

Destroying the Devil's Work

The reason Jesus came into the world was to destroy the devil's work (1 John 3:8). And Jesus told us, "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you" (John 20:21). That means you get to keep this mission going!

But what exactly is the devil's work? Is every bad occurrence an operation of Satan? Just because your tire is flat doesn't mean there's a demon hiding under your bumper with a pointy stick! C.S. Lewis once said that there are two misleading notions regarding demons: one is that you see demons in every situation and the other is that you don't see them at all.

And while this bears truth, we must also realize that this world and its systems do belong to Satan. He's "the god of this world" according to 2 Corinthians 4:4. It was his tempting of mankind that set the fall of creation in motion. While there may not be demons in every adverse circumstance of life, it is ultimately the devil's work behind the situation. Were it not for his work in the beginning, we would all still be living in paradise.

With that said, don't forget: Jesus has conquered death and taken back dominion over every power and authority in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Satan is defeated. His control in this earth goes only as far as the people who allow him to continue his reign by their denial of the one true God.

As people of Truth, it is our duty and privilege to bring the Truth of Christ's rule into operation on this earth. That's how miracles, healings, salvations, and all other "kingdom works" take place.

My purpose here is not to focus on the devil, but to understand just what we have authority over when we enter Christ's work through death to the old nature and life in the Spirit. With that said, let's take a moment to see what the Word of God has to say about the devil's work. As you read each point, recognize that Christ has already won the victory in that area, and examine how you are called to be part of expressing His victory:

- **Satan plants seeds of doubting God.** You must uproot those lies and plant seeds of faith. (see *Genesis 3:1*)
- **He lies in order to confuse us.** You must counteract that confusion by speaking the Truth with love and clarity. (see *Genesis 3:4* and *John 8:44*)
- **He seeks to elevate anyone and anything that he can above the place of God.** You must choose to live in humility and refuse to allow anything or anyone to take the place of God in your life. (see *Genesis 3:5*)
- **He tempts mankind toward disobedience.** We must encourage one another to obey and honor God. (see *Genesis 3:5, John 13:2*)
- **He slanders those who honor God.** We need to stand up for each other and speak blessings. (see *Job 1:9-11*)
- **He inflicts people with disease.** We should be praying for healing, demonstrating compassion, and speaking life to those who are afflicted. (see *Job 2:7*)
- **He opposes the righteous.** We are to encourage and support one another in the midst of opposition. (see *Zechariah 3:1*)
- **He tempts God's anointed people to perform wonders apart from God's guidance.** We, however, are to follow Christ's example, who said, "I only do what I see my Father doing." (see *Matthew 4:1-11*)
- **He snatches away the good seed of God's message.** We are to pray that God would "till the soil" of people's hearts so that His Word would take root and bear fruit in their life. (see *Matthew 13:19*)
- **He sows spiritual weeds.** We are to counteract those weeds by speaking the Truth in love and planting the "good seed" of the message of Jesus and our Father's Kingdom. (see *Matthew 13:38,39*)
- **He ruins soul and body.** We are to treat others with love and respect, bringing health to their soul and body. (see *Luke 9:38-40,42* and *Proverbs 16:24*)
- **He blinds the spiritual eyes of unbelievers so that they can't see the reality of God.** We are to make plain the reality of God through our speech, relationships, and actions. (see *2 Corinthians 4:4*)
- **He preys on mankind.** We are to spread the Gospel in order to rescue mankind. (see *1 Peter 5:8, Genesis 3:14*)
- **He steals, kills, and destroys (physically, spiritually, emotionally, cognitively, socially, etc.).** We are to be generous, life-bringing, and constructive—bringing the resources, life, and creativity of heaven to earth. (see *John 10:10*)