

# What Every Christian Should Know



**Core Beliefs to Help You Stand Strong in a Shifting World**

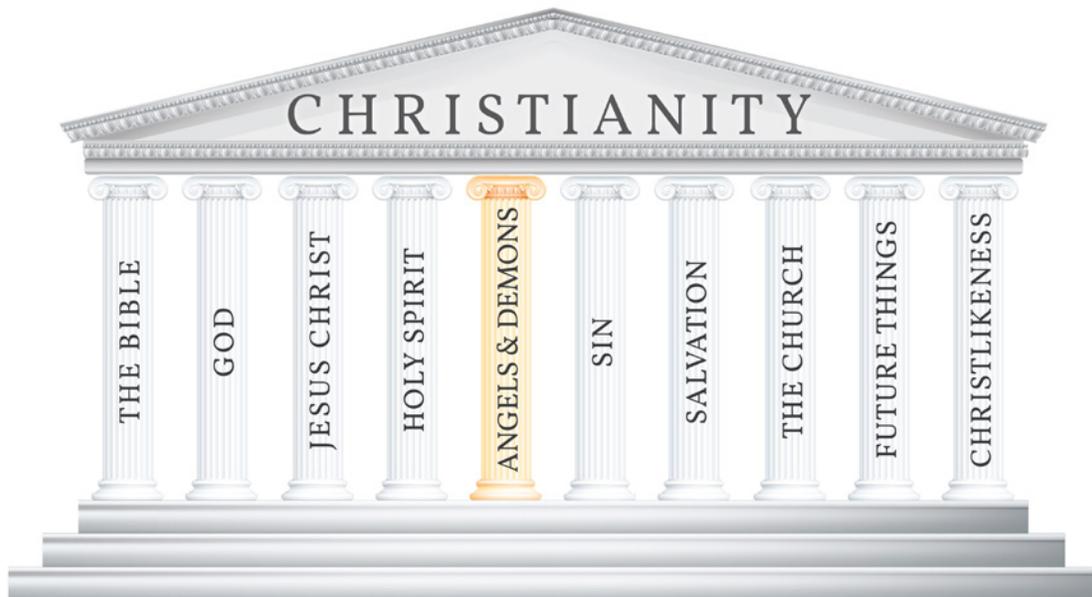
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## “What Every Christian Should Know About Angels and Demons”

HEBREWS 1:13-14

**Introduction:** Today we are going to explore what the Bible teaches about the invisible -- but very real -- world of angels and demons, and how they impact our lives every day.

### 10 PILLARS OF HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY



#### I. **Our Heavenly Allies: God's Holy Angels**

##### **How Christ Is Superior To The Angels**

The writer of Hebrews began his book with a detailed argument about how Jesus is superior to every element of Judaism, starting with angels. He offered four compelling reasons: 1. *Christ has a superior name* (Hebrews 1:5). No angel is ever called the Son of God. 2. *Christ is a superior object of worship* (Hebrews 1:6). When Jesus came to earth, He didn't worship the angels; the angels worshiped Him. 3. *Christ rules over a superior kingdom* (Hebrews 1:7). Angels are subjects in Christ's kingdom, servants, doing His will. 4. *Christ will enjoy a superior victory* (Hebrews 1:13). This verse asks, "But to which of the angels has He [God] ever said, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet?'" Jesus Christ is superior to the angels in every way. One day Jesus will rule over the heavens, the earth, and hell. No angel can ever say that.

#### A. **Angels Are Created Beings** (Colossians 1:16)



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Colossians 1:16 “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

1. Angels are **direct** creations of God
2. Angels will exist **forever**
3. Angels have **intellect**
4. Angels have **emotions**
5. Angels have a **will**
6. Angels have **limitations**
7. Angels can appear to be **human**

### B. Angels **Minister** to Believers (Hebrews 1:13-14)

Hebrews 1:13-14 <sup>13</sup> “But to which of the angels has He ever said, ‘SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET’? <sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”

1. God uses angels to **sustain** and **encourage** us  
(Matthew 4:11)

Matthew 4:11 “Then the devil left Him [Jesus]; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”

2. Angels **reveal** God’s will to us (Matthew 1:20-21)



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Matthew 1:20-21 <sup>20</sup> “But when he [Joseph] had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’”

### 3. **Angels protect us from physical and spiritual harm** (Psalm 91:11-12)

Psalm 91:11-12 <sup>11</sup> “For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone.”

### 4. **Angels minister to us in death** (Luke 16:22)

Luke 16:22 “Now the poor man [Lazarus] died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.”

#### Do Christians Have Guardian Angels?

There is no passage in Scripture that explicitly states that every person has his or her own guardian angel. There are, however, a few passages, such as Psalm 91:11-12, Matthew 18:10, and Acts 12:13-15, that seem to support the idea of guardian angels. However, as John Calvin pointed out in addressing this question, “If there are legions of angels perpetually looking after our safety and well-being, it doesn’t really matter whether there’s one specific angel assigned to every person, does it?”

### C. **Angels are “Ministers” to Unbelievers**

#### 1. **Angels are ministers of God’s goodness to unbelievers** (Genesis 16:7-12)

Genesis 16:7-12 <sup>7</sup> “Now the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup> He said, ‘Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from and where are you going?’ And she said, ‘I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.’ <sup>9</sup> Then the angel of the LORD said to her, ‘Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority.’ <sup>10</sup> Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, ‘I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.’ <sup>11</sup> The angel of the LORD said to her further, ‘Behold, you are with child, and you will bear a son; and you shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has given heed to your affliction. <sup>12</sup> He will be a wild donkey of a man. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone’s hand will be against him; and he will live to the east of all his brothers.’”



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### 2. **Angels are ministers of judgment to unbelievers** (Psalm 78:49)

Psalm 78:49 “He sent upon them His burning anger, fury and indignation and trouble, a band of destroying angels.”

2 Kings 19:35 “Then it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead.”

Acts 12:23 “Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he [Herod] did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.”

### 3. **Angels are ministers of eternal death to unbelievers** (Matthew 13:49-50)

Matthew 13:49-50 <sup>49</sup> [Jesus said] “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, <sup>50</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

#### Lucifer And The Fallen Angels

Lucifer was an angel created by God. However, unlike other angels, Lucifer misused the free will God gave him. Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 portray Lucifer as a proud, vain being who became overly impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, and power. Jealous of the honor and glory that belonged to God alone, he led a doomed rebellion of angels against the Creator. Lucifer and his followers were banished from living in heaven, although Lucifer—who is now known as Satan—still has access to it. Satan’s purpose now is to thwart God’s work and destroy His people.

## II. **Our Spiritual Enemies: Demons**

#### Up Close And Personal With Demons

Luke 8:26-39 tells of Jesus’s confrontation with demons who were tormenting a man in the country of the Gerasenes. From this encounter, we discover four things about demons:

1. Demons have *intelligence*. They immediately recognized Jesus as the Son of the Most High God.
2. Demons have *emotions*. They were afraid of being cast into the abyss.
3. Demons have a *will*. They offered Jesus an alternative solution: to be cast into a herd of swine. When Jesus agreed, they submitted themselves to the will of God and entered the swine.
4. Demons have *names*. The chief demon identified himself as Legion, a military term for a group of six thousand soldiers. As believers in Jesus Christ, we need not fear demons, but we do need to understand them.



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### A. Demons Attempt to Lead Unbelievers Astray (Deuteronomy 32:17)

Deuteronomy 32:17 “They [Israelites] sacrificed to demons who were not God, to gods whom they have not known, new gods who came lately, whom your fathers did not dread.”

Galatians 1:8 “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!”

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

### B. Demons Attempt to Harm Believers

1. Demons can work through nature (Ephesians 2:2)
2. Demons can work through physical illness (2 Corinthians 12:7)
3. Demons can work through mental illness
4. Demons can work through suicide (Mark 9:14-29; John 8:44)
5. Demons can work through people (Luke 4:31-36; 40-41)

#### Where Is Satan Right Now?

Even though Satan’s work is being done on earth, he’s not necessarily the one doing it. According to Revelation 12, Satan is in heaven, where he levels constant accusations against believers. He is doing everything he can to get God to change the deal He made with us for eternal life. Satan points at our sins and says, “Look at what she’s doing. How can she call herself a Christian?” Or, “Why would You want to spend eternity with him? Let me have him.” The good news is that every time Satan levels an accusation against Christians, Jesus acts as our Advocate (1 John 2:1). Seated at the right hand of God the Father, He counters Satan’s charges by reminding His Father of the price He, Jesus, paid for our sins.

### III. Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed? (Matthew 16:23; Ephesians 5:18)



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Matthew 16:23 “But He [Jesus] turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.’”

Ephesians 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.”

### IV. A Strategy For Spiritual Victory (1 Peter 5:8-9)

#### A. Be Alert to Satan’s Attack (1 Peter 5:8)

1 Peter 5:8 “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

#### B. Be Aware of God’s Provision (1 Peter 5:9)

1 Peter 5:9 “But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

James 4:7 “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

Conclusion