

IDENTIFYING SATAN'S LIES

- 1. Check Scripture.** Do the things you believe about yourself line up with what God says about you? If not, then toss them out, because most likely it's the devil trying to trip you up. Say you hear a voice in your head saying, *You're a mistake*. That's a lie, because the Bible clearly says, "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart ... " (Jeremiah 1:5a NLT).
- 2. Know the difference between conviction and condemnation.** God convicts; Satan condemns. One of Satan's favorite things is to tell you that you're too far gone, that you're beyond the reach of God's grace and you'll never get back on track.
But check this out: "For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night" (Revelation 12:10b NLT). That accuser is Satan. He's constantly trying to get you to submit to failure and give up on your Christian walk.
God, on the other hand, is your Heavenly Father. He may convict you about things you do wrong, and He may correct you like a father would His child, but if you've accepted Christ as your Savior, He no longer condemns you. Here's the proof: "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1 NLT).
If you hear a voice telling you to stop doing what you know is wrong, it's probably God, but if it's saying *you're a failure, you've run out of second chances and there's no hope left for you*, that's Satan. Don't listen to him.
- 3. Seek counsel.** Go to a trusted Christian mentor, such as a small group leader, youth pastor or a parent, and ask for his or her opinion on whether or not you're believing lies. He or she could have some valuable insight!

REFUTING THE LIES: HERE'S HOW!

- 1. Saturate yourself with God's truth.** Hebrews 4:12a says, "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword" (NLT). God's Word is our most valuable weapon. Verses throughout the Bible compare the Holy Scriptures to a sword—a weapon given to us specifically to defeat the enemy. Use it.
- 2. Pray.** Cry out to your Heavenly Father for help. James 1:5 says, "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking" (NLT). If you're unsure whether something you're believing is a lie, ask God about it. Ask Him to open your eyes to the devil's schemes. He's ready and willing to help.
- 3. Accountability.** Once you start believing a lie, it can send you on a downward spiral toward depression, fear, anger and distance from God. That's why it's important to remain close with other believers and be honest with each other about what's going on inside your head. Together you can unearth Satan's ploys and put a stop to them.

Hebrews 10:25 says, "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near" (NLT). Encourage one another. Keep each other accountable. If you see a sister in Christ believing a lie, help point her toward the truth. She can do the same for you. Check out p. 8 for more on accountability!

DON'T GIVE UP!

No matter how old you get, Satan will always be trying to trick you. He doesn't give up, but neither does God. And 1 John 4:4b says that, "he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (English Standard Version). So take heart! Cling to God's truth and ask Him to help you defeat the deceiver. 📖

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