

LIVING WITH EVIL

First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida

One Church - Two Locations

September 14, 2025

2 Corinthians 2:11 (CSB) so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

There are 6 times satan is quoted directly.

1. Genesis 3:1-5 (CSB) Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"⁴"No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Satan wants to take away your blessings.
- Satan wants to get you to focus on you. You are the most important person, or you are not worth anything!

2. Job 1:8-11 (CSB) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil."⁹Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?¹⁰Haven't you placed a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But stretch out your hand and strike everything he owns, and he will surely curse you to your face."

- Satan believes that if a Christian does not have "things," a Christian will stop following God, or curse God, or live a lifestyle completely contrary to God's Word.

3. Job 2:4-5 (CSB) "Skin for skin!" Satan answered the LORD. "A man will give up everything he owns in exchange for his life. ⁵But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

- Satan believes that if a Christian faces a significant health struggle, the Christian will turn away from God. "Why is this happening to me? I do not deserve this."

4. Matthew 4:3-4 (CSB) *Then the tempter approached Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."⁴ He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

- Satan wants you to focus on you.

5. Matthew 4:5-6 (CSB) *Then the devil took Him to the holy city, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."*

- Satan wants you to take up a noble cause, one that you think is the right thing to do.

6. Matthew 4:8-9 (CSB) *Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.⁹ And he said to Him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."*

- Satan wants you to trade God's blessings for temporary fame.

The Biblical way to live in the presence of evil.

Romans 12:9-21 (NLT) *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.²⁰ Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.*