

The Primary Lies Satan Tells

“Has God really said? - Genesis 3:1

1. God doesn't really love you.
2. God doesn't really care about you.
3. God doesn't really hear your cries.
4. God doesn't answer your prayers.
5. God doesn't keep His promises.

All the promises of God in him are YES and AMEN.”

– 2 Corinthians 1:20

From the beginning of creation Satan has contested the truthfulness of God with accusations, usually subtle whispers in our mind's ear. In fact, he contests all the perfections of God – *his truthfulness, his faithfulness, his love, his mercy, his grace, his forgiveness, his goodness, his justice, and his patience with us.*

Paul is very bold when he calls them the fiery darts of the wicked one. Revelation lifts the veil between earth and heaven and reveals that Satan accuses each of us before the throne day and night. Jesus says Satan is a liar and murderer from the beginning. He disguises himself as an angel of light, but there is no truth in him.

The ultimate test of the believer is to believe God when everything is falling apart. The fight of faith is with lions, tigers and bears. It is not against ugly demons, witches and warlocks. It is the fight of *FAITH!* It is the mental fight to believe God when nothing seems to be going right. It is a fight against the internal whispers Satan planted in Eve so long ago that continues to echo through the ages, *“Has God really said?”* His thoughts will plague your inner life like meteors bombarding earth's atmosphere. Some burn up but others will sneak through and do irreparable damage to your soul.

The Eclipse of God

When something comes between God and you.



When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden something changed. God hid His face from them. A black cloud covered God's glory so they could no longer see his shining presence. There was something between their soul and the Savior.

What was the sin that separated us from God? Was it disobedience, lust, desire, covetousness, or idolatry? No, the sin was believing a lie. It was doubting God's goodness. It was questioning God's plan. It was allowing a suspicion whispered by a serpent that God didn't really have their best interest at heart. When they swallowed that lie it got stuck in their throats and they choked. Something came between them and God. The innocence of trust was forever lost.

There is something blocking God's glory and goodness in your life. It is the sin of doubt. It is the sin of believing things that are not true. It is the suspicion that God isn't really who He said He is. Jesus removed that eclipse of God's glory by dying to pay for our sins. Trust him and the sun will come out tomorrow.

Weak Faith is Evidenced in Our Feelings

What we feel reflects our true belief system.

Whenever we are "feeling" any negative emotions it is good to remember that we are responsible for the thoughts behind those emotions. Our internal thoughts and beliefs actually create unhealthy emotions. There is a thought behind every negative feeling. If we correct our thoughts and bring them in line with Scripture then positive emotions will follow. We are what we allow ourselves to think. When we are feeling sad we are thinking sad. Feelings reflect our true deep-seated thoughts and beliefs. It's not what we say we believe that matters, but what we really feel deep down inside. Faith dwells on the positive, on never the negative.

Doubters Feel...	Faith-Filled Believers Feel...
Angry	Joyful – in every trial & tribulation
Bitter	Rejoiced over – with singing
Cheated	Favored – child of God
Critical	Kept – by the power of God
Depressed	Empowered – by the Holy Spirit
Discouraged	Gifted to do whatever God wants
Defeated	Faultless – before the throne
Helpless	Joyful – in every situation
Insecure	Peaceful – in the storm
Inferior	Content – with such things as I have
Ignored	Hopeful – for a better tomorrow
Left out	Expectant – that God will bless me
Gloomy	Thankful – in every trial
Pessimistic	Blessed – beyond deserving
Resentful	Satisfied – with little or a lot
Rejected	Excited – about tomorrow's miracles
Overlooked	Rich – even when I'm poor.
Overwhelmed	Being Healed – by His stripes & strength
Sickly	Focused – on Jesus, not on the enemy
Floundering	Happy – to be alive every day
Frustrated	Heard – whenever I pray
Wounded	Answered – when I call on His name
Weak	Strong – even when I'm weak.
Unappreciated	Loved – beyond measure.
Unforgiven	Forgiven – all my trespasses
Unforgivable	More-Than-a-Conqueror – through Christ
Unlovable	Victorious – over the enemy's fiery darts
Unloved	Appreciated – valued by our Savior
Unworthy	Able to Do – all things through Christ who strengthens me
Unfairly Treated	Kept – in the palm of His hand
Unwanted	Loved – with everlasting Love

Correcting Our Weak Faith

Where can we get more faith? Where can we strengthen our faith? There is only one place to get more faith and that is from the Lord. It is a gift he gives when we ask for it. *“For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”* (Ephesians 2:8) And He does that faith building through His word. *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (Romans 10:17)

Digging into the Word of God is how we gain more faith. It is like soaking in a hot tub. We need to dive in and stay there to soak up His Faith.

- For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. – Hebrews 4:12
- If you [abide in me](#), and my words abide in you, you will ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. – John 15:7

How to Use the Word	The Stories of the Bible	Pray it back to God
<p>An occasional light reading of the Bible will hardly nourish your soul and strengthen your faith.</p> <p>Like a miner panning for gold instead of just mindlessly reading, sift the Scriptures looking for specific gems and treasures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read it 2. Meditate on it 3. Memorize it 4. Study it 5. Search it <p>We have often taught new disciples to use the acronym P.E.P.S.I.</p> <p>Is there a Promise to claim? Is there and Example to follow? Is there a Prayer to pray? Is there a Sin to avoid? Is there an Instruction to follow?</p>	<p>There is power in the effect of reading and hearing the miraculous stories of the Bible.</p> <p>They are God’s word pictures that paint indelible impressions on our minds and hearts.</p> <p>There are over 180 individual stories in the Scriptures. They are faith builders.</p> <p>Hebrews 11:32-34 <i>I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.</i></p>	<p>God has given us hundreds of personal promises tucked away and hidden in the Scriptures.</p> <p>We need to look for them as one who looks for treasure. Once we uncover them we should use them as God intended.</p> <p>Quote them back to Him. He delights to hear His children say them. Claim them by faith as you pray. And finally cling to them stubbornly until the Father grants you your request.</p> <p>Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord until daybreak. He stubbornly said, <i>“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”</i></p> <p>God honors that tenacious kind of faith that will not let go.</p>

Our Excuses for Not Believing God's Promises

The truth is that most Christians are more doubters than believers, more skeptical than faith-filled believers. We doubt and disqualify more Scripture than we ever dare to claim, and then we defend our faithlessness with Biblical exceptions and excuses.

Our Excuses for Not Believing

1. 1 John 5:14 – I can't know the will of God

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.

2. 2 Corinthians 12:7-11 – God wants me sick

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

3. 1 John 1:8-10 – I am not worthy for Him to answer me. – No one is worthy!!!

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. 2 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abides faithful: he cannot deny himself. Luke 17:10 When we have done everything say, We are unprofitable servants. We have only done our duty.

Three Disqualifiers Only Three Things Hinder God Answering

1. If there is unconfessed sin in your life. – Psalm 66:18

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

2. If you are being selfish in your requests – James 4:3

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

3. If you don't really believe his promises. – Hebrews 11:6, James 1:8-9

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. Do not let that man think he shall receive anything from the Lord.