

How Can I Resist Evil?

Where does the evil come from?

- Triple Alliance



World

the enemy around



Flesh

the enemy within



Devil

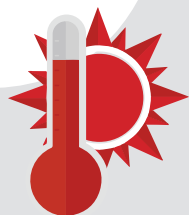
the enemy above

1. Why should we believe that the evil exists (Romans 12:21)

- **Scripture:** The Bible presents a personal, spiritual being in active rebellion against God
 - Old Testament (Isaiah 14; Job 1; 1 Chronicles 21:1)
 - Jesus (Luke 10:17–20)
 - Peter (1 Peter 5:8–11)
 - Paul (Ephesians 6:11–12)
- **Tradition:** Christians down through the ages have believed
- **Reason:** It makes sense of the world we see around us

Avoid two extremes: Disbelief vs. unhealthy, excessive interest

DISBELIEF



EXCESSIVE INTEREST

2. What are the Devil's Tactics? (Genesis 3)

- The devil wants to destroy our lives (John 10:10) - Doubt (Genesis 3:1, Matthew 4:3)
 - "The devil wants us to doubt our beliefs and believe our doubts but God wants us to doubt our doubts and believe our beliefs."
 - Temptation (Genesis 2:16–17)
 - Deception (Genesis 3:4)
 - Condemnation

"As far as God goes, I'm a non-believer, but when it comes to the devil, well, that's something else! The devil keeps advertising, the devil does lots of commercials."

William Peter Blatty -
Writer of the screenplay "The Exorcist"

Why do bad things happen?



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SET YOUR QUESTIONS FREE

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3. What is our position *(Colossians 1:13)*

- We are transferred from the dominion of darkness to the kingdom of Jesus
- We experience God’s love

4. How do we defend ourselves? *(Ephesians 6)*

‘Be strong in the Lord... Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.’ **(Ephesians 6:10–11)**



Focus on Jesus - belt of truth (v.14)
 - ‘I am the truth.’ (John 14:6)
 - Authenticity, integrity, openness in your life



Keep your relationship right - breastplate of righteousness (v.14)
 - Keep short accounts with God
 - Ask forgiveness from God and others



Get involved in service - boots of the gospel of peace (v.15)
 - The readiness to speak of Christ (Isaiah 52:7-10)



Trust God in difficult times - shield of faith (v.16)
 - The devil will challenge us with doubt, fear, anxiety, lust...
 - Keep trusting; don’t give up on your faith



Win the battle of the mind - helmet of salvation (v.17)
 - Salvation = Freedom
 - Protect your mind: temptation starts with a thought, which leads to action



Know your Bible - sword of the Spirit (v.17)
 - Soak yourself in the Word of God
 - The only offensive piece of armour (Hebrews 4:12)

5. How do we attack?

Forgiveness: ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.’ **(Mathew 6:12)**

Prayer: ‘Pray in the Spirit on all occasions...’ **(Ephesians 6:18)**

Action: ‘Don’t be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good’ **(Romans 12:21)**

SET YOUR QUESTIONS FREE

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