

# What Do Evil Angels Do?

*The devil made me do it.*

—Comedian Clerow “Flip” Wilson (1933–1998)

It seems human interest in the devil and evil in general sometimes takes a comedic twist, which is here exemplified by the catch phrase coined by the late Flip Wilson. However, in reality there is nothing funny about the devil. He is very real. Demons are very real. Demonic possession is very real. And perhaps this is one of the devil’s better tricks. By dulling our senses to the real danger he and his minions pose, we may be more willing to take the bait.

46. Why do some people downplay the danger associated with following one’s horoscope, experimenting with witchcraft or Wicca, participating in pagan religious rites, or playing with a Ouija board?

## The Results of Their Revolt

The fall of Satan and the evil angels had consequences for the human race. They seek to draw as many of us as possible into their rejection of our heavenly Father’s Word and His grace.

47. Read Genesis 3:1–13; Luke 8:12; and 1 Timothy 4:1–3. Discuss the steps taken by the devil in tempting Eve and Adam, and the relationship between temptation and God’s Word.

48. Read Genesis 3:14–24 and John 8:44. What has the devil’s rebellion and the revolt of the evil angels brought into this world?

49. Read Job 1:13–22; 2:7; Luke 13:11–16; and 2 Corinthians 12:7. What evils brought about by Satan and his evil angels are noted in these passages?

50. Read Matthew 2:13–18; 4:1–11; John 13:2; and 2 Corinthians 11:13–15. What steps did the devil take in attempting to thwart our salvation in Christ? What steps does he take today?

51. Read Zechariah 3:1–2 and Revelation 12:7–12. The devil is a liar, murderer, deceiver, and a tempter. Now that Christ has come in the flesh, what is the devil’s status now as an accuser of believers?

52. Read Deuteronomy 18:10–14; Jeremiah 27:9–10; Galatians 5:19–21; Revelation 21:8; 22:15. Discuss how you might use these passages in discouraging someone from participating in the occult.

## **Their Possession of People**

Many have discounted demonic possession as an old wives’ tale or something from a less enlightened age. But demonic possession was real in Jesus’ day, and it is still real today.

53. Read Mark 5:1–20; 9:17–29; John 13:2; Acts 16:16–17. Describe some of the infirmities caused by demons in possessed persons.

54. Read Mark 1:23–28; Luke 4:40–41; and Hebrews 2:14–18. What did Jesus do for the demon-possessed individuals brought to Him? How does He help us as we wrestle with sin and evil in our lives?

## **Their Torment in Hell**

Sinful human beings may be led by God’s Spirit through God’s Word to genuine repentance and faith in Christ. They will spend an eternity in a new heaven and a new earth. There is no such hope for the sinful angels who rebelled against God. The devil and his cohorts will spend an eternity in hell.

55. Read Matthew 13:36–50 and Revelation 20:11–15. What will be the fate of all who die without faith in Christ? What is the Church’s life-giving message to the world until Christ’s return (Acts 2:38–39)?

56. Read Matthew 8:29; 25:41; and Revelation 20:10. What is the end of the devil and all his evil angels? How will they spend eternity?

## **Our God-given Victory**

The sword of the Spirit is God's Word. Here are powerful Bible passages to help you when you are assaulted by the devil:

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen" (2 Timothy 4:18).

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world" (1 Peter 5:8–9).

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He [Jesus] who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

## **Point to Remember**

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8

To prepare for "What Do Good Angels Do?" read Matthew 18:10.