THE JOURNEY

Basic Discipleship

REVEALED STEP TWO

ANGELS

HOW TO USE THIS

GUIDE

We are so glad you're here! As you step into this journey of discipleship, know that you are entering a path designed to deepen your relationship with God and build a firm biblical foundation. This material is meant to guide you, no matter where you are on your faith journey. The tools and lessons you'll find here are adaptable to many settings—whether you're meeting one-on-one, gathering with a small group, or sharing in a larger community. It can be simplified to nurture the hearts of youth and children or enriched to challenge and inspire mature believers to grow even further.

Discipleship is a journey, not a race.

Our prayer is that this journey will help you engage with Scripture, build meaningful relationships, and discover how God is working in and through your life. Let's take this next step together with faith and intentionality as we grow closer to Him. Trust the process of growth and transformation that occurs over time as you walk with God.



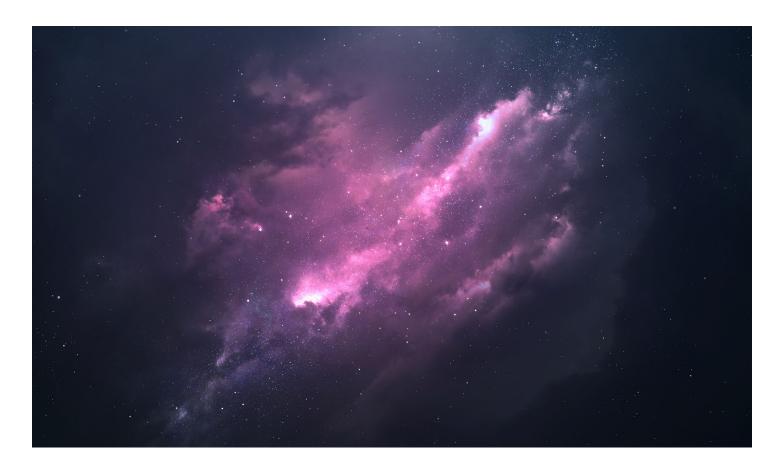


I. ANGELS

CREATED SPIRITS

Angels are part of God's creation. This means they did not exist in eternity past with the Trinity and are not coequal with God in any way. God created angels to endure forever, but like the rest of creation, they rely on God to sustain their existence.

Angels are spiritual, not material beings. They do not have physical bodies like humans and are naturally invisible to us, though they can temporarily appear in visible form. They were likely created *ex nihilo* early in the creation process. While both angels and God are spirit beings, angels are not of the same divine nature as God.



COLOSSIANS 1:16 | "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

HEBREWS 1:14 | "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Additional NUMBERS 22:31 MATTHEW 22:30
Scripture JOB 38:7 MARK 16:5
References PSALM 148:5 LUKE 24:39

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1. How does it affect your understanding of God's power to realize that He created an entire unseen spiritual realm?
- 2. How does knowing that angels are created and not eternal change the way you think about their role in God's plan?

HEAVEN'S RANK

As created beings, angels have limited power and knowledge and can only be in one place at a time. They are not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent. However, make no mistake: they are powerful beings.

Angels are also quite numerous—likely in the millions or even billions—yet only two good angels are named in the Bible: Gabriel and Michael. There are at least two kinds of good angels: Cherubim and Seraphim. Angels also appear to have a hierarchy or system of ranks. Since Michael is called an 'archangel,' this suggests a hierarchy among angels with different ranks and roles.

PSALM 68:17 | "The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary."

JUDE 9 | "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!"

Additional GENESIS 3:24 2 PETER 2:11
Scripture ISAIAH 6:1-7 REVELATION 5:11
References MATTHEW 28:2

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1. Why do you think Scripture emphasizes that angels are powerful—but still created and limited—rather than elevating them to divine status?
- 2. How does knowing that God commands millions of powerful angels impact your trust in His protection and care?



MESSENGERS, MINISTERS, AND MIGHT

The Bible reveals several major roles that angels fulfill. The first is to worship and give glory to God, a posture the Bible frequently attributes to angels. The Bible also talks about angels being "ministering spirits", and it is clear that one of their missions is to support believers. Next, the very word angel means 'messenger', emphasizing that they not only deliver messages, but also carry out God's will. We don't know why God sometimes acts directly and at other times works through angels—but He clearly does.

Angels are also mighty warriors. They are often seen carrying out God's judgments or engaging in battle.

The Bible teaches that major battles have occurred between angels and demons, and that this spiritual warfare continues to this day.

ISAIAH 6:3 | "And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

MATTHEW 4:11 | "Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."

Additional	PSALM 103:20	2 THESSALONIANS 1:7-8
Scripture	DANIEL 10:13	HEBREWS 1:14
References	LUKE 16:22	REVELATION 12:7-9

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1. Why do you think God chooses to use angels to carry out His will instead of always acting directly?
- 2. How does it encourage you to know that God may send angels to minister to His people still today?

DON'T WORSHIP THE WARRIORS

It's critical to understand that angels are never to be worshipped. The Bible describes how people have occasionally attempted to worship angels because of their power and striking appearance. But angels are always quick to redirect worship, making it clear that glory and praise belong to God alone.

At various points in church history, believers have become overly fascinated with angels. This fascination is a mistake and a potential trap—our awe and focus should be reserved for God alone and for His Word.

REVELATION 22:8b-9 | "...I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!."

MATTHEW 4:11 | "Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind."

Additional Scripture References EXODUS 20:3-5 ISAIAH 42:8 ACTS 10:25-26 ROMANS 1:25
REVELATION 19:10

- 1. What does the eagerness of angels to redirect worship to God teach us about their humility and purpose?
- 2. In what practical ways can you keep your heart and attention centered on God and His Word when spiritual curiosity pulls you elsewhere?

II. DEMONS

FALLEN ANGELS

Demons, also known as evil spirits, are real and are likely fallen angels. God evidently created all angels with some measure of free will, and demons are apparently those angels (perhaps a third) who chose to sin and rebel against God. It's helpful to remember that neither angels nor demons are the spirits of the dead.

Though fallen, demons are still technically angels and share many of their characteristics: they are spiritual rather than physical, powerful yet limited, structured in hierarchy, and actively engaged in spiritual battle.

At some point it seems the two sides, good angels and bad angels, became fixed in their allegiance.

Good angels can no longer sin, and fallen angels (demons) can no longer repent. Demons are also immortal, created to live forever, yet they still rely on God to sustain their existence. Though they still actively seek to influence our world today, their eternal judgment has already been determined by God.

2 PETER 2:4 | "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;"

JUDE 6 | "And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."

Additional Scripture References 1 KINGS 22:19-22 JOB 1:6-12 MATTHEW 25:41 REVELATION 12:7-9

- 1. Why is it important to understand that demons are real but ultimately limited and subject to God's authority?
- 2. In what ways does knowing the final defeat of demons give you peace or confidence in your walk with Christ?

THE ADVERSARY

Satan is a real, fallen angel who rules over the demonic horde. It is possible he was an archangel himself before his fall. Like all angels, Satan was originally created by God, is continually sustained by Him, and is in no way equal to God.

He is known by many names, each offering insight into his nature and tactics, including:

SATAN | "Adversary," emphasizing his role as a hostile prosecuting attorney.

DEVIL | "False Accuser," emphasizing his role as a slanderer and deceiver.

LIAR / DECEIVER | Describing both his character and his primary weapon.

THE EVIL ONE | Emphasizing the depth of his corruption.

LUCIFER | "Morning star," highlighting how he masquerades as an angel of light.

SERPENT | Referring to his role in the Garden of Eden.

He is also referred to as: the Accuser, the Deceiver, the Tempter, the Father of Lies, our Enemy, Beelzebub, the Prince of this World, the God of this Age, the Angel of Light, and the Dragon.

REVELATION 12:9 | "The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."

JOHN 8:44 | "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Additional Scripture References LUKE 10:18
2 CORINTHIANS 11:14
1 JOHN 3:8
REVELATION 20:10

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1. Why do you think the Bible gives so many names for Satan, and what do those names reveal about his nature and strategies?
- 2. How does knowing that the devil is a created, limited being—not equal to God—affect your understanding of him?

SCHEMES OF THE ENEMY

Satan is a deceiver, intent on opposing God and destroying His work. Knowing his eternal judgment is sealed, Satan now seeks to take as many people with him as possible to his ultimate fate. From Eden to today, his mission has remained the same: to disrupt God's plan and deceive God's people.

Satan is not creative; he always resorts to the same old tactics. He questions, twists, and eventually denies God's Word. He tempts with sin, conceals its consequences, and then immediately and viciously accuses and shames those who give in to his lies. What he promises as fun and freedom always ends in guilt, bondage, and regret.

- **1 PETER 5:8** | "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."
- **2 CORINTHIANS 4:4** | "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Additional Scripture References

MATTHEW 25:41 JOHN 13:2

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11; 11:3

1 TIMOTHY 4:1 2 TIMOTHY 2:26

- 1. Why do you think Satan relies so heavily on deception rather than direct force to oppose God's work?
- 2. In what ways have you seen the enemy try to twist or deny God's truth in your own life or in the culture around you?

III. A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

IF YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW

If you're new to spiritual warfare, there are two things you need to know right away. First, you're already in a real, ongoing spiritual fight—whether you realize it or not. Spiritual forces are working to lead you away from God, while other forces fight to protect and defend you. This battle is happening right now, and it's time to get off the sidelines.

Second, you need to know God's Word, the Bible. Without it, you're nearly defenseless. When tempted by Satan himself, Jesus responded with Scripture—and so should we. Growing in Scripture and memorizing key passages will strengthen your faith and equip you to stand firm and help others do the same.

EPHESIANS 6:12 | "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 | "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Additional Scripture References

PSALM 119:11 MATTHEW 4:1-11 EPHESIANS 6:14, 17 HEBREWS 4:12

1 PETER 5:8

- 1. What does Jesus' example in resisting Satan with Scripture teach us about the power and importance of knowing God's Word?
- 2. What is one practical step you can take this week to deepen your knowledge or memorization of God's Word?

STAND AND SUBMIT

To stand against the enemy's schemes, we must put on the full armor of God. That means not only knowing the Word but also living it. This means standing firm in truth, guarding our hearts with righteousness, and walking daily in the peace that comes from the gospel of Christ.

We also submit to the Holy Spirit, who gives us power to resist temptation and choose what is right. As we repeatedly choose God's will over our own, we build spiritual strength (similar to muscle memory) until obedience becomes increasingly instinctive.

ROMANS 8:13 | "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."

JAMES 4:7 | "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Additional Scripture References PSALM 119:9
ROMANS 6:13
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13
GALATIANS 5:16
EPHESIANS 6:10-17

- 1. Why is submitting to the Holy Spirit essential in spiritual warfare, and how does it differ from trying to resist temptation on your own?
- 2. Can you recall a time when obedience to God became more natural through repetition? What helped you stay consistent?

SHUT THE DOOR

First and foremost, we must stay far away from anything demonic or occultic. Scripture is clear: when we open ourselves to spiritual practices that are not of God, we risk real and serious consequences.

Temptation is Satan's most common tactic. Whatever your weaknesses may be, you can be sure he'll try to exploit them. Even sins you thought you had left behind years ago may be dangled in front of you again—just to test for a crack in your armor.

James 1 describes how sin progresses: it begins with a tempting thought that seems harmless, but as we entertain it, desire grows. Eventually, sin takes hold and leads to addiction, bondage, destruction, and ultimately, death. The blast radius of compromise often reaches beyond the believer, leaving the lives of our loved ones in ruins while the enemy is laughing on the floor. That's why Scripture warns us: don't even crack the door.

EPHESIANS 4:27 | "and do not give the devil a foothold."

JAMES 1:13-15 | "When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Additional Scripture References DEUTERONOMY 18:10-12 PROVERBS 4:14-15 ROMANS 13:14 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

- 1. How does understanding the progression of sin in James 1 help you recognize and interrupt the enemy's tactics earlier?
- 2. What practices help you stay alert to spiritual attacks and guard against giving the devil a foothold?

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