



Jesus said there is a spiritual realm of life in which there are angels and demons. (John 1:47-51; Luke 10:18-20)

John 1:47-51

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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Luke 10:18-20

8 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

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Why would Jesus give His disciples this information? Why would Jesus want them to know about this spiritual realm of life?

- First, He wanted His disciples to understand the source of evil in the world.

John 8:44

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

NKJV

People are always asking, why did God allow these evil things to happen? It is a fair question since God is all powerful. But an important part of the answer is that there is a devil. He is evil incarnate. He hates God. He hates people that follow God. He inspires people to do evil because he hates God.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the source of evil in the world.

- Second, He wanted His disciples to understand the devil's power in this world.

John 14:29-30

29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

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The devil is a powerful supernatural being. He can totally possess a human being and lead them to carry out his plans. He can afflict human beings with all kinds of diseases. He can destroy human lives.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the devil's power in this world.

- Third, He wanted His disciples to be on their guard.

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

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Since the devil hates God and hates His followers, he is going to attack us. He is going to attack our faith in God. He is going to use every trial that we encounter to discourage our faith in God. He is going to use every opportunity to tempt us to fail. You cannot be on guard and resist an enemy if you do not know the enemy exists.

Jesus wanted His disciples to be on their guard.

- Fourth, He wanted His disciples to understand the devil's strategy.

Matt 16:21-23

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

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He is a master manipulator. He is a dynamic deceiver. He is the guru of motivational speakers. He is the greatest actor that has ever been created. He is an opportunistic genius.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the devil's strategy.

- Fifth, He wanted His disciples to know how to overcome the devil.

Matt 6:9-13

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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Matt 26:41

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

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He wanted His disciples to know how to overcome him; how to resist him; how to defeat him; how to lead others to overcome him.

No disciple of Jesus should be living in bondage to the devil. Jesus never called sinful habits an addiction. Jesus said people with sinful habits are in bondage to the devil and they are following the devil.

Jesus wanted His disciples to know how to overcome the devil.

- Sixth, He wanted His disciples to be warriors.

Rev 12:10-12

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

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He wanted them to know how He defeated the devil once and for all. He wanted them to know how to use his defeat to walk in freedom from sin. He wanted them to know how to use his defeat to stand firm in faith during difficult trials. He wanted them to know how to use his defeat to lead others into freedom. He wanted them to know how to use his defeat to fight the devil through prayer.

Jesus wanted His disciples to be Warriors!

- Seventh, He wanted unbelievers to know who they were following.

Matt 13:38-40

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

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Jesus called unbelievers tares in this world that have sewn in this world by the devil. Jesus said He will return and judge the world. Jesus said if you are not with me, you are against me. Jesus said if you are not with Him, you will be considered a follower of Satan and suffer with him.

If you are an unbeliever, He wanted you to know who you are following.

For some of you, it is not apparent to others or yourself that you are following Satan. Compared to many people, you are a good person. You may try your best to keep the rules. You do not mind serving others. You want to be known as a good person. You do not believe in God or Satan because of your intellectual arguments.

You may not consider yourself a follower of Satan, but Jesus said you are. You have rejected the revelation God gives to every person. You have elevated your mind to be the final authority for what you live and practice. You have made yourself your god. You cause others to stumble and lead them astray. You have followed Satan's greatest strategy. He disguises himself as an angel of light.

C.S. Lewis was one of the greatest intellects and authors of his time. He wrote The Chronicles of Narnia. He was like you. He repented and became a follower of Jesus. He wrote a book about how he had been deceived

by Satan. He called it The Screwtape Letters. I challenge you to read it. He also wrote Mere Christianity. I challenge you to read it.

Perhaps you have already seen your error. If you have, repent today for following Satan and follow Jesus.

For some of you, it is very apparent who you are following. You do not really care to keep the rules. You break the rules to satisfy your own desires. You live to serve yourself. You may or may not care about appearances. That depends upon how you were raised. You lead others to break the rules without even considering what you are doing. You have believed the lie that you can break the rules and get away with it. You find your identity in sin and you are even proud of it.

Perhaps you have never considered that you have been following Satan. Today, you need to repent for following Satan and follow Jesus.

For some of you, you grew up being trained in the religion of Christianity. But you have turned away from your religious training. You joke about it to ease your conscience. You are hoping that if what your parents taught you is the truth that God will just overlook how you have lived and forgive you at the end.

Why would you believe that? Jesus said if you are not for me, you are against me. You are following Satan and leading others to follow Satan. You are on the wrong side. When you stand before God, the truth will be exposed. You have never been born again of the Spirit of God. You were never a fully devoted follower of Jesus.

Today you need to repent for following Satan and for leading others to follow Satan. You need to return to what your parents taught you and follow Jesus.

For some of you, you are imposters in the church. You are following Satan, but you are very active in church. You are a good rule keeper on most things. You may even be given opportunities to teach others because you are such a good rule keeper.

But your tongue reveals the truth about the condition of your heart. When you cannot control people that are hurting you, you hurt them with your words. You condemn them. You reject them. You harass them. You nag them. You resent the circumstances you are in and you cannot hide your resentment.

Today you need to repent for following Satan and for leading others to follow Satan.

Jesus died for you to save you from Satan's destiny. His death removed Satan's claim to this world, and it justified God's forgiveness of mankind for following Satan.

Will you repent for following Satan and follow Jesus?