

When Satan Tells the Truth

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- Can the Devil tell the truth?
  - “Satan puts some truth in every lie to make the lie more believable.”
  - “The Devil has a Master's degree in Trickonometry.”
  - It's a Christian cliché to call the Devil “the prince of lies,” as he has a mastery in his knowledge of the truth.
  - One cannot become gifted at lying without knowing the truth well.

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- What the serpent promised Eve was true; humans will become like God
  - Gen. 3:5, 22 - “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil... 22 Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.”
- The Devil tells the truth. It’s a question of how it will come to pass
- He did a similar thing in the temptation of Jesus
  - Matt. 4:1-11

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- “Sin is itself a strange and distorted caricature of the gift of God. Sin is to grab for yourself autonomy, to deny your creature-hood, to make yourself a god; but the gift of God is to receive divinity, to be taken beyond creature-hood.” (McCabe)
- The Devil told the truth as far as he could know it. He could not know the means by which that would become true, that in the Son, we could become true children of God.
- Athanasius summarized it: “God became human; so that we might become like God.”

# Can Satan Tell The Truth?

- John 8:44 - “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.”
- If he is such a constant liar and hates the truth, can he actually tell the truth?
- If so, what would be the motive behind telling the truth?

# Can Satan Tell The Truth?

- He tells the truth when it works to what he perceives is his advantage
  - Acts 16:16-18 - “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation. 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out that very hour.”

# Can Satan Tell The Truth?

- His purpose is to deceive, and he uses truth to deceitful ends
  - Eph. 6:11 - “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
  - “Wiles - Methodeia: traveling over, travesty, trickery, lie in wait” (Strong's)
  - Gen. 3:1 - “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.”
  - “Subtle - Aruwm: cunning, usually in a bad sense; crafty, prudent, subtle” (Strong's)

# Can Satan Tell The Truth?

- He knows Jesus and His purpose for coming to the world
  - Matt. 8:28-29 - “When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

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- Mark 1:23-26 - “Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 saying, Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God! 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, Be quiet, and come out of him! 26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.”
- Mark 3:11-12 - “And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, You are the Son of God. 12 But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known.”

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- Luke 4:33-35, 40-41 - “Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 34 saying, Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God! 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, Be quiet, and come out of him! And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him... 40 When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, You are the Christ, the Son of God! And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.”

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- Acts 19:13-16 - “Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches. 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”
- His knowledge and use of truth is limited to his purpose of deceiving and entrapping souls

# Deceived By The Devil's Truth

- There is no special knowledge nor shortcut to wisdom and power in the truth that Satan tells
  - Isa. 47:9-15

- Isa. 47:9-15 - “But these two things shall come to you In a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments. 10 For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me.' 11 Therefore evil shall come upon you; You shall not know from where it arises. And trouble shall fall upon you; You will not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come upon you suddenly, Which you shall not know. 12 Stand now with your enchantments And the multitude of your sorceries, In which you have labored from your youth-Perhaps you will be able to profit, Perhaps you will prevail. 13 You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators Stand up and save you From what shall come upon you. 14 Behold, they shall be as stubble, The fire shall burn them; They shall not deliver themselves From the power of the flame; It shall not be a coal to be warmed by, Nor a fire to sit before! 15 Thus shall they be to you With whom you have labored, Your merchants from your youth; They shall wander each one to his quarter. No one shall save you.”

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- God forbade Israel to be involved from the beginning
  - Deut. 18:10-14 - “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.”

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- One can discern between the truth of Satan and the truth of God
  - Acts 8:9-13 - “But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, 10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.”

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- Acts 13:6-12 - “Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? 11 And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time. And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.”

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- God still forbids us to listen to the Devil, whether he is lying or telling the truth
  - Gal. 5:19-20 - “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery”
  - Gal. 6:7 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”
  - Rev. 21:8 - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

# We Can Be Guilty Of Telling The Devil's Truth

- By holding back part of the truth
  - Jer. 9:3 - “And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies. They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me, says the LORD.”
- By being less than we should be while implying we are more
  - Gal. 2:14 - “But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”

# We Can Be Guilty Of Telling The Devil's Truth

- By telling the truth to do harm or give pain to others
  - Phil. 1:15-16 - “Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains”
- By telling the truth to gain advantage over others
  - 1Tim. 6:5 - “Useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”

# When Satan Tells the Truth

- The Devil will tell you the truth, but it will always come with a hook; do not listen to any part of it
  - Luke 21:8 - “And He said: Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.”

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- God tells you the truth; every part of it is in your best interest.
  - Psalm 100:5 - “For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”
  - John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
  - 1Peter 1:22 - “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...”