (Job 42:2).

On the contrary, however, the devil is clearly not omnipotent as evidenced by the following:

- *His power to afflict was limited (Job 1:12; 2:6).*
- *When rebuked by the messenger of Jehovah, he had to remain silent (Zech. 3:2).*
- *His authority over world kingdoms was "delivered" to him (Lk. 4:6).*
- *He had to ask for the apostles (Lk. 22:31).*
- *He can "snatch" no one from the Lord's hand (Jn. 10:28).*
- *When resisted, he flees (Jas. 4:7).*
- *When cast into hell he will be powerless to resist (Rev. 20:10).*

Moreover, Scripture plainly affirms that He that is in us (i.e., God) is greater than he (i.e., Satan) that is in the world. (1 Jn. 4:4).

So, to sum up: Deity is all powerful. But Satan is not. Thus, he is not of the deity class.



The Beginning Of The End



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## Satan was created

"[F]or in him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers" (Col. 1:16).

This would include Satan as he originally was. It might be mentioned also at this point that all created things had their origin at some time during the creation week of Genesis 1. This Moses states in Exodus 20:11:

"For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is ...."

This included the great host of angels. Incidentally, the angels:

"must have been created at the very beginning of the first day of creation, for Job 38:6, 7 tells of their singing and of their shout of joy at the creation of the earth" (Whitcomb 1972, 43).

## Michael's War with Satan

In Revelation 12:7-9 John sees a vision of war in heaven between Michael and his angels and the devil and his angels, the result being that Satan was cast down to earth (this will happen in the middle of the 7 year tribulation).

## Satan's Mission

The devil's self-appointed mission, very simply stated, is to destroy the human race in hell. It is little wonder he has been denominated by inspiration as the "Destroyer" (Rev. 9:11).

He attempted the ruin of humanity by the temptation of Christ (Mt. 4:1-11), and the seduction of His holy apostles (Lk. 22:31).



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