

## **The Enemy I Didn't Know Was Real**

Welcome back to Baby **Steps with Christ**. I'm your host, Leigh Trupin. This is a place where we take small baby steps towards knowing God personally without the pressure of religion, where we learn we can build a real relationship with God and that we have direct access to Him. No middleman, no prerequisites, just an invitation to begin recognizing who God is for yourself in everyday life.

Today's episode is not an easy one, but it is a necessary one. I'm talking about Satan. While churches often teach us about scripture, **no church I've attended went deep into the reality of our enemy**. And that's a shame because what a danger Satan can be if you don't know about him.

In this episode, I'm going to share with you how **I unknowingly gave Satan access to my life**. Not because I meant to, but because I didn't know better. I didn't have a clear understanding of who he is and what he's capable of. And that ignorance opened a door I never meant to open. And believe me, after what I went through, I'll never open it again.

I want to tell my story not to scare you, but to enlighten you. Not to glorify the enemy, but to expose him. Because **Satan thrives in darkness and confusion**. And he's counting on your ignorance to stay hidden. **The less you know about him, the more room he can operate in your life unnoticed**.

And I realize that if you've never personally experienced God or Satan, it can be hard to believe that they both exist. I'm not here to force either belief on you. But as you listen to my story, I ask that you simply keep an open mind. Because my story may sound unbelievable, yes, yet it was my living nightmare for four years. And I'm sharing in the hopes that you will avoid the trap I fell into.

So **let's talk about the real danger of not knowing who your enemy is**. Like me, if you didn't grow up believing God existed, you probably didn't realize Satan existed either. Or maybe you did grow up believing in both, but you aren't completely aware of how dangerous Satan can be if you're unwise to his tactics. Either way, today I'm going to share my story of how I allowed Satan full control over me because I was never taught about him.

Of course, I heard about him in theory. Church would drill into my head that Satan comes to seek, kill, and destroy. But to me, those were just words because there was never any in-depth conversation as to who Satan is and what he's capable of if you're unprepared and unwise to him.

And I've also seen The Exorcist. I actually enjoyed that movie. But I never thought, not in a million years, that any of that was possible. **It was all entertaining and fictional to me until it became my reality. And yes, I'm talking about possession.**

I got so caught up in Satan's trap that I ended up just like that, possessed. I became possessed almost like you may have seen in that movie. Not quite as dramatic. My head didn't spin around, my face wasn't all cut up, but the concept of the movie was the same.

And if you're like I was and don't believe it's possible, or **if you've been conditioned to believe that possession isn't real or possible for someone following God, I'm here to tell you you're wrong.** It's very real. And unlike what you saw in that movie, if you've watched it, my ordeal wasn't over in two hours. My deliverance didn't happen all at once. I was caught up in Satan's trap for four years.

And once I learned how to be set free, it still took me months to be fully delivered from the control I allowed Satan to have over me. This is the way God had to teach me that not only is Satan real, but that God is the only one who can set me free. **This is why it's so important to develop your own relationship with God.** He works within each of us uniquely.

So while others will tell you it's not possible for Satan and God to dwell within you, my story says otherwise. Because I was so defiant towards God, this is the way He chose to teach me. No one else could have taught me that way. **And while some may say that was cruel, I'm here to tell you that what I learned, I became grateful for.**

I became grateful for my experience. I would never want to experience it again, but **God knew this was the only way I was going to get what he was trying to teach me.** And after my experiences, I know both exist. God and Satan are real. And I'll never allow anyone to ever tell me again what God is and isn't capable of doing in my life.

Just because it looks different to outsiders doesn't mean what you're experiencing is wrong. And when I first started to follow God and I learned He can speak directly to you, I had no idea **Satan could also speak to you.** So I assumed every thought that possibly couldn't be mine was from God. This is where the danger lies. **If you're not familiar with Satan's schemes, he can feel an awful lot like God.**

He crept into my life and wreaked havoc. Every aspect of my life fell apart and I didn't know why. I became so angry with God because I assumed everything I was experiencing was because I began to follow him. I thought my life would get better following him, not worse.

But it got so bad that I called out for a devil I didn't know existed. I didn't think anything of it. I just wanted God to get away from me. I wanted him to know how serious I was about

wanting him to leave me alone. So I stood in front of my bathroom mirror and demanded that God get out of my life, that he just leave me alone.

I stood in front of that mirror and I said, if this is what it's like to follow you, I would rather follow the devil because he can't hurt me any more than you have. And that moment changed everything. Something happened to me I didn't know was possible. Something I've only seen in movies. And now I know the word possession may seem unreal to you, but that's what happened.

I wasn't myself. I wasn't in control of my body, my thoughts, my actions. Something evil had taken over. And no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't make it stop.

Now there were times during the day I can be myself and I was functional. But then there were times that I had absolutely no control over the things I said or did. And I remained in this torture for four years.

If I knew that the devil could actually possess you, there would be no way I would have ever said those words. If I thought my life was out of control up until that point, I was in for a rude awakening of what lied ahead. It got much, much worse than I could ever imagine. I lost control over myself. And I had unwillingly given Satan all control over me.

I couldn't help the things I did or the things I said. I was in my body, but I wasn't controlling it. Satan was. I knew what was happening, but I couldn't stop it. I felt myself deep within, but I couldn't rise to the surface. I was being dominated by a force that was much stronger than me.

There were moments that I felt like myself again, but then just as quickly, I'd be completely taken over by pure evil. I was tormented relentlessly every single day for four years.

**I desperately ran back to the church and begged for help.** And they sincerely tried, **but nothing worked.** I did everything they told me to do, everything I'm sure you've heard. Go to church, read your Bible, tithe, repent. I did it all, and nothing changed.

I even allowed the church to lay their hands on me and pray over me and attempt to cast out the evil I invited to live within me, and still nothing happened. I was tortured and tormented every single day of my life, and I couldn't find a way out.

**It got so dark for me that I contemplated suicide.** I felt I couldn't live like this, trapped and tortured with no way out. It wasn't until I became so desperate for relief that finally **I cried out to God** and begged for his help. **That's when my freedom came.** That's when I began to slowly be released from the hold Satan had over me.

It happened when I finally learned to cry out directly to God. Not to church, not to people I thought knew God, but directly to the source himself. And full deliverance didn't happen instantaneously. It took months. But it only began once I called out to God.

And through that horrific ordeal, God taught me a very valuable lesson. **Don't rely on people to do what only God can.** Seek God for yourself. Because the enemy is real. And if you don't know he's there, he'll take full advantage of you.

And I realize my story is extreme, but this is how God had to teach me in order for me to fully understand. And I get it now. There's no way I would have believed in either God or Satan if I hadn't experienced them both for myself. God knows how to teach us. And he'll grab your attention in the way you need so that you truly understand.

This was my wake-up call. And I walked away from it with a deep desire to help others in a way I wasn't helped. And if you want to know my full story, I encourage you to read my book, Dear New Believer Love God. You can purchase it on Amazon.

The story wasn't an easy one to tell, but I share it because I believe someone out there needs to know it. And if this episode spoke to you, please share it with someone you feel needs to hear it. Also get your copy of this week's free guide. It's designed to help you take small baby steps in developing your own relationship with God. It'll help you walk with him this week. You can find it on my website at [babystepswithchrist.com](http://babystepswithchrist.com). I'll also place it in the show notes.

Stay tuned for my next episode, and until then, I hope you'll take baby steps with Christ. Thanks for listening. Until next time.

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