

The work of Christ was to destroy the works of the devil, 1 John 3:8. There are two types of people: the children of God and children of the devil, 1 John 3:10. As a new creation in Christ, Satan can't exact full anger and wrath upon believers.

In Matthew 10:1, Jesus extends His authority to His disciples to continue the work that He has begun Matthew Chapters 5-9.

4 Aspects of the Summoning of Jesus' 12 Disciples

1. **Assembly:** V1, the 12 disciples are summoned. Jesus has gone into the towns and villages as described in 9:35-38. Jesus has chosen them from according to God's will. Luke 6:12, says that Jesus prayed the whole night before choosing them from among all the disciples.
 - a. **Why 12:** 1) Jesus' choice. 2) Future kingdom role, Matt. 19:28, to judge the tribes of Israel. The apostles are the "sent ones," and witnesses of Christ. They were present at His baptism, had seen His works, and specifically chosen by Christ.
 - b. Jesus promised the apostles to send the Holy Spirit to bring all His words to their remembrance. They would be witnesses to the world, perform miracles to confirm the message of the kingdom of God, and the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth, John 16:13-15.
2. **Authority:** V1, "gave them authority," which is the power, ability, and facility to perform the miracles (10:1) and proclaim the kingdom of God (10:7). The miracles confirmed the truth of the Gospel and Jesus' had the authority, as God, to give authority to others according to God's will. Jesus demonstrated His authority in His preaching (7:29) and His works (8:27, 9:8, 9:33). Jesus now sends them out in pairs (Mk. 6:7, Deut.19:15).
3. **Adversaries:** V1, unclean spirits are fallen angels that are opposed to God, God's people, Jesus, and anyone whom God has saved. They are capable of harming others. They are liars and influence the teachings of false teachers, 1 Tim. 4:1.
 - a. **Satan** is our adversary as seen in the OT. Job 1-2, Gen. 3, Is. 14:10-19, Ez. 28:11-19, Ps. 106:37-38. Satan hates Israel, Zech. 3:1-2. He tempted David with pride to number Israel, 1 Chron. 21:1. In the NT, Christ attests to his power and authority. Satan asks to kill Peter and the apostles, Luke 22:31. Satan entered the heart of Judas to betray Jesus, Jn. 13:27. He prowls around looking to devour believers, 1 Pet. 5:8. He is the source of evil, Jn. 8:44.
 - i. Satan is a person and a spirit being, with intellect (2 Cor. 11:3), emotion (Rev. 12:17), and a will to deceive (Rev. 20:7-10). Satan is morally accountable for his actions. Judgement is coming for him, Rev. 20:10. Satan has tremendous, but limited, power, Job 1:12. Satan is a creature, **not** the Creator, Ezekiel 28:15. He doesn't possess God's attributes of being omnipresent, omniscient or omnipotent. He is of the class of cherubim and was the chief of angels, Ez. 28:11-19. He has access to heaven to accuse until he is cast out in Rev. 12: 9-13. He will be bound for 1,000 years, Rev. 20:7-10.
 - ii. God's love keeps us and protects us from the power of Satan, Rom. 8:31-39.
 - iii. Do we cast out demons today? Jesus has given us the Gospel to proclaim which is the power of God unto salvation, Rom. 1:16-17. We proclaim Christ to defeat darkness and wickedness.

4. **Afflictions:** V1, unclean spirits, every kind of disease and sickness.
 - a. Unclean spirits: were seen as demonic activity or because of sin by those in that time. People were sick and freed once the demon(s) was cast out. Illnesses were seen as caused by supernatural power. Superstition was used to attribute sin to those who suffered or had family members who suffered from mental illnesses. There was false guilt, and even the Pharisees taught that sin and God's displeasure for someone resulted in sickness and disease.
 - i. Hebrews 2:3-4 speaks of the salvation spoken of by Jesus and attested by signs, wonders, and various miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and His apostles demonstrated that all men could be recipients of the grace and mercy of Christ.
 - ii. **Two lessons the apostles learn from this time in Matthew 10:** 1) The apostle's primary mission was preaching the coming Kingdom of heaven, Matt. 10:7. 2) They had no inherent power in themselves. God alone changes the hearts and creates a new spirit within man by the Holy Spirit (John 3). The apostles become devoted to prayer and preaching in their ministry for the Lord, Acts 6:4.

Further Discussion and Application

The example of the apostles being sent out to perform miracles and signs is a testimony to power of the Gospel. What distinguishes apostles from disciples? Acts 1:21-22, provides a list of qualifications for apostleship. What are those requirements? Why are there no more apostles? Jude 3 speaks of the faith that was once and for all handed down to the saints. Why is no further new revelation needed of God's kingdom and Gospel?

The works of Satan are evident in the world we live in. Who is Satan? What are the limits of his power and authority? How do believers wage war against his powers and authority? Why is prayer effective against him? Being a spiritual being, he is subject to the Father and Son of God. What is his history and future?

Read Romans 8. What are the promises given to believers in their struggle against sin and against the powers in heavenly places? Why does John give a blessing that our faith overcomes the world, 1 John 5:1-5. Because we remain in the world, why is this a comfort to us while we stay and live for the Lord?