



cling to their conscious awareness of the existence of God. They may be a million miles from the truth in their understanding of Him, but their hearts confirm that there is a God.

In both minds, the base-factor deals with God! No other single topic can claim such universal and total preoccupation, even while some people are in the throes of denial! This fact alone speaks decisively. If there were no God, in Whose image we are made, and to Whom our spirits call as a lost child to a parent, this universal and continuing outreach to Him would have “evolved” out of existence aeons ago.

Another thought comes to mind: “I’ve never *seen* Satan, either, but there is *no doubt* about his existence. Why?”

◆ Reason number one: I can look around and see his work on every hand, as sin and evil and the resulting destruction take their toll.

◆ Reason number two: In contrast to Satan’s tactics, God doesn’t trail through our minds a barrage of questions and doubts about Satan’s existence! God, Himself, tells us that Satan exists and that he is our unrelenting enemy: *“Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). God fosters our belief

in the reality of Satan — because he *is* real — and God wants us to be forewarned so that our defenses will be up.

Following this line of reasoning, since the prevalence of evil in the world is unquestioned testimony to the existence of Satan, is not the unquenchable good, in contrast, evidence also of the existence of God? And would not we expect that the enemy of God would be the continual instigator of doubts, since God forewarns us, *“... the devil...was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it”* (John 8:44).

“Thank you, Father, for Your watchful care while I slept, and for a living faith that sustains me during my waking hours.”



Doubts and Fears: Satan's Challenges

Betty Burton Choate

World Evangelism Tracts
 Phone: 662-283-1192
 Choate@WorldEvangelism.org
 www.WorldEvangelism.org
 Request a free Bible Correspondence Course
Presented by the Church of Christ





Doubts and Fears: Satan's Challenges

Betty Burton Choate

I wake in the morning to the consciousness of the presence of God. My heart speaks words of thankfulness to Him that while I slept He continued, watchful and loving, caring for all the parts of life that required His attention.

But Satan trails a thought through my head. "You haven't *seen* God. Suppose He is, as the skeptics say, only a crutch in your head. What then?"

In willingness to be fair and open-minded, I try that concept. *What then?*

There is blankness in my heart. The warm love I had directed toward God dries up at its source. My feeling of security disappears. I no longer have an anchor and a certainty to life. There is no sense of direction about where I am going, ultimately.

With nothing greater in my head than myself, no purpose greater than the demands of today's physical existence — because tomorrow may not come, and there is no eternal existence on the horizon — blankness, and then fear, and futility flood every crevice of my mind.

Without God, it is worse than, "Nothing is left." It is, "I still exist, and all of the *challenges of this world* still exist, and yet I face this existence with the acceptance of the dead fact that **I have no help**. There is no one greater than this frightened self to whom I can turn." I marvel that suicide is not imminently on the horizon for all of those who lose faith in a Higher Being.

Yet a persistent thought pierces the fear of aloneness. "But **you** exist. And **all the wonders of life and of the physical world** around you exist. Those are facts that cannot be denied — and **it had to be through the power of Someone far greater than the most intelligent humans that such marvels of existence came into being.**"

Another reality floods my mind: "Yes, you know now that your greatest devastation would not be the loss of a husband, or the loss of a parent or a child, whom you have seen. The greatest devastation would be in the very loss of belief in God, even though you have never seen Him."

The absoluteness of these facts in my heart speaks to Satan's mockery and doubt-raising. In all of man's 'progress' and 'sophistication,' would humanity not have outgrown this 'primitive' belief in God, if He were only a crutch, dreamed up in the minds of humans?

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4).

The very soul of humanity cries out the existence of God:

"Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, Lord, I will seek.'

"Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me" (Psalm 27:7-10)!

Even today, there are two classes of people in the world: the minority who are conscious of their rejection of God and who have, statistically, a higher rate of behavioral and emotional problems, and a higher suicide rate than believers.

On the opposite side are the believers, who are the majority. In some form or another, they

