

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Does Satan Tempt Everyone With Equal Vigor?

Know This...

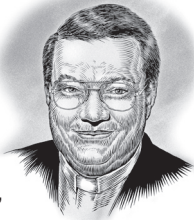
Satan is a cunning liar, deceiver, and murderer who wants to seduce everyone. We are all in his "sights"—but, does this adversary tempt the rich and the poor, the young and the old, or the righteous and the unrighteous with equal vigor? He doesn't have to because many of us don't put up a fight. No one should be passive in combating the malicious and evil works of the devil and his minions. His strategy is simple: tempt everyone, but only engage in mortal combat with those who resist.



John: Many of us think Satan and his demonic cohorts will leave us alone if we just ignore them. We must not ignore them but confront them with all the power God gives us.

James: Satan and the fallen angels have some traits we admire. They are patient, yet determined; logical, yet clever; intelligent, yet bold; powerful, yet restrained.

John: They also have many traits we deplore. They distort truth, disdain virtue, destroy optimism, and drive us toward despair.



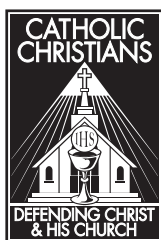
James: These demons are real beings, created by God, who freely chose to become evil, seductive voices opposed to God. But they are finite creatures with limited power.

John: God gives us the grace we need to recognize the presence of evil and to resist it. The fallen angels are powerless against the baptized who resist their advances.

James: Satan and his demons cannot force us to sin. They can only coax us into rejecting God and tempt us into choosing sin. With our guardian angels, we must battle Satan and his demons.

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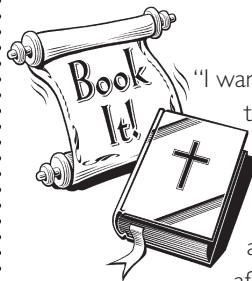


"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry... Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, 'All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.' At this, Jesus said to him, 'Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.' Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him." MT 4:1-2, 8-11 If Satan tried to tempt God, he will try to tempt us.

"Evil is not an abstraction, but refers to a person, Satan, the Evil One, the angel who opposes God. The devil is the one who 'throws himself across' God's plan and his work of salvation accomplished in Christ." CCC 2851 "The Lord who has taken away your sin and pardoned your faults also protects you and keeps you from the wiles of your adversary the devil, so that the enemy, who is accustomed to leading into sin, may not surprise you. One who entrusts himself to God does not dread the devil." St. Ambrose



BE ATTITUDES "If the Devil is making an uproar; it is an excellent sign: what is terrifying is his peace and concord with a man's soul... The Devil is like a mad dog tied by a chain. Beyond the length of the chain he cannot catch hold of anyone. And you, therefore, keep your distance. If you get too close you will be caught. Remember, the Devil has only one door with which to enter into our soul: our will. There are no secret or hidden doors." St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padra Pio)



"I want you to be wise as to what is good, and simple as to what is evil; then the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." Rom 16:19b-20 "I know the slander of those who claim to be Jews and are not, but rather are members of the assembly of Satan. Do not be afraid of anything that you are going to suffer. Indeed, the devil will throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will face an ordeal for ten days. Remain faithful until death, and [God] will give you the crown of life." Rel 2:9-10

Almighty Father, source of all grace, give me the wisdom to live in Your truth, the faith to know that You will never desert me, and the courage and strength to battle the evil one day and night. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reign with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

