
The Reality of Satan

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The Nature of Satan

Satan is the one who creates the fear we feel. The inability to trust comes from Satan, not God. Satan built a mighty empire. For generations, he knew what was coming. He knew that there would be a final confrontation between the two Superpowers—between the forces of good and evil. Through the hundreds and thousands of years of human history he created his own kingdom, and made virtually everyone pay homage to him. He is very crafty, and does everything according to a pseudo-form of God's principle. He centers people upon himself and brands all things which God originally made with his own trademark. Satan is presently the center of all the power of this world—ideological, political, industrial, commercial, etc.—but God has longed to govern one nation under His jurisdiction and from that point, expand His ideology to all nations throughout the world.

In winning victory over Satan and claiming the world back to God, Father has had to do things according to a certain order. Not a man of compromise, Father follows the Principle exactly. As those who assist him, we Unificationists try to take things from Satan and give them back to God. This pattern sets the tradition which can be universally applied to save the entire world. But Satan still has tremendous power. To contend with Satan, God has to arm His side with rival power. We need an ideology and a counterproposal which can abolish satanic theory and rejuvenate religious fervor. We have to get strong in order to deal with this power-hungry being who is consumed by an insatiable desire to keep us in his grasp.

What is Satan like? Satan wants people to deny he exists, yet he is actually bigger than life.

We must learn to recognize Satan. The second chapter of the Principle explains in detail the crime of Satan. Knowledge of it should make us determined not to make the same mistakes as Adam and Eve. That crime is far-reaching, encompassing not only the actual fall itself, but also the results. If we display one or more of the four fallen natures (as elucidated in the Principle), then we knowingly or unknowingly unite with Satan. That action is a base for Satan, and an acknowledgement of our relationship with him, but we should deny Satan's claim that he is our father. If a person knows the secret of the fall, he can more easily fight against Satan in his own life and in society. But it was not until Father exposed the crime of Satan, that anyone knew what he did then and still does today.

To me, the desire for instant gratification—wanting something for the moment without concern about tomorrow or regard for the consequences of our actions—is *the* most satanic nature. It is typified in the permissive love pursued by so many millions of people in the world. The few seconds of happiness they find is followed by spiritual degradation and devastation. What Satan offers has no eternal value. Any benefits are extremely short-lived and temporary; the end result of any offer made by Satan is spiritual death. Satan will only survive if he destroys all goodness. God is doing just the opposite; He wants to *restore* and purify everything.

Satan is all for rebellion and disobedience, and delights when we engage in such acts. Whenever he finds such a weakness within us, he pokes his finger in and then widens the hole. He entered our hearts a long time ago, and does not want to leave. The only way to make sure he departs the premises is to be unchanging in our faith and uncompromising in our attitude and action.

Listen to the lyrical voice of God when He tells you, "Lift up your face. You are My child! Believe in your greatness." Satan is the one who yells and screeches that you are nobody! Why do you insist on listening to Satan? He is sneaky. Remember that as the archangel Lucifer, he used the word of God to subdue Eve, and to make her fall. Anybody occupying the position of archangel has to be very careful that he does not use the knowledge of the Principle for his own good. If he puts himself, rather than God and True Parents, into the center of a situation, he is in grave danger of repeating the archangel's mistake.

God is not as judgmental as we are. It is not that we necessarily want to be judgmental of ourselves, it is Satan who becomes judgmental *through* us. He accuses us, often making us feel so bad, we become incapacitated for God. And that is just the result he is after. He wants us to feel down and depressed and he is happy when we lose our guts and spiritual strength. He is happy to get us out of commission. That is how he hurts the people of God. If he cannot harm people spiritually, he harms them physically. But if he cannot harm a certain person physically, he will work through that person's loved ones.

No one is more interested to see people become happy and restored than God. We have to recognize that He would never push us down and continue to tell us what we do wrong. It is Satan who does that. Satan got mankind into trouble in the first place through misusing the word of God.

Now he uses the word of God to accuse them. Satan is an extremely intelligent being. He is also manipulative and knows exactly what hurts the human heart most. He knows that the word of God is the measure or the mirror able to help us see what is right and what is wrong, and that is exactly why he wants to keep it concealed and influence people to deny it is true.

Satan is still an angel, and eventually he will be forgiven by God. When Father encourages us to hate Satan, he is not referring to the actual being who will someday be restored. Rather, he urges us to hate what Satan represents. The term "Satan" actually encompasses all the anti-godly ideologies, forces, and natures that resulted from the fall of man. At some point, Satan will be forced to relinquish his power. In the book of Revelation, it is written that the anti-christ and Satan will be thrown into the fiery furnace and burn forever. The "fire" refers to the truth. The "fire" of the word of God will parch the throat of Satan forever, and he will be forced to take back all the negative ideas and ideologies that he used to season this world to his taste, as he attempted to devour it completely. It is God's truth which will help people make their way home to God and burn away the anti-God ideology and that way of life. It will consume evil for eternity, and Satan's nature will have to change from arrogance to humility.

The thing Satan hates most is divine love. If people start to love and begin to pray, Satan turns wild and turns away. He simply cannot stand love.

Satan does not forgive and forget. On the basis of our mistakes, Satan continues to accuse us in an attempt to make us feel guilty. His aim is to occupy our time and energy for as long a period as possible. If we give in to such feelings, we will not just lose because of the mistake we made, but will also lose positive elements from God's side.

Satan has become good at using our memory. God *wants* to use our memory, but we have a hard time combating the old memories that both torment us and overshadow those precious moments which we have experienced with God. When you allow yourself to be reminded of all the things you did or thought in the past, you create a foundation to think and feel the same way you did when you sinned. Satan persecutes you with those feelings, holding the picture of those memories in front of your face.

I saw Satan once. He appeared as an angel, and was so beautiful, he almost took my breath away. I walked into the prayer room in our center in Vienna and saw a spiritual being who was dressed in a beautiful gown from the baroque era. It was as if a light snow was descending in the room. It felt like God Himself was standing there, or at least a Prince of Heaven, for this being was surrounded by a celestial cloud. I almost bowed before him; it was as if his beauty entreated me to go down on my knees. I thought it was God, but suddenly I saw a black spot on him, and I realized his true identity. When I called out his name, Satan shrunk in size and then appeared much like a vapor which seemed to disappear behind a picture of Father on the wall, and then out the window. Satan can manifest himself in many ways, but he always tries to trip us up to think he is something he is not, and *not* think he is something that he *is!*

At the time of the fall, the words of Lucifer seemed clear, plausible, and true to Eve. Everything felt natural to her. If someone falls today, he is lured and seduced into something which seems to make sense at the time. It is only later that feelings of regret and remorse come. Eve was overcome by the wisdom and charming personality of Lucifer. Everything he said made absolute sense, and he appeared like God to her. She walked one step after another with him. And that was the beginning of the end. At the time, she did not realize what she was doing, but the Bible records that after their fall she covered her lower parts, and in her fear she seduced Adam "to eat." Why? She discovered she had made a mistake. Since she intuitively knew that Adam was to be her partner, she felt the only way to rectify the situation was to do the same thing with him.

If Adam had not given in, he would have been able to act as "messiah" to her, and she could have restored her relationship to God through him. But a child was conceived—a tangible result of their sinful act. In many senses of the word, the archangel "murdered" Eve, and she died spiritually. This was realized in the physical sense between her sons, Cain and Abel.

What is Satan like? Satan wants people to deny he exists therefore he has spread his "truism" throughout the world that there is no evil. He wants people to think that the stories in the Bible are like fables, and that they have little meaning in this modern-day world. He does not want to relinquish his hold on the world. According to the truth of God, however, his ideas are false. In fact, the word "false" perhaps best characterizes the "true" nature of Satan.

The Reality of Satan

God created everything because of love. Although He loved every entity, He loved mankind the most and created the whole world to revolve around human society. Through the fall, this world became lost to Satan. In restoring it we must deal with religious problems, ideological problems, political problems, economic problems, and whatever concerns mankind. It is not hard to notice that destructive forces have been built up throughout the world. It is not hard to realize that the public purpose is often superseded by the purpose of the individual. In today's world, a few people sacrifice many people in order to live well. Yet this is completely opposite to the will of God. Somebody took the position of God, and became the false "almighty." There is an intelligence in this universe who wants everyone to go in his direction and do his will. This is the one we call Satan. He copies the same principles of God and although God uses them to *create* His ideal, Satan uses them to *destroy* God's ideal.

Satan steers people around according to his whim, for he can detect what thoughts and feelings live in the human mind and the human heart. Most religionists believe that God is a personality, but should also realize the same is true about Satan. It is undeniable that the forces of goodness and evil exist, but what some people *do* deny is that each of these forces is directed by a being. Satan is fully aware of how human behavior functions. He has the ability to enter into the most delicate of human emotions, something he would find it impossible to do if he did not understand the nature of human heart and intellect. Therefore, he himself must possess those very qualities. He must experience emotions, and in fact, be a personality.

There are many aspects to Satan's nature. He is powerful and holds tremendous spiritual influence over people. For example, a woman only has to hear a *rumor* that her husband is being unfaithful to her, and she could become crazed with anger, hurt, mistrust, and resentment—a whole spectrum of emotions. Even if the rumor is a lie, that information has a definite impact on her spirit. But it is characteristic of Satan to work against God and the purpose of creation. Interaction with Satan always results in decay and destruction, misery and dilemma. His interference causes people suffering and depression—either at the moment or ultimately. His forces are the counterforce to God's. Yet accepting the reality of Satan is neither easy nor quick for a non-believer. While people may believe in the reality of evil, the reality of *Satan* becomes a much more difficult pill to swallow.

God is a spiritual being. His forces of goodness receive energy from His

love, and they have tremendous power. This spiritual being is so mighty, He created the whole cosmos. Yet the spiritual being known as Satan is so mighty, were it not for the interference from God or the Messiah, he could annihilate the entire physical world. The detrimental forces within today's world are absolutely satanic. Satan injects hatred, resentment, destruction, and negative thoughts into the minds of all people. He is incredibly powerful. His word is very strong; in fact, billions of people pay homage to him every day without realizing it. Billions of people have suffered under and served him, even without realizing what they were doing. It has become normal to live *against* the will of God and *for* the will of Satan.

The problem is that most of humanity is ignorant of the battle waged between God and Satan. The ways of Satan have become "law" and are regarded as norms in our society. The human race has been so manipulated, and become decayed and demoralized to such a degree that many people consider homosexuality "normal." Vices are shrugged off; people feel that they "can't help" their immorality, gambling, drug taking, alcoholism, etc. A great many people no longer consider those things so bad anymore, feeling that life today is the way it is because it is simply the way man developed. And they wonder who cares anyway—who can change it? What most people are not aware of is that all of these things not only deeply affect God, but also *offend* Him. In His sight, they are all sinful. Satan still continues to bring human society to new lows; the word of God makes little sense to many people. Human conscience is flattened and faulty. The voice of conscience inside us is so small and feeble, it is barely able to make itself known. It is drowned out by the thunderous voice of Satan. That little voice within us does not rebel in righteous anger, because fear has taken over. Hearts have become numb, deadened because people misunderstand and develop a misperception of the situation of the world. People feel the situation is out of their hands and they just resign themselves to the ways of the world. Resignation. Apathy. Those are the bywords of Satan, ones which he manages to spread at the same time he tightens his grip on the world!

Satan *is* real. And he must be stopped. The way we can do that is to rebel against satanic nature and behavior—starting with our own. We must be inspired by the word of God to inform all mankind about him. Every human being must come to recognize the manifestation of Satan in order to fight against and do away with Satan once and for all!

In my early years as a Unificationist leader, I drove out evil spirits from a number of people. I knew it was a possibility that those spirits might return immediately to some people who were spiritually weak and had

become accustomed to living with those spirits. They had created even more than a base for those spirits; those people provided a *home*, one which those spirits were very resistant to leave.

Sometimes a person's reaction is made by a spiritual being, not the person himself. One time a member announced, "I am Satan." I shouted back, "Satan, shut up and get out!" I meant for that *spirit* to leave, not the person. My words had an amazing effect on the spirit, and the member's body physically stiffened. Later on, I talked to her and every time I used words such as "God," "True Parents," or "Father," she would physically cower and say, "You know that you hurt me when you use those words." It was the spirits possessing her who could not tolerate those words. Some people are too weak to drive out evil spirits who influence them. Yet they should learn how to exorcise those spirits, not just rely on someone else to help them do it.

If you are bothered by such spiritual influences, it is best that you face facts. You have made a commitment to God and True Parents. Proclaim your love for them and your determination to get rid of your fallen nature, and live according to the Principle. You are a missionary. That *is* a fact. Therefore if anyone—visible or invisible—tries to tell you otherwise, don't listen! Say to the spirits, "Whoever you are and whatever you are trying to do, I want you to know that I am commissioned to witness about God and the True Parents because I love them. But I *don't* care much for you!" That kind of exclamation may even evoke a reaction that will allow you greater insight into the reality of Satan and the forces of evil.

Value is bestowed to a person once he is recognized as the son or daughter of God. And value comes to God when He is glorified. If somebody says, "God is dead," what kind of value do they give Him? God depends upon the response of mankind. If a person declares that he does not want to connect with God, what choice is God left with? Satan will dominate any person who does not connect with God. Satan's power manifests in destruction, and if he loses too much control over people, he may seek to obliterate the world. We cannot ignore the fact that there *are* enough nuclear forces to blow up the world, but that is yet another reason why we should never tire of proclaiming the goodness of God and the necessity for every person to love Him. And that is one more reason why we should do everything possible to dispense with the Evil One.

Satan still rules this world. People may feel there is relative good and relative evil, but actually Satan is all around us. That fact escapes a

good many people. People are generally unaware that Satan poses a threat to all mankind, yet Unificationists in particular have special concerns about what will happen in the next generations. The problem has to become important enough to us that we quickly create an environment in which the blessed children can live free from the effect of satanic powers. The trend in today's schools is a terrible problem, and thus the quality of education in many parts of the world suffers greatly.

The world of today is a potpourri consisting of vestiges of the old world interspersed with buds of the new one. As blessed people we have a hard time cultivating those blossoms as they try to sprout among the filth and litter of this world. We are continuously exposed to negativity, and most of us go through "culture shock" whenever we leave our home or church community. We experience spiritual flash floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes. Hot and cold clash, which creates whirlwinds of confusion and chaos. And we live in the midst of that, in fact right in the eye of the storm. Satan is still very real, and still rules this world.

Even though many people have received Jesus as their personal Savior, Satan is able to invade their words and deeds. Christianity has not been able to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. Many Christians could not apply the gospel in a practical way within their daily lives. It has been so difficult because Satan still hampers the efforts of every person who tries to return to God. The loneliness of God has continued. That too is real, and the longing man had to regain the right relationship to God has also persisted.

Satan has been working at a fast and furious pace. He wanted to make sure that no person on earth would recognize Father, or understand his position as Messiah. Although Satan failed to stop the truth, he has succeeded in making the world of today become like it was in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah described in the Bible. We live in a world of despair, hatred, and decadence. It is easy to recognize how real and rampant Satan is by looking at the state of society.

Many people who were faithful believers at one time may have become disillusioned; perhaps the pain of their suffering became too great, that they stopped living a life of faith. Whereas once they had a clear vision of True Parents, the Messiah, and the Kingdom of Heaven, that image slowly faded. They became confused and lured by the trappings available in the secular world, because Satan began to influence them more strong-

ly. They no longer searched for the face of God; instead they looked down and around and began to take delight in the things of the world.

We should make no mistake: God, perfection, and the Kingdom of Heaven *are* real. There is no reason for anyone to become disillusioned. There are two realities—God and Satan. Yet to downgrade our ideal simply because the rest of the world is ignorant of the principle of restoration is both a compromise and a cop-out. Anyone who wavers from spirituality to humanism will find himself treading on spiritual quicksand. Humanists find reason to deny the ideal and don't see Heaven coming down to earth. They become centered upon human beings, themselves, and the workings of society. If we were to follow their example and take God out of the center of life, it would be quite normal for us to become disillusioned and depressed.

Satan knows that his time is limited. That is why he works like the devil—which is what he is anyway! Many of the Israelites who crossed the desert became tired and wanted to return to their old way of life in Egypt where far more comforts abounded. They worried primarily about taking care of their families. Even though they were on the go for many years, in a moment of weakness, some of them were ready to give up everything. They could not recognize that they were succumbing to Satan's very real influence.

The same kind of spiritual affliction pervades our movement today. Yet the consequences are so much more weighty now than they were at that time. If we Unificationists don't succeed in helping the True Parents restore the world, the whole world could blow up—literally. Then what alternative will God have? *We* are the ones with virtually no choice. This world *must* be restored, no matter how much Satan works against that. God's power is just as real as Satan's; even though by ourselves we are not very strong, to become spiritually invincible, we need only to tap the reservoir of God!

Relationship with Satan

How accurate is the idea that each human being has a relationship with Satan? Very! We may not realize what constitutes our bond with him, but we can discover quite a few things by observing what takes us away from God. Often even the people who are staunch believers in God come to

question the existence and reality of Satan. Although most Unificationists believe he exists, we are often not strong enough in faith to avoid being duped by the clever tactics of Satan. He tries to get us to feel we no longer need to pray or make conditions of indemnity. Suddenly, we may hear within our own mind some voice telling us that a life of faith was okay for a certain number of years, but now we have to become one with society and unite it. That is *not* the voice of our conscience; it is Satan's. Yes, we have to bring the peoples of this world together, but we have to do it by following the will of God, and by "uniting" *with* society, which is what Satan wishes we would do. It is all too easy to develop a relationship with Satan; we must be cautious about the strength of his kind of warfare.

You are much greater than you think you are. If you think you are less than a child of God, that thought was planted by Satan. Usually you underestimate yourself—your power and your position. Don't. Each of us is important to God. Although in our position as God's sons and daughters we should be humble, humility is one thing, Satan's degradation is another. Satan always tells us that we are nothing, and indeed not worthy to be a son or daughter of God.

You may feel somewhat inadequate as you go to pray. You may feel that you are not able to stand before God because you are not holy enough. Satan may project before you all your sins, or list the qualities you lack. You may feel that they are barriers you simply cannot overcome. But these feelings are something you *must* get rid of. As people dedicated to the purpose of God, each of us has the right to stand before Him at any time; He accepts each of us as His child. Ultimately, Satan has to give us up.

There is nothing that God does not see. Nothing happens to us without some significance attached to it. Once you commit your life to God, He watches over you, under the condition that you live according to the Principle. Yet if you have give and take with Satan, Satan has the right to exert power over you. Especially because of your association with God, you can be assured that Satan will definitely try to smash you!

Create bases for God, not Satan. If you have evil thoughts and feelings or do something unprincipled, Satan will quickly arrive on the scene. But if you consciously work on overcoming such thoughts, after some weeks and months, you will grow stronger; Satan and evil spirits can

invade only if you allow them entry. If you feel and then confess to God that you cannot control them because they are too strong, Satan might take your admission as an invitation to stay within your heart. It is as if you tell him he is your boss, your god.

Why not turn the tables on Satan and accuse him! When you have those feelings, pray and in your prayer denounce Satan by saying, "You are the one who got mankind into this trouble in the first place; you instigated the fall; I can see your tricks. Leave me alone. I want to be with God." If you say such words and mean them, Satan just has to leave you. But you have to be really strong. You can drive out evil forces by yourself, but your relationship with Satan is not completely severed simply because you make a declaration that you want to be with God instead. There is much more to it. You have to be very careful not to create more negative bases by thinking or acting in an evil way.

Beware of worrying too much about your spouse, your family, or your future. Doing that allows Satan to intervene. Be responsible to shut him out of your life, not bid him to stay. Put God first. Unless He is the priority in your life, nothing will work. You will always be in trouble in your personal life and your family life unless you put God first.

Satan is always looking for bases to invade.—Impure hearts. Undivided offerings. We are the ones who decide whether or not we create a landing strip for Satan's invasion. Father takes one base after another away from Satan so that he will lose his footing and slip. On the other hand we create bases for Satan to invade every day through our words and deeds. Worrying about the future is one base for Satan as it is a compromise. We committed our lives to God. We repeat that rededication through offering the Pledge and our prayer life, but why then do we *still* have reservations about making a total sacrifice. We tend to think about how it is going to be in the future. I am not referring to the things which will happen in our work or our social responsibilities. It is natural to think about those things and do a certain amount of pre-planning; that is part of human responsibility. What I am referring to is being obsessed by what you will *do* in the future. That is a hook Satan can grab.

Satan uses our weaknesses. We have to overcome them and then accuse Satan. If you have received the Blessing, you no longer are connected to him, nor do you have to listen to him. Technically, he has nothing to do with you anymore. What he does is hang on to your past weaknesses, hoping that you don't realize he no longer has a right to try to separate you

from God. You then might feel depressed and timid because you also carry feelings from the past. They are what Satan uses to accuse you and drag you down. You are actually the one who allows your past to be brought into the present. You are used to being weak, to giving in to your inferiority complexes, to slowing down to a certain pace that feels comfortable, and even to throwing your hands up in resignation and giving up altogether. But those too are bases for Satan.

Do you have the ability to perceive the love that those around you have for you? Or does Satan try to blind you to this love? Does he try to convince you that you are no good and everybody else is better? Then deny Satan; simply don't let him do that. You can judge by the effect whether such thoughts come from God or Satan. If they make you smaller, drive you away from God or depress you, recognize that those thoughts do not come from God. God does not want to see anybody depressed; He would never say those things. He always inspires us. God is love, whereas fear—Satan's main trait—just smashes a person to pieces or makes him freeze.

Battling Satan

The closer we come to God through our relationship with the Messiah, the better off we will be. The more secure we are, the less waves of insecurity will be able to wash over and weaken us. The chains of Satan will ultimately just fall away altogether. We have to tell Satan that we no longer have anything to do with him. Declaring that your relationship with God is that of parent/child, is a first step in removing yourself from the domination of Satan. Tell him off! But to do that and then fall back into the old satanic ways will just make him laugh about your "commitment." Many Christians feel that being "washed" in the blood of Jesus will save them, and that they have no portion of responsibility in being saved, but God feels differently. We have to work in conjunction with God and accept our human responsibility. It is natural that He will want to have some say in the way you lead your life, once He becomes your sovereign leader. The Bible says that faith without works is dead. And we have to work hard to get away from Satan!

Satan uses brute force. In order for communism to spread the way it

has during its almost seventy years of existence, at least one hundred fifty *million* people were killed, for no real reason other than that they stood in the way of its development. Satan first struck the intelligentsia. He aimed for the top cream of those societies which were affected by communist aggression, and skimmed it off. Let's be serious: battling Satan is *real* life, and his tactics are very sobering. But at all costs we *must* prevent a world war or mankind could be set back to the primitivity of the stone age, and have to start technological development virtually from scratch.

Many people who do not believe in God also do not believe in the spirit world. Satan wants people to believe there is no spirit world, because he rationalizes that if they become convinced of that, he will succeed in getting them to lose faith that he exists. He perpetrates such ludicrous rumors about himself, even that Satan is a figment of the imagination. To battle with him, we must proclaim to people that God and spirit world most definitely do *exist*, as does a life everlasting. But at the same time, we should not overlook the need to herald the existence of Satan.

Be active. Satan works through idleness, laziness, and apathy. Some people just do the wrong things. When they are bothered by feelings of apathy, they simply withdraw because they feel they are not worth a dime. They feel guilty and allow that to hold them back from living a public life. They go to bed and turn around to face the wall. They try to sleep off their negativity and don't want to see or have anybody around. They don't realize that Satan walks right into the bedroom with them. If only the person would turn around and tell Satan to go to hell, climb out of bed and simply get busy, those feelings would eventually subside and he would not waste any time. But giving in to Satan is sometimes an emotional drain; we feel exhausted and believe that we need to sleep, so we rationalize doing just that.

Problems can most easily be overcome by going away from yourself and turning toward others, rather than a wall. Anyone who stew in the juices of his own problems always feels greater fear and experiences a much harder time to overcome those troubles. The best way to conquer your problems is to walk in the direction of God and work to accomplish His will. War with Satan—on behalf of God!

The world is full of "satans." More are being manifested every day. Satan is after the people closest to God. He pursued Jesus, and has gone

after True Father and the members of the True Family. As modern-day "saints," we Unificationists stick out like sore thumbs in this evil-filled world. We have to be careful, because he is surely after us!

On the other hand, if you notice that he does *not* go after you, stop and analyze why. Something is fishy. Examine what kind of disciple you really are. Working for God with total involvement means that you are armed and expect to fight against Satan at any moment. Our life of faith is a series of battles against Satan. No matter what we do—fundraise, witness, or work in any other mission—we are also in the "business" of redemption, as we strive to bring back all things and all people to God.

We will not learn about God simply by trying to convey the Principle. We also have to be active! The one who stays on the frontline and encounters the enemy has a chance of becoming the victor. But the one who sits on the fence, and lets others fight on the frontline will never become a champion. He will never win the war because he does not fight even one battle. Our war with Satan is not a simple skirmish; Satan does his best to deter us from fulfilling our goal. Therefore, we must consciously be aware that Satan will try to make us reluctant and lazy. These qualities come from self-centeredness. Feeling that you do not understand the Principle, or believing that you are too weak are just excuses. To get to the Kingdom of Heaven, you have to do something. In fact, if *we* don't work to create it, there will *be* no Kingdom of Heaven.

If you really live each day with a prayerful and humble attitude toward God, myriads of spirits and a great deal of divine power will be with you. You can help free anybody with the help of this power; that is what witnessing is all about. We help people to wrestle free from Satan and evil spiritual forces by encouraging them to perfect their hearts. We each have an original mind; its greatest desire is to come back to God. People intuitively *want* to be free from Satan, but they don't know how to go about it. It is our mission to assist them.

If Satan seems to offend you every day, you could make a condition of reciting the Pledge every morning. You do not necessarily have to say it at 5:00 a.m.; the important point of such an offering is your sincerity. By this indemnity condition, you dedicate your love to God. Therefore, when Satan comes to try and claim it, you can say that your love is completely "sold out."

If you come to feel that you can no longer repent or pray, realize these are just imaginary feelings, not reality. You have to make some condition, some motion toward Heaven, to back up your verbal or mental commitment. Such a condition invites God. Do your best not to create bases for Satan. Even if a negative thought seems somehow righteous and very logical to your intellect, it may directly oppose the will of God. You would do well to cast such thoughts from your mind.

If Satan no longer existed, we would no longer need to pray. Once we reach perfection, we will no longer need to pray about our personal situation. At that time Satan would no longer "exist" for us, yet we should still offer prayers for others.

We have trouble praying because Satan constantly interferes. The methods he uses may vary, but he and his loyal followers are definitely the ones who hold us back from communicating with God in prayer. Fight against it. Don't allow him to find a base within you that prevents you from praying. He hates it when people pray, unless they "pray" to him; he certainly wants to discourage people from talking to God. Satan fears that God may put all kinds of things into your mind and heart that oppose *his* will. If you have an intimate talk with God and exchange certain feelings in prayer, you will grow close together and deepen your love for one another. That leaves Satan out. Through prayer our hearts are "washed" and soothed. But Satan prefers that our hearts stay blackened with evil deeds and thoughts. Although Satan denies and instills the ideas that spirit world does not exist and there is no God, we "advertise" our belief in God and the spirit world when we pray. Satan tries to tell us things, but we can righteously proclaim Satan a liar because we have experienced things which he claims don't exist!

Get rid of satanic accusation. Some of it is real, but a great deal of it is completely unjustified. Perhaps we forgot that certain sins were already forgiven, or don't accept that they could be. Satan uses our ignorance of such matters to manipulate us, still claiming we belong to him. If you feel depressed, realize that feeling comes from Satan. Call on God, and be optimistic again. Become positive and get the strength to carry on.

Fear is from Satan, not God, so just disregard it. God is a good and loving Heavenly Father. All the inconsistencies we experience spiritually,

mentally, and physically are nothing but interference from Satan. They happen because we are not yet under the sovereignty of God's direct dominion. We still unite with Satan and he tries to make us believe crazy things.

We are in a war with Satan, yet it is possible to win that contest on all fronts. We each have to make up our mind and decide once and for all if we will give our life to God or not. Presently, it is only our time, our effort, our hard work, our dreams, and our plans that we offer for the sake of world salvation. Yet it may come to the point that we have to sacrifice our physical life.

If Satan tries to confuse you, you won't be bothered by him if you become spiritually stable. Demand that he leave you alone! That will put *you* in control of things, not him. But getting the strength and spiritual authority to do that takes a certain process. Each of us has to become mature and stable, physically and spiritually. We can do that by refusing to become involved with him. Mentally cut yourself off from his way of thinking. If you are not strong enough to argue back, don't even listen to him. Just walk away.

Satan tries to trap us in any way possible. You may feel compassion for a person and succeed in exorcising all the evil spirits within him, but then get stuck with them *yourself!* Be careful and take your work seriously. Take time for personal development. Become stable by learning and practicing the truth. Nurture your relationship with God and become spiritually strong. Be serious in fighting and gaining victory over Satan.

If you begin to think evil and satanic thoughts, you open yourself up to the possibility for Satan to accuse you. Neither failing in some venture, nor communicating adequately something you wanted to say, is a crime. God can forgive you of your mistakes. But a good intention remains only a good intention unless you battle against Satan's intervention by asking God for forgiveness. In battle it is possible to go forward, backward, or sideways. Sometimes you may hide in the trenches for a whole day while the battle goes on all around you. But eventually you have to leave the trenches and go out in combat again. We do this in our spiritual wars, too.

Through the thousands of years of human history, satanic forces were able to enter people even through their trivial, insignificant thoughts.

For generations, Satan himself has been so tangibly involved in our lives. Life is made up of many, many little events; one day is a conglomerate of countless details. In the past, Satan was the star attraction—the center of them all. For us, *God* now takes the central position. We still have to be conscious of chasing Satan out of our lives. We have to offer even the most seemingly insignificant actions to God, not Satan.

Because of the fall, every human being has become a child of Satan. We personally communicated with Satan for so many years, but now God is in the process of claiming us back. We are in a kind of "buffer zone" and have to make a decision to proclaim either God or Satan as our father. If we decide upon God, we have to be aware that Satan is going to ask for payment. That is where our course of indemnity begins. We have to work our way *away* from "the deceiver of the whole world."

When you witness to someone, you have to cleanse his heart with love. He may feel so spiritually light and free he will desire to hear more of God's truth. But you also have to be careful that he can sustain this elevated state. He will definitely "come down" as soon as the spiritual energy you infused him with—through your prayer or indemnity condition—wears off. The same thing goes for you. You battle Satan every day. If you are not coated with the love of God by girding yourself with a prayer belt, you may get depressed; working against the forces of Satan takes great amounts of energy. Be sure *you* win the war!

Once the spirit of God left Adam and Eve, weakness overtook the human heart and mind. Their will was no longer their own but rather in the hands of Satan. Mankind could no longer use the free will given by God. Even though people wanted to return to God, they could not because they were forced into doing the will of Satan. A new law ruled them, and they were taught new ways of doing things and hence developed new habits. Later, they could no longer recognize that there was anything wrong with what they were doing, so they kept on repeating and multiplying sin throughout the ages.

Today's society calls religious people crazy. Satan?—There is no Satan! You must be mistaken. People say that "normal" behavior is what everybody does. Human behavior has become degraded, yet is an accepted standard of value, one many people regard highly. Some people have been on the lookout for higher standards, and did the best they could. But they

and their world are still dominated by Satan. So many people are unaware of this situation, because they have not seen the other side of the coin; they simply don't know anything better. Once you are confronted with the absolute truth, you will discover something is wrong with the way you have been living your life. That is also when you might hear the battle cry of Satan sound!

The Traits of Satan

It is to our advantage to understand sin. Life becomes different once you receive forgiveness of your sins. Until the emergence of True Parents, the original sin could not be forgiven. But Father has identified the root of sin, "dug" it up, exposed it, and shows how much decay it has caused. He restored, or replaced, it with a pure root and then engrafted us into that "tree" of new humanity. After we have time to flower, we will bloom with good fruit.

Our ancestors, including our parents, form the "roots" of our family tree. Even though the root is restored through the forgiveness of sin, the juice from the old root will still flow through the trunk, branches, and leaves for a time. The roots will draw in purified water, which will eventually reach the rest of the tree; it is only a matter of time before the whole tree will be saturated with the goodness absorbed by the root.

We will not automatically and totally rid ourselves of the other types of sins overnight. Even though the original sin has been forgiven, you still make mistakes. More than anything, I would say they are sins of *omission* rather than *commission*. We fail to love—our parents, our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, our friends, and even our God and True Parents. Sometimes a thought that is impure may steal into your mind. You don't know whether it came from you, is a carryover from the past, or a spiritual influence. Upsetting as this might be, realize that none of us are yet totally cleansed of sin. It is rather normal that such thoughts would come. However, urge them to leave your mind again. The important thing is to make sure you don't act upon them.

Original sin is forgiven through the Blessing ceremonies. From that point on, Satan himself no longer has the right to accuse us. But the angels and saints are able to chastise us if we make mistakes. The only condition that would give Satan cause to accuse us is if we commit the fall.

If you have the attitude that God is first in your life, then Satan cannot accuse you. If a husband loves his wife more than he loves God, Satan has grounds for accusation. If the couple loves their own baby more than they love God, this too is grounds for accusation. God and His will must come first. Make sure that you embrace and love God before you embrace and love your spouse. That is the secret to spiritual growth. If you become completely involved in your mission and exhibit great love for God, you will have little time for your partner. Yet that is grounds for respect, and from that, God bestows blessings. Just give more to God. The more you give to God, the more you will receive for your family's growth, security, and future.

Sin is everything that goes against the fulfillment of the purpose of creation—whether thought, word, or deed. Keep your body, your mind, and your spirit in good shape. That is part of our human responsibility. Nothing is ours alone; we are attached to a Higher Being.

Sin is a great burden. Sometimes we don't know what actually holds us back. The heavy stone in our heart prevents communication with God. We have to get rid of it; the only way it can be removed is through purging ourselves in repentance. There may be some sins hidden away which we never examined or that we forgot about. There may be certain things which were embedded within us by our ancestors. But as representatives of all mankind working for the restoration of the entire world, we have to take the responsibility to research our hearts and cleanse them through engaging in tactical warfare with Satan. We do that by going to God in repentance and asking His forgiveness.

If you do your best for God, then accusation against you is unjustified. It is not your conscience that accuses you, but Satan. Therefore, those allegations best be forgotten.

How can you serve others if you are not free? Satan may accuse you constantly for the things you did, but he does not stop there: he then accuses you for not doing enough. You probably feel even more depressed. When that happens, you don't even want to look at other people. You don't want to be with anyone, and you do not even care about fulfilling your responsibility to love and serve your brothers and sisters. Those feelings also come from Satan; they come as a result of his accusation. He

snares us through using a small thought and then builds a trap that we blindly walk into. Accusation is his weapon. With it, he shoots bullet after bullet of our sins hack at us, in his attempts to make sure we cannot forget them.

YOU are the one who determines where you live—Heaven or hell. It depends upon your attitude. Those around you can be in Heaven, while you sit alone in hell. There is no earthly location called "hell"—we create it. Hell is a state of mind and heart in which we reside when we allow ourselves to become sucked into a negative attitude and behavior.

Some people try to figure out how they can hurt others; they are very individualistic and do not intermingle with others. In the spirit world such people will sit in their little corners and try to figure out how to cheat others; they will devise schemes to benefit themselves during the next millenium. That is hell. Hell is where you live if you are always on the take, always seeking to gain. You do not actually benefit from the divine and loving environment and people around you because you no longer recognize it. Neither do you experience the fulfillment of the purpose of creation. Living in hell, we are deprived of all the beautiful things God offers us.

You have to get rid of your old concepts, and the depressing thoughts Satan puts in your mind. Thoughts that assure you that you are too dirty and cannot touch the holiness of God. You actually hurt God if you stay away from Him. Come close to Him no matter what it is you communicate. Remember how much He loves and accepts you. You alone can do that for yourself.

It is important to understand the spiritual environment as well as how spiritual influence can change it in a matter of seconds. Some people create a base for low and depressed spirits to live with them. Analyze what it was that made you feel depressed; you will find that you created a base somewhere along the line. If you move away from God, within a moment you step right across the border and into the realm of Satan. You may think you still walk within God's realm—even though you feel you are on the outskirts—but actually you walked away from that realm long ago. Then evil spirits came to taunt you, causing you to suffer. If you could recognize their presence immediately and then work to do something about it, you would feel joy. But if you do something bad, your "reward" is depression.

Kick out those former thoughts and start feeling happy. Satan always makes his presence known when you are weak. If you don't order him to leave, you can be sure he will stay around.

We must understand what goes on in spirit world. We have to understand where our feelings come from. You cannot simply notice that a certain person is negative and pass it off. Negativity is a result of something. Positivity is also a result of something. *Something* must have happened to cause your current state of mind. God comes into your heart when you are joyful. How did He get there? And how is it that Satan wriggles in sometimes? These are things worth investigating.

The Power of Satan

The power of God is so real, and a million times greater than Satan's. Actually, Satan has no power. All the power that Satan claims is his, ultimately comes from the misuse of God's principles. It was God, not Satan, who created the universe. Satan exists only because he has objects who communicate and unite with him. But if all those objects would refuse to communicate with him, his power would quickly be depleted and he could no longer stay alive.

It is human beings who allow Satan to continue to exist and give him credibility. And we are the ones who can destroy him. That is exactly what Father is doing. God is taking one person after another away from Satan's realm; each then experiences a rebirth through True Parents. This diminishes Satan in size and power. In the end, he will simply fade away.

In the Wizard of Oz story, everyone in the land was so afraid of the Wicked Witch of the West, and consequently she held incredible power over them. She threatened and cajoled people and backed them into a corner until they obeyed her. What none of the people realized is that she would melt if water was poured over her. When the Wicked Witch caught on fire, the story's heroine doused her with water. But the Wicked Witch screamed in anguish as she disappeared before the eyes of the incredulous onlookers. We have to find the right "water" to pour over Satan. By strengthening our relationship with God and refusing to have give and take with Satan, we essentially make a statement, giving our loyalty to God. Then it will be a matter of time before we hear the anguished screams of Satan, as we watch him disappear before our eyes.

But in the meantime, if you feel fear or the presence of Satan, visualize the True Parents in your mind. Satan will then seem to diminish in size to you, and "fade away."

The one who stands in the way of your personal restoration is not Satan, but you yourself! Satan has no reason to accuse those who are blessed, so why should blessed members feel any guilt? Their sin is forgiven, and Satan has no more jurisdiction over their lives. When you make mistakes, it is your conscience—in its effort to direct you toward perfection—which "accuses" you. In addition, the saints who have suffered for thousands of years may also accuse you. They watch all of us closely and might feel a certain resentment because they gave their physical lives for the cause, but we receive the Blessing for much less payment. We have to discern what limits there are on Satan's power: after a person receives the Blessing, Satan loses power over him. Previously, Satan may have flaunted it in front of him.

Satan has no interest in trying to persuade a stubborn person to stay enlisted in his "troops." There are plenty of other people he can get much more easily by providing simple temptations. If he discovers that a person is really living for God and with the True Parents, he will stop running after him. He may make another attempt sometime later, but if the person shows the same strength, Satan will withdraw again. Basically, he is lazy. And he is quite the opportunist. If you overcome something once, expect that he will try tempting you again. He actually hates defeat. If you are successful in overcoming the strongest of temptations, Satan will lose the little shred of patience he possesses, and then leave you alone for awhile.

Overcoming will take determination and perseverance on your part, but remember the tiny thoughts, feelings, and actions are what allow him to stick his foot in the door of your life. Once he does, he kicks that door wide open and not only does he walk through it, he also walks all over you!

The whole process can start in a moment of weakness. You create a little base, but it grows bigger and bigger. In the end, it is as large and as sturdy as a stone wall. However, you can stop the construction of that wall. When unprincipled feelings and thoughts come into your mind, open the back doors in your heart and mind and immediately bid those thoughts and feelings farewell. That will create a distance between Satan and you; time and distance can make the difference. If you turn weaknesses into strengths, Satan will leave you alone, for his level of tolerance—and hence his power—do have certain limitations.

Satan blocks us from breaking through to God. Satan whispers, "You have nothing to do with God. Do you see or feel Him? No? Well, then that proves it! You must be very far away from God." That is the moment we could start to feel depressed, allowing him to succeed in winning a battle.

It is not God who complains about your past, but Satan. To be active and effective for God in the future, don't succumb to the pangs of conscience you feel because of your past. While it is normal that you feel bad for any mistakes you make, what good does it do to allow Satan to make inroads through accusation. One thing it is certain to do is diminish your strength to work for God. Realize that when you have one foot in Satan's world, and one foot in God's, you hurt God tremendously.

Accusation comes from Satan, not God. Make sure you do your very best to combat any feelings of inadequacy. If you muster the right attitude and sincerity, then whether your result is large or small, it can be accepted as an offering. However, if you are lazy, waste time, or become apathetic about doing your best, Satan has the right to accuse you. It is when you are united with God, and your relationship with Him is bound by love, that you have nothing to worry about.

Satan tries his very best to get us to feel bad and as though we are somehow inferior to other people. He wants us to feel as though we do very little for God each day. But he wants to disguise the fact that if we work with the right attitude all day long, then no matter what result was achieved, our offering can be accepted by God.

Satan knows he already has command over the weak people; if they try to escape from him, they will find themselves in real trouble. He has incredibly strong domination over them; unless they fight to get away, he will *keep* them under his thumb, and in his realm. According to the law of God, Satan has no right whatsoever to push down God's sons and daughters and hook them up to puppet strings that he uses to pull and control someone. Satan's own set of laws is quite different. He is the one who took the law of God and twisted it for his own purpose.

Satan usually tests us according to our weaknesses. Each of us knows

many of our particular weaknesses and should strive to overcome them. You can expect that Satan will pursue you even after you have been a Unificationist for many years. He may even come with the same tests he used before. But if you reject him, what recourse will he have? He may try again, but he will not waste his time unnecessarily. He has many things to do, one of which is to stop the world from slipping away from him.

Satan uses what he can to hinder God's cause. A mechanic working on a car or airplane may create a base of negativity, then become sloppy in his work habits and simply not care if he does a shoddy job. But that is just enough of a base for Satan to intervene. That mechanic then becomes a pawn for Satan, and his bad attitude may result in the fact that many lives might be jeopardized because of his workmanship.

We should want to help get rid of the spirits around a person who is possessed in an extreme way. Spirits which depress a person and hinder his progress must be stopped. Doing that will block Satan's power. The way to drive out evil spirits is to expose those spirits for what they are doing. Once their intention is brought out in the open and they realize that we know how they function, they will lose their hold on us. If they have already lived with a person for years, that person may attract them back again, if he did not purify his thoughts and feelings.

If spirits are driven away, they can come back only if the person calls them back. A simple statement, "Oh, I'm so depressed," does just that. The "depressed" spirits scurry back. We are the ones who feed those spiritual beings; they are power-hungry just like their father, the devil. But if the person is firm in refusing to have anything more to do with them, they have to leave. The strength of your conviction, even your tone of voice, makes the difference. We have to use power instead of allowing them to *overpower*.

When you verbalize a goal, it is as if you telegraph Satan, who then sends every available force to block your way.

Satan can have no power over you if you relate to God totally, and accept the fact that He loves you just as you are. The evil spiritual forces surrounding you then have to leave. If you are bothered by those self-accusative spirits, part of your human responsibility is to overcome them. Satan looks for easy prey. He realizes that he does not have so much time

left, but must work fast to expand his congregation before God succeeds in converting all the people.

In a way, one of the greatest enemies of God is ignorance. Because those in authority were ignorant about certain spiritual laws, people—often extremely intelligent ones—were killed as witches. Because those "witches" seemed somehow different from other people, they were considered bad, and were annihilated.

Through knowledge of universal laws, spiritual laws, and societal laws, people become freer and more secure, and as a result, their fear decreases. Yet on the basis of ignorance of those laws, satanic influence can work. Satan always uses a person's ignorance to continue to pull the wool over his eyes.

Satan attempts to attack the people most important to God. In our movement, he has tried to destroy Father, but since he finds no receptive base, he often tries to work within the spiritual hierarchy. He tries to dissuade the most influential Unificationists from reaching their goals for God. Satan *is* powerful and we should never underestimate that power; it is fearsome. But he is the enemy and we should never lose sight of the fact that we must conquer him. We certainly should not be apathetic about his attempts to win victory.

If you witness to someone and wonder why he does not come back a second time, realize that Satan has been at work. Satan's influence is incredibly strong in his ability to take people away from doing the will of God. If you don't think much about Satan—because you feel that he is not much to worry about—you may be very surprised at how far off base you are. Through your determination *not to* recognize when he rears his ugly head, you give him ample chance to hook you to a ball and chain. Because you don't recognize him, you also don't see the weight you are carrying around. Perhaps you think Satan would not waste his time trying to prevent a person from coming back to listen to more of the Principle; if you think so, you are dead wrong. The Principle is what speaks of his crime, and he certainly does not want people to get wise to his tactics.

Recognize that Satan's power is very strong, therefore you should pray to intercede for a person who is listening to the Principle. Realize too that you should pay indemnity for him so that he can learn more and arm himself with enough spiritual strength to engage in his own battle against Satan. Most of the time we are too lackadaisical and make no strong condi-

tions to protect people. That is when Satan tries to take them away. That is why people never come back or never come in the first place, even though they makes promises to do so. We must never underestimate the cunning and power of Satan.

The Messiah comes to sever the ties people have with Satan. By doing so, he then reconnects people with God. One benefit is that the power of God is strengthened and multiplied, and the power of Satan is diminished. If everybody returns to God, there will be no one left to have give and take with Satan. We know that Satan is an angel, originally created by God. He will remain an angel, and eventually be restored. It is a matter of time before he loses his power over people and will have to pay indemnity to be restored. Yet losing his objects is indemnity in itself. I feel there will be a time when people will leave Satan's realm in droves. If the majority of people come to believe in God and do good, how can the rest of the people still act satanic and do the bidding of Satan? Everyone wants the best for himself. If a person realizes that doing good will ultimately benefit him, he will do just that.

So many of the messengers sent by God were murdered. What kind of evil force can do that? This force occupies the hearts of people so totally, that many people turn against God and even want to destroy *Him*. They want to obliterate the source of life, the origin of goodness and joy. What kind of personality can inspire people to do that? It is the "artful dodger," the devious one—the one whom we call Satan.

Until we perfect ourselves, we can expect Satan to interfere in our daily lives. If he cannot succeed in working directly through us, he will work through the people closest to us. As soon as some sort of disaster fells you, understand it could be Satan up to his old tricks. But why not stop *your* "old tricks." —This time do not allow yourself to become stagnated or depressed. If you get knocked down by Satan, get up immediately and start moving again. Repent and don't allow feelings of depression to consume you. Forget what happened. It will be forgiven anyway. Don't increase Satan's power by bending toward his will.

Satan has no principles of his own. The way he creates energy is by putting himself in the subject position and having give and take with all his

objects. He gets his energy through people. For thousands of years he has worked hard to create intimate relationships with people. That is how he has continued his reign as god of this world. He went exactly by the Principle, by the natural and spiritual laws that originated in God.

If you compromise even in the smallest way, realize that Satan will invade. The smallest doubt, the most subtle weakness, or even a feeling of lovelessness is enough of a foundation for him to use. He is always on the lookout for the weakest people. He delights in putting a whole mission into jeopardy through the behavior of the weakest person, and then watching everybody else suffer as a result.

Satan knows all too well what your weaknesses are. He successfully slides into your heart, and even when you believe you are still with God, he tries to hide the fact that you have already entered his territory—through just a feeling, a thought, or an action. That is when the self-accusation starts, and Satan stands back watching, and laughs hysterically: "I've got you again!"

Develop patience and have compassion with yourself, but keep on going. If you make a mistake, get up, dust yourself off, and start again on your way back home to God. If you dwell on your sins, Satan will grab your feelings. It is easy to become depressed once you make a mistake, but if you become obsessed with it, you will be unable to serve God as much as before. A person who is happy can do the most for God, much more than someone who is depressed; a person who is down-hearted has a hard time seeing the beauty and clarity of God. Our power has to become stronger than Satan's, but that can only happen when our power comes straight from the love of God.