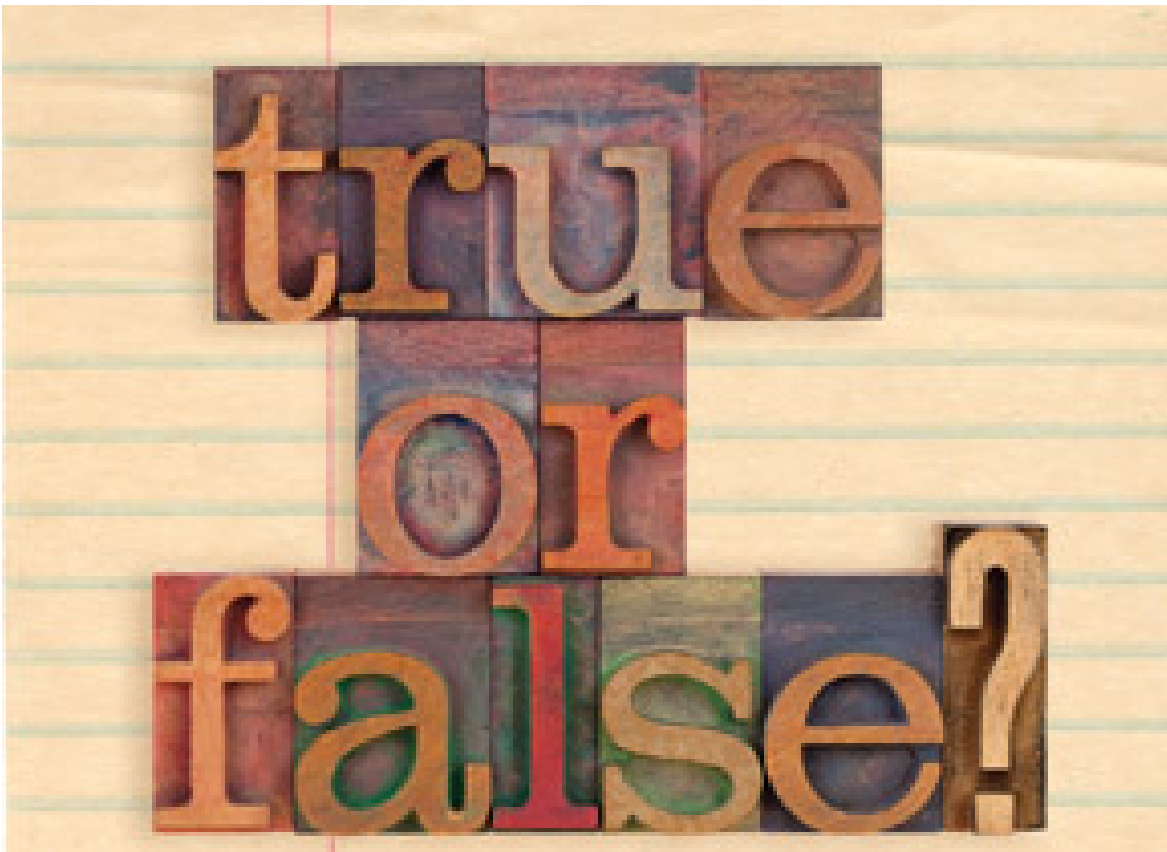


Satan the Accuser vs. God's Holy Conviction

How to know the difference and why it's important



Listening guide for Study With Friends Broadcast
Studywithfriends.org

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Satan The Accuser

What's the goal for Satan's Accusation?

1. To prevent _____ (2 Cor 4:4)
2. To _____, _____ and _____
(John 10:10)

Read Esther 3:13 and list the similarities to the action ordered therein.

If you are not familiar with the context of this Esther passage, please read Esther 3:5-6. Describe the sentiment of Haman in your own words:

Let's draw a clearer line around what happened there: Mordecai refused to bow. Why? WM Taylor, D.D. writes: "Some have answered that, as the Persian monarch was regarded as an incarnation of Ahura-Mazda, and therefore entitled to Divine honours, the act of prostration before him was understood to imply worship; and so homage paid to Haman as the king's representative would be a virtual giving of Divine honour to a human creature.ⁱ" This means that Mordecai refused to bow because of his faith to the one true God, as a Jew. He would worship no other.

Read the following passages, then note any similarities between what motivates Satan and what motivated Haman to steal, kill, destroy, annihilate.

Ezekiel 28:17 _____

Isaiah 14:12-14 _____

Matthew 4:8-9 _____

How does He get it done?

1. He is _____ (2 Corinthians 11:14)
2. He is _____ (John 8:44)
3. He makes _____ look _____ (Genesis 3:4, Matthew 4:1-11)
4. He is the _____. (Revelation 12:10, Job 1:6-7)

In his commentary, *Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol 6*ⁱ A.T. Robertson educated me on the Revelation scripture. "Satan is the accuser, Michael the defender, of the faithful." This book goes on to say, regarding the segment "who accuses them before our God day and night," that this is "the devil's constant occupation." My NIV commentary on the Job passage says that the name Satan in this passage is literally translated "the accuser."

What are some accusations? Unworthy, unforgivable, not good enough... list some you are familiar with here:

Satan being the accuser does not mean you say "the devil made me do it. You have to agree with the accusation to bring it to action. So the bad news is: you have an active role. The good news is: you have an active role.

In a quiet place in your heart, think of a time when this was true in your life. Some temptation that looked life- giving, that you justified, "I deserve this" "This will make things better" "This will make me feel better" Think of a time that you agreed with the worst accusations about you, or someone close to you...and you acted in that belief. I want you to go there now, just for a minute, because you need to know this is truth. And I am trusting God's Holy Spirit to bring to you the example from your own life. It's ok, you can go there again for a minute, because the blood of Jesus has already covered it. You are forgiven. But go there. See that this is the truth about the enemy of your soul, and remember who he is, what he looks like, so you can see him coming next time, and the next time, and the next time. Take the power given to you by Jesus over this.

This comes back to the mindset conversation about 2 Cor 10:4-5. You choose which thoughts and ultimately which actions you will embrace.

God's Holy Conviction

How does He get it done?

1. The closer you get to God's holiness (through the Holy Spirit), the more aware you are of your own sin. This is very normal.
Isaiah 6:1-6
Jeremiah 23:9
2. If you are not convicted by the Holy Spirit, you may have a bigger problem: 1 Timothy 4:1-2 explains. Write your interpretation of that bigger problem

In her book “Esther, It’s Tough being a Woman,” Beth Moore urges us to “learn to be thankful every time we feel sorry for even our smallest offense toward someone. God designed conviction to be uncomfortable so that we’d hurry to repentance and find relief in restoration.”ⁱⁱⁱ

What is the goal for God’s Conviction?

1. _____ (2
Corinthians 7:8-10)

Let’s look closer at the complete process. Read each passage and briefly list the process in each individuals life:

Luke 7:36-50 (esp vv 41-42)

Conviction
Repentance
Restoration

Luke 19:1-10

Conviction
Repentance
Restoration

Mark 5:1-20

Conviction
Repentance
Restoration

The seraphim touched a coal to Isaiah’s lips and said you’re sins are forgiven. It didn’t dismiss or excuse or downplay the sins. (Isaiah 6:6-8)

We must embrace the affliction, the conviction. Only then can we fully understand our debt to Jesus and live out the gratitude that comes when the debt is expunged.

How to know the difference

Jesus taught us that a tree is known by it’s fruit (Matthew 7:16, Matthew 12:33, Luke 6:44). What does that mean? The fruit that comes from the spirit should tell you the source of it.

Read Galatians 5:16-24 and list the contrasting products of each motivation:

The important part becomes knowing the fruit before it is produced. When we feel a spiritual nudge, we must learn know where we are being led and insure it is always toward Godly fruit. Sometimes we do this by experience, falling down and getting back up. Knowing better for next time.

Why it's important

Read the following passages and list the importance of the Holy Spirit advising each individual or group:

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Jeremiah 15:19

You may or may not agree with the idea that there is a spiritual battle going on in your life. That doesn't change the fact that it's happening. I was intentional about all the verses listed here, because you have to believe it from God's word, not from my word. If you can, list a time you absolutely knew there was a spiritual battle waging in your life or the life of someone close to you.

Revelation 12:7-9 describes a battle. But the story has a happy ending, already...

1 John 4:1-4 "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Colossians 2:10 (NAS) "in Him you have been made complete."

ⁱ WM Taylor, D.D. (July 14, 2014), *Mordecai Refuses to Bow down to Haman* Retrieved from biblehub.com

ⁱⁱ Robertson, AT, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1930)

ⁱⁱⁱ Beth Moore, *Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman* (LifeWay Press, 2008)