

God gave all mankind free will

And



Satan Is Targeting
Man's Free Will

Do not be unaware of this fact

But

Learn how to protect yourself

Leslie Rendell

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Satan is Targeting Man's Free Will

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All scripture references in this book are from the "King James Bible". The most accurate bible available today.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

One of the greatest blessings God has given to humanity is also the one that Satan will use to attack us and to draw us away from our God. From the very beginning, God gave Adam and Eve free will to make their own choices. So when the serpent told Eve she could eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and not die, she believed him and made her own choice to eat of the forbidden fruit. Yes, Satan tempted her, but in the end she ate of the fruit, and so did Adam. It was their own free will to do this.

God could have prevented this from happening, but then their free wills would be taken away from them. This would have forced them to comply with God's wishes. But God did not intervene because He wants all people to come to Him, to love, worship and to obey Him of their own choosing. He will force no one to do what he wants us to do. We make that decision for ourselves, exactly the same way Adam and Eve had to make their own decisions.

Humanity has always done evil deeds. We see proof of this in.

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Nothing has changed since that time until today. Look at the world around you and you will see this is sadly very true. Evil is everywhere. So now we have the question, “Why does God allow us to have free will if it can lead us into all kinds of evil?”.

The answer to that question may seem a little strange, but the answer is because God has a tremendous love for all humanity. A love so powerful he will force no one to do anything they are not willing to do of their own free will. If God were to force us all to love and obey him, this would not be true love. Love like this is coerced. The word coerced has the following description in the dictionary.com.

Coerced means:- forced or compelled through intimidation or authority, especially without regard for individual volition:

Therefore, this type of love is not what God wants from us. What God wants from us is for our love for Him to be genuine. Our greatest desire must be to want to live with Him and to have a personal relationship with him. Such a personal relationship can only come about if we have free will. To either accept Jesus Christ as our Lord of Lords and King of Kings, or to reject His love and forgiveness. The choice has to be ours, and ours alone.

If we could not commit evil and to reject God, this would be just another way God would control our emotions, again free will would not enter this scenario. Therefore, genuine love and good can only really exist in a world where we have an opportunity to hate and reject God. So God has given us the choice to love him or to reject him, and that is our own free will in action.

Chapter 2 - Satan is targeting Man's Free Will

Obviously, having the same free will as Adam and Eve is going to leave us open to make mistakes the same way they did. But God will have it no other way. If He created us hard wired to always follow his commands, and always within certain boundaries that we must comply with. Then He would have just created another herd of cows, sheep, goats or any other animal He created. Each living by certain laws God created for their particular type of animal. This is the way God created all other animals as we see in.

Gen 1:25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

God set up behavioural patterns for all animals, as this verse describes for us. So let us now take one example from the animal world. Sheep can only do what all sheep do. They cannot do any of the amazing things God created humans to do. They have a very set way to live and have no free will to change their circumstances. And as Gen 1:25 tells us, each will behave according to its kind. It is only humans who are created in the image of God that have this amazing free will that allows us to pursue different things in our lives.

This is the only reason humans can choose their own

lifestyles, why some of us are builders, some mechanics, etc. All because God gave us free will to choose our own paths in this life.

So how does Satan use our free will against us?

The first thing to keep in mind is that Satan is not only very real, but he also has great power. Unfortunately, many people do not think he is real, or that he may have some sort of sway over their lives. They see him as powerless and unable to influence anyone. This is exactly what he wants us to believe. If we do not see him as a threat, he can continue to draw us away from God without our even being aware of his presence. But he is real and wants nothing more than to corrupt humans. Read about his presence and his plan in the following words from God's Bible.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

This has always been the plan of Satan. To ascend into heaven and take over the throne from God. His arrogance has him believe this is still possible for him to accomplish. He can still enter Heaven as we can see from the following verses in the book of Job.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

While he is before God in Heaven, he accuses God's elect of any sin he has seen. Therefore, he is called the accuser of our brethren in Revelation 12:10.

Rev_12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Therefore, Paul warns us to live Godly lives as we see in 1Pe 5:8

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

In the above verses, we plainly see two very important details. First, Satan roams over the entire earth, and second, he is looking for people to devour. This means people to corrupt and draw away from God. So now let us look at how he does this.

Satan certainly understands the enormous power contained within our "free will". He used his own free will when he and his demons first rebelled against God. His pride made him make the wrong decisions and now he is determined to take over God's throne.

In this current time, we face an enormous amount of distractions designed to draw us away from God. I will name but a few here and leave you all to add whatever you like.

Lets us start with football in all of its different

formats, soccer, grid iron and Aussie rules. How many people would much rather watch one of these sports, whether in person or on the television, than to study the Bible? The number would be in the multiple millions, and I dare to suggest it will actually be in the billions. Now consider how many other sports will accomplish Satan's task of drawing people away from God. Every sport has its own band of regular followers who "religiously" follow their teams.

Please note here that I am not advocating that all sport is wrong. It is only wrong if it consumes all of your spare time and leaves no time for God. Sport is a healthy pastime, but it should never interfere with your time with God. Nor am I saying you should study the word of God every spare hour you have. You need to strike a healthy balance between the two. But your time with God should always be more important to you than anything else.

Next, we need to see how many of us are distracted through our work. This one is a bit more difficult, as some workers are forced to work long hours just to survive. Finding time for God is not so easy when your family depends on your income so much. But there are many others who work long hours simply for the money, and for what it can buy for their own pleasures. There are many people who would rather be at work than try to get to know their God.

In this modern age, we have one of the greatest distractions of all. The one we call "social media". This one is anything but social and is one area where there is an inordinate amount of evil. The poisonous comments left on other peoples face book pages are shocking. There are many people who spend most of their days trolling these pages to find someone to disagree with.

The Internet is a fantastic place to find just about any information you want to broaden your mind. But again, people

waste their time as they search for the wrong things.

Even church will draw people away from God. This may sound like a contradiction, but there are churches who teach heresy and the teaching of men rather than the word of God. Satan is more than happy to use this as a distraction from the truth. Consider the following passage of scripture.

2Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Satan will do whatever it takes to entice you away from God and the amazing reward you will get if you stay loyal to Him. He is even happy to look like he is a religious leader as long as he can inject heresy and false teachings along the way. The Apostles instructed us to resist the devil, and the only way we can do this is by seeking knowledge and understanding from the scriptures. There is no other way. This is made evident to us in Eph 6:10-17.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole

armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

See how these verses end with. “Which is the word of God.” So putting on all of this full armour of God is actually done by reading and learning from the word of God, or His holy Bible.

We all have our own free will for how we will spend our time. It is our choice to watch sport, work harder than we should just to earn more money. We can spend hours every day on computers to find someone we can disagree with and leave evil comments on their pages. Or we can use any spare time to get to know God from His written word, the Bible.

This is a decision we must all make for ourselves. I sincerely hope you choose to spend time in God’s words. There is a great deal to learn, so do not be discouraged, but learn a little every day and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Learning about God and how to please him is an ongoing commitment. Read the following scripture and understand what it is telling you.

2Pe_3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

To grow in grace and knowledge simply means doing daily, or at least regular bible study to get to know God. This can only be done with your own free will. No-one else can do this for you. It is your personal responsibility to seek God, or to ignore him.

Chapter 3 - Can Satan Influence People?

The answer to this question is a most definite yes. There are examples for us recorded in the bible that God has had written for our learning on this matter. Let us examine the Life of Judas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples. We know from scripture that he was not an amiable person. We can see this in John 12:3-6.

Joh 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

Joh 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

Joh 12:5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

Joh 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Therefore, we can find out from these verses that Judas was a thief. He only wanted the perfume to sell so he could have the money for himself, we know from verse 6 that he did not care for the poor. Then we can see Satan influenced Judas to betray Jesus in John 13:2.

Joh 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Because Judas had a nature to be greedy, he was a very easy target for Satan to enter and to control. We all have a sinful nature and if we do not keep close to our Lord, we may be targets for Satan as well.

We find another example of Satan putting things into our hearts in the book of Acts. Here Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some of their possessions and gave a portion of it to the Church. But they told Peter it was all the money they got from the sale of the goods. Listen to what Peter had to say to them.

Act 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Act 5:4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

There are a few things to consider in these two verses. First, Satan influenced them to lie, and the lie was to the Holy Spirit and not so much to the church. Then notice what Peter said in verse 4. The money from the sale of the goods was theirs to do with as they wanted. They could have kept part of it and told Peter they were going to do this. They had control of their own money, so they could give as much or as little as they wanted to. But their sin was to lie about what portion they were giving to the church.

The same as the example of Judas, they had a natural tendency to seek their own glory. Pride was their undoing, and as we know, pride is a great sin against God.

When we read about the encounter of Eve with Satan in the Garden of Eden, it is easy to assume this differs totally from how Satan works against us today. With Eve, it was a face-to-face conversation. So listen to the warning from Paul in 2Co 11:3.

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Paul is telling us that Christians need to guard our minds from Satan's work. He can distort and mislead our thoughts to turn them against Christ.

What we can learn from this is the fact that Satan is a deceiver, a liar, and a murderer. He can influence us if we do not guard our hearts and our minds. Therefore, we are being encouraged to put on the whole armour of God.

Thank you for reading this book, and may God reward you richly as you turn to Him.

Thank you

About the Author

Leslie Rendell has been studying the bible for most of his life. When he is researching a topic, he looks at what other people have said in their books, or on the world wide web. He believes it is important to see opinions from every angle of a subject to give his own informed decision. But still the most important reference is always the bible. There is no other authority for matters of what God expects from those he has created in his own image. If there is a conflict between the bible and man's thoughts, the bible will win every time.

Although he has had no formal bible education, he believes the average bible reader can understand the bible. Otherwise, how could they ever understand what God's will is for their lives?

Apart from bible studies, Leslie loves to spend time with his family watching his daughter grow into a wonderful woman and mother. His grand children starting on their life journeys, and now some great grandchildren to watch growing up. It is a special time in his life to see his family grow.

He is retired and now lives in the South West of Western Australia. Apart from his love of the Bible and his family, his other hobby is photography, where he loves to photograph God's creation.