

## “Can Satan read your mind or put thoughts in to your head?”



Satan is a created being and is very powerful indeed, but he is not God nor does he have the attributes of God. Though Satan can and does influence people all the time he is limited in his abilities.

Let us first start by explaining what the bible describes of who Satan is:

One of the best verses that goes through many names of Satan is found in **Revelation 20:1-2**, “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the **dragon**, that **serpent of old**, who is the **Devil and Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years;” here Satan is called the dragon, old serpent, devil (which means “**enemy**”) and Satan (which means “**adversary**”). He goes by many names in the Bible, he is also called:

- Lucifer, meaning morning star (**Isaiah 14:12**)
- ruler of the demons (**Matthew 12:24**)
- god of this world (**2 Corinthians 4:4**)
- devil/accuser (**Matthew 4:1**)
- prince of the power of the air (**Ephesians 2:2**)
- roaring lion (**1 Peter 5:8**)
- serpent (**Genesis 3:1**)
- adversary (**Job 1**)
- tempter (**Matthew 4:3**)
- the anointed Cherub that covers (**Ezekiel 28:14**)
- Beelzebub (**Matthew 12:24**)
- Belial (**2 Corinthians 6:15**)
- wicked one (**Matthew 13:19**)

Ezekiel is the only one to give a detailed description of Satan and what he looked like. **Ezekiel 28:12b**, “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.” According to this verse it tells us that Satan was a seal of perfection and full of wisdom. And down in **verse 14**, “You were the anointed cherub who covers...” it says Satan was a cherub. The bible distinguishes between Angels (even elect angels), and Cherubim and Seraphim. It is not certain that cherubs and Seraphim are classes of angels or just another created spirit being in heaven. Either case they are strong and possess a great deal of wisdom and power.

**Let's see what his limited abilities are:**

**First of all**, Satan is not omnipresent, he CANNOT be everywhere at once. **Job 1:7**, “And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So, Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” Notice how Satan has to be somewhere to know what is going at that particular place, he has to go “to and fro”, as the book of Job puts it. Even the Apostle Peter says the same thing, **1 Peter 5:8**, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” Satan cannot be in more than one place at one time.

**Secondly**, Satan is not omniscient, he DOES NOT know everything. Though he is full of wisdom he is still a created being. God alone is the only one who is omnipresent and omniscient. God alone, knows our thoughts, He even knows what we are going to say before we say it. The bible is clear about that:

- **1 Kings 8:39**, “then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men)”
- **Psalms 139:4**, NLT “You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.”
- **Psalms 44:21**, “Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.”
- Speaking of Jesus, who is God, **John 2:25**, NLT “No one needed to tell him(Jesus) about human nature, for he knew what was in each person’s heart.”
- **Matthew 9:4**, “But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?”
- **John 6:64**, “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.”
- **Matthew 12:25**, “But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”
- **Luke 9:47**, “And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him”

Satan, limited in his abilities, cannot put thoughts into our minds because he would have to be able to read our minds first, to know what was in them. Since God is the only one who can read minds, Satan therefore cannot put thoughts into heads either, one of the clearest illustrations in the bible is found in the book of Daniel. If Satan was able to read our minds and put thoughts into them, then the magicians and sorcerers would have been able to know without him telling them his dream and answer Nebuchadnezzar's question about its interpretation. Look at the story here in, **Daniel 2:1-11**, "Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. 2 Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. 3 And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream." 4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation." 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. 6 However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation." 8 The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: 9 if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." We see that Satan could have demonstrated his power, read Nebuchadnezzar's mind and then put the dream into the magicians and sorcerers mind so they could tell him the dream and its interpretation, but they could not. Because as stated earlier only God can know our thoughts, and that is exactly what Daniel told the king, **Daniel 2:20-28**, "Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. 22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. 23 "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand." 24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation." 25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation." 26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known

to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?” 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these...”

We see here that only God was able to know what is in the heart of man, Satan cannot read our thoughts or put thoughts into our minds.

**Doesn't Satan influence us though? Absolutely!!!**

Some have suggested that based on these verses Satan can read our thoughts and put thoughts into our minds, here are two verses that they use,

1 Chronicles 21:1, “Now Satan stood up against Israel, and **moved** David to number Israel.”

1 Chronicles 21:1, **ESV** “Then Satan stood against Israel and **incited** David to number Israel.”

1 Chronicles 21:1, **KJV** ‘And Satan stood up against Israel, and **provoked** David to number Israel.”

1 Chronicles 21:1, **NLT** “Satan rose up against Israel and **caused** David to take a census of the people of Israel.”

Now the problem is, that there is a parallel verse, found in, 2 Samuel 24:1, “Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.” The question is often said, did Satan do it or did God? This problem can often be explained by understanding this, in order to fulfill God’s purposes, sometimes God sovereignly permits Satan to act. God can use Satan in various ways, with the result being the refining, disciplining, and purification of disobedient believers such as:

- Luke 22:31–32, “And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”
- 1 Corinthians 5:1–5, “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus

Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

- **2 Corinthians 12:7–10**, “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
- **Job 2:6**, “And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.”
- **1 Samuel 16:14**, “But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.”

Such might have been the case with David. God allowed Satan to tempt him, and David sinned, revealing his pride, and God then dealt with David accordingly. Since Satan can’t read our minds or put thoughts in to our heads, we don’t really know how all that worked out.

Another example is found in, **John 13:2**, “And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him,” The Greek underlying the phrase “the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas” allows for two interpretations: either Satan prompting Judas, or Satan deciding for himself, to betray Jesus most commentators believe the former is more likely the case. In **John 13:27**, “Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” Some commentators believe Jesus was actually talking to Satan. So the question is how did Satan put in the heart of Judas? We see a similar idea is found in, **Acts 5:3**, “But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?” The verb translated “filled” is *ep̄lērōsen*, from *plēroō*, which here has the idea of control or **influence**. So, we see that Satan influences people. So, the question is how does Satan influence?

**Let’s see how Satan influences today!**

In **2 Corinthians 2:11**, “lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” We need to know how he works. We need to know something of his character, something of his person, something of his approach. Since we have the Word of God, which totally unmasks all of Satan’s disguises, and reveals his schemes, there should be absolutely **NO** reason for a Christian to be ignorant. Since he cannot read our minds or put thoughts into them, then how does he work? Satan and his demons have been observing and tempting human beings for thousands of years. Surely, they have learned a

few things about us over those years. Even without the ability to know our thoughts, they can make a well-educated guess (**because Satan is full of wisdom**) as to what we are thinking and then attempt to use that to their advantage. Satan does not need food nor sleep, which means for thousands of years he has observed mankind in all of his ways.

So, what are Satan's devices?

- **1) False Religion/False Teaching** = 2 Corinthians 11:13, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." False cults and religions have been around since the beginning, perverted and twisting the truth. And it's no wonder because Paul goes on to say in Verse 14, "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light." Other passages have the same warning, 1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron," Satan has from the beginning twisted God's truth, Genesis 3:1b-5, "And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." He will continue to do so until the end, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."
- **2) Denying the Authority of Scripture** = Satan has denied that salvation is by grace through faith, Old and New Testament, Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Salvation has never been nor will it be by works.
- **3) Denying the Deity of Christ** = Not only does he deny the authority of scripture but, he denies the deity of Christ. 1 John 4:1-3, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."
- **4) Denying the Second Coming** = 2 Peter 3:4, "and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'"

Satan has used every imaginable device known to us, from promoting sin and that there are no consequences, to idolatry, to angel worship, the list goes on and on for sure, but the question is how does he get into our minds and influence us?

Well that is through your receptors,

The idea is like the old children's song, "be careful little eyes what you see...be careful little ears what your hear..." Satan can't read our minds nor put thoughts in there but he can get into our heads through our eyes, what we see, and through our ears, what we hear. That is why is he so active in trying to twist scripture and have so many false cults and teachers, because he wants access to our minds. Once he can influence our minds he knows we will run with it from there. Because he knows that the source of our temptations is **US!!!!!!** James tells us in, **James 1:13-14**, "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." We are the source of our own temptations; Satan only tries to use our weaknesses against us. We are corrupt from the beginning, **Jeremiah 17:9**, "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked..." Also found in **Genesis 6:5**, "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." And **Genesis 8:21**, "...although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth..." It is a battle for the mind, so we must protect our minds, **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." Paul told us how to redirect our minds, how to take captive our thoughts in, **Philippians 4:8-9**, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."

Satan will use every resource at his disposal to try and redirects our minds, but God has given us armor to protect from that. Paul says in **Ephesians 6:11-18**, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all

**perseverance and supplication for all the saints—”** It is only in the power of God’s armor we can stand against the devices and schemes of the wicked one. People, of course, can step too close to the line with demonic things, such as: the occult, mediums, fortunetellers, Ouija boards, alcohol, even drugs (which are mind altering) and through these avenues people come more and more under Satan’s influence. That’s why we are told to be sober minded, **1 Peter 5:8**, **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”** Do not let anything control you or don’t be influenced by anything except the Holy Spirit, **Ephesians 5:18**, **“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”** James tells us in **James 4:7b**, **“...Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”** But before we can do that we **MUST** as he says in first part of that verse, **James 4:7a**, **“Therefore submit to God...”** Submission to God is always the first step, then we must put on **His** Holy armor, only then can we bring our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ commands, and resist the devil.

One woman told **John MacArthur** she didn’t pray out loud, because she didn’t want Satan to hear her. As **McArthur** so eloquently responded to her by saying, **“that’s foolishness!”** Paul says in, **2 Timothy 1:7**, **“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”** We don’t have a spirit of fear but of power, we should do as the writer of Hebrews states, **Hebrews 4:16**, **“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”** We should have holy boldness, so to speak, to proclaim to God whatever we desire, or whatever help we may need, regardless of who’s listening. It doesn’t matter if Satan hears us or not, because as John states, **1 John 4:4**, **“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater** than he who is in the world.”**

Satan cannot read our minds,  
Satan cannot put thoughts into our head,  
But he **CAN** be allowed to influence us, by what we hear and what we see, that is what Paul says is happening when we, **Ephesians 4:27**, **“...give place to the devil.”**

When we are living in such a way, submitting to God, putting on all of His armor, bringing our thoughts captive to Him, then Satan **CANNOT** do one doggone thing about it.

That’s the issue!

It’s a battle for the mind what are you allowing to influence your mind?