

## Satan and the Devil

We in Unity do not generally recognize the terms Satan or the Devil as personified entities. We do, from time to time, give over our thoughts to these entities as if they are real as persons but if we turn to God we quickly and gently deny that which is untrue.

What, then, are these ideas of Satan and the Devil all about? Who fell from grace and, moreover, who was in the Garden of Eden tempting Eve who ultimately tempted Adam? Very simply it was the Devil or Satan that did both.

While Unity students and teachers and ministers of Unity insist there is no entity that represents either one or the other of these ideas further study suggests to us they are very real in carnal thought and that they represent a clear and present evil and danger to the human race.

Let's start with the Garden. When we read the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden we are told that it was the serpent who tempted Eve and, in fact, helped Eve make it okay to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Charles Fillmore defines serpent as, "Sense consciousness or the desire of unspiritualized man for sensation. He seeks satisfaction through the appetite. By listening to the serpent of sense, man falls to his lowest estate.

Up until this point Eve nor Adam had knowledge of what was right or wrong, good or evil or of any condition other than the divine experience God created for them and then came the snake. In Eve's mind was a hunger or appetite to know things. To know what God knew and her mind convinced her that if she knew things the same as did God well, she would also be a God. This was the sense fulfillment at work and so, as the serpent, she talked herself into eating of the tree and she talked Adam of eating fruit from the tree and they both knew good and evil. Eve simply traded her faith (her innate knowing) for carnal knowledge.

**Charles Fillmore** says, "In the course of our demonstrations of Being, we arrive at the place where we feel our own ability, and we know that we can exercise it without restraint. 'Satan' is the personal mind that tempts human mind to try experience without knowledge." <sup>1</sup>

Further Mr. Fillmore says about the "Devil." "The devil is mass of thoughts that has been built up in race consciousness through many generations of earthly experiences and crystallized into what may be termed human personality, or carnal mind, which opposes and rejects God.

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<sup>1</sup> Christen Healing p55-56 by Charles Fillmore

The "devil" is a state of consciousness adverse to the divine good. Other names for this state of consciousness are the Adversary, carnal mind, the accuser, and the old man. There is no personal devil. God is the one omnipresent Principle of the universe, and there is no room for any principle of evil, personified or otherwise." <sup>2</sup>

What we do know is the Satan and the Devil are not powers. We affirm that there is one Power and one Presence in the universe and in our lives and affairs. When we acknowledge this simple statement we are denying the existence of the devil and sweeping aside any influence over our lives except the experience of God.

Here again we come upon the theory of wrong teachings. In some cases, in the case of those of us who might have stayed in the darkness of error thinking, our ancestors failed to be transformed and passed this ignorance, this lack of faith on to us. We were taught negativity, guilt, doubt, anxiousness, fear and so on by those who came before us. This is our Satan. The Buddhists call these things, *walking ghosts*. These ideas of wrong thinking are what cause us to stay in the past as prisoners of our own minds having the devil stand guard over us while the Satan experience does its work in our minds.

Once again we know that "Satan" and the "devil" are not persons and are certainly not powers. *"There is only One power and One presence in the universe and in my life and affairs God the Good Omnipotent."*

However as Metaphysics I teaches "Satan" and the "devil" are valid metaphysical symbols that represent aspects of the human consciousness. <sup>3</sup>

"Satan" and the "devil" are those ideas that cause us to view things in the outer experience as reality and to react to them as opposed to responding with God Principle. We must not be cavalier in our attitude about the many ways these ideas can influence and cause ruin to our lives. These outer experiences are the things we brush aside in denial and the affirmation is when we turn to God for the Truth about a given experience.

While we say that "Satan" and the "devil" have no experience in spiritual principle we are forced to recognize their existence in the human experience. It is in this way that we can safeguard ourselves from influences that do not serve us well.

It is a simple thing to do to grow close to God and to enjoy all of the good God has for us and then to forget our Source and to become prideful and to set ourselves up and to present ourselves as more than we are to the world. This smugness, this self gratification of accomplishment, this arrogance is the influence of "Satan" and the "devil" in our lives. We are surely going to fail and to

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<sup>2</sup> The Revealing Word p 54 by Charles Fillmore

<sup>3</sup> Metaphysic I the Unity Institute p 91

fall just as we would rise even further if only we had given thanks, praise and recognition to God, our only source.

It is said that one of the biggest mistakes in error thinking is the thought that we are separate from God. Nothing could be further from the truth. We, as children of the Divine, are forever held in the breath of God and the only time we are apart in any manor is when we fall into our intellect and give attention to the negativity that is waiting in the form of “Satanic” or “devil” thoughts.

We must keep our thoughts in the good light, hold God in our every reflection in order that we may keep our guard up.

Paul said,

*“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*                      *Philippians 4:5-9<sup>4</sup>*

It is what is in our hearts and in our minds that safeguard us from anything that would harm us.

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<sup>4</sup> Holy Bible NIV