



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Tools of the Devil

The devil is man's greatest enemy on earth. The Quran mentions Satan as an enemy (often as the most ardent enemy) 11 times (2:168, 208; 6:142; 7:22; 12:5; 17:53; 20:117; 28:15; 35:6; 36:60; 43:62). Humans must do all that is possible to avoid the devil and his wicked soldiers. The devil uses many tools to track and divert humans from the true worship of one God. Belief in God is not enough because the devil believes in God also (8:48) and also fears God (8:48, 59:16). The devil uses tools to try and win supporters on his side. All of the devil's supporters will end up in hell along with the devil and his companions. Here are some of the tools that the devil uses to encourage humans to stray from God's path.

Idol worship

[4:60] *Have you noted those who claim that they believe in what was revealed to you, and in what was revealed before you, then uphold the unjust laws of their idols? They were commanded to reject such laws. Indeed, it is the devil's wish to lead them far astray.*

[2:14] *When they meet the believers, they say, "We believe," but when alone with their devils, they say, "We are*

with you; we were only mocking."

[6:71] *Say, "Shall we implore, beside GOD, what possesses no power to benefit us or hurt us, and turn back on our heels after GOD has guided us? In that case, we would join those possessed by the devils, and rendered utterly confused, while their friends try to save them: 'Stay with us on the right path.'" Say, "GOD's guidance is the right guidance. We are commanded to submit to the Lord of the universe.*

Usury

[2:275] *Those who charge usury are in the same position as those controlled by the devil's influence. This is because they claim that usury is the same as commerce. However, GOD permits commerce, and prohibits usury. Thus, whoever heeds this commandment from his Lord, and refrains from usury, he may keep his past earnings, and his judgment rests with GOD. As for those who persist in usury, they incur Hell, wherein they abide forever.*

[2:276] *GOD condemns usury, and blesses charities. GOD dislikes every disbeliever, guilty.*

[30:39] *The usury that is practiced to*

increase some people's wealth, does not gain anything at GOD. But if you give to charity, seeking GOD's pleasure, these are the ones who receive their reward manifold.

Tyranny

[4:76] *Those who believe are fighting for the cause of GOD, while those who disbelieve are fighting for the cause of tyranny. Therefore, you shall fight the devil's allies; the devil's power is nil.*

[6:65] *Say, "He is certainly able to pour upon you retribution from above you, or from beneath your feet. Or He can divide you into factions and have you taste each others' tyranny. Note how we explain the revelations, that they may understand."*

Rumors/lies

[4:83] *When a rumor that affects security comes their way, they spread it. Had they referred it to the messenger, and those in charge among them, those who understand these matters would have informed them. If it were not for GOD's grace towards you, and His mercy, you would have followed the devil, except a few.*

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[24:11] *A gang among you produced a big lie. Do not think that it was bad for you; instead, it was good for you. Meanwhile, each one of them has earned his share of the guilt. As for the one who initiated the whole incident, he has incurred a terrible retribution.*

[49:6] *O you who believe, if a wicked person brings any news to you, you shall first investigate, lest you commit injustice towards some people, out of ignorance, then become sorry and remorseful for what you have done.*

To forbid what is not forbidden in the Quran

[4:119] *“I will mislead them, I will entice them, I will command them to (forbid the eating of certain meats by) marking the ears of livestock, and I will command them to distort the creation of GOD.” Anyone who accepts the devil as a lord, instead of GOD, has incurred a profound loss.*

Intoxicants, gambling, games of chance

[5:90-1] *O you who believe, intoxicants, and gambling, and the altars of idols, and the games of chance are abominations of the devil; you shall avoid them, that you may succeed. The devil want to provoke animosity and hatred among you through intoxicants and gambling and distract you from remembering God and observing the Contact Prayers (Salat). Will you then refrain?*

Mocking God’s Quran

[6:68] *If you see those who mock our revelations, you shall avoid them until they delve into another subject. If the devil causes you to forget, then, as soon as you remember, do not sit with such evil people.*

Following religious laws other than those in the Quran

[6:112] *We have permitted the enemies of every prophet—human and jinn devils—to inspire in each other fancy words, in order to deceive. Had your Lord willed, they would not have done it. You shall disregard them and their*

fabrications.

[10:17] *Who is more evil than one who fabricates lies about GOD, or rejects His revelations. Certainly, the transgressors never succeed.*

Eating food on which God’s name has not been mentioned

[6:121] *Do not eat from that upon which the name of GOD has not been mentioned, for it is an abomination. The devils inspire their allies to argue with you; if you obey them, you will be idol worshippers.*

[6:119] *Why should you not eat from that upon which GOD’s name has been mentioned? He has detailed for you what is prohibited for you, unless you are forced. Indeed, many people mislead others with their personal opinions, without knowledge. Your Lord is fully aware of the transgressors.*

Plotting/scheming/conspiring

[12:5] *He said, “My son, do not tell your brothers about your dream, lest they plot and scheme against you. Surely, the devil is man’s worst enemy.*

[22:53] *He thus sets up the devil’s scheme as a test for those who harbor doubts in their hearts, and those whose hearts are hardened. The wicked must remain with the opposition.*

[52:42] *Are they plotting and scheming? The disbelievers’ schemes backfire against them.*

Driving hatred between people

[17:53] *Tell My servants to treat each other in the best possible manner, for the devil will always try to drive a wedge among them. Surely, the devil is man’s most ardent enemy.*

[12:100] *He raised his parents upon the throne. They fell prostrate before him. He said, “O my father, this is the fulfillment of my old dream. My Lord has made it come true. He has blessed me, delivered me from the prison, and brought you from the desert, after the devil had driven a wedge between me and my brothers. My Lord is Most Kind towards whomever He wills. He*

is the Knower, the Most Wise.”

Breaking promises

[14:22] *And the devil will say, after the judgment had been issued, “GOD has promised you the truthful promise, and I promised you, but I broke my promise. I had no power over you; I simply invited you, and you accepted my invitation. Therefore, do not blame me, and blame only yourselves. My complaining cannot help you, nor can your complaining help me. I have disbelieved in your idolizing me. The transgressors have incurred a painful retribution.”*

Extravagance

[17:27] *The extravagant are brethren of the devils, and the devil is unappreciative of his Lord.*

[4:38] *They give money to charity only to show off, while disbelieving in GOD and the Last Day. If one’s companion is the devil, that is the worst companion.*

Arguing about God without knowledge

[22:3] *Among the people, there are those who argue about GOD without knowledge, and follow every rebellious devil.*

Following your parents blindly about religion

[31:21] *When they are told, “Follow these revelations of GOD,” they say, “No, we follow only what we found our parents doing.” What if the devil is leading them to the agony of Hell?*

Fearing other than God

[3:175] *It is the devil’s system to instill fear into his subjects. Do not fear them and fear Me instead, if you are believers.*

May God forgive us all and help us stay away from the tools of the devil. All praises be to God alone.

Frank

[2:208] *O you who believe, you shall embrace total submission; do not follow the steps of Satan, for he is your most ardent enemy.*

Tools in Our Toolbox

[Ed. note: This is a reprint of an article from March 2015. Since we have seen all the tools of the devil, it seemed appropriate to look again at the tools God gives us in our toolbox to help fight Satan's influence.]

A good carpenter or mechanic will have a box full of good tools perfect for any job he might need to perform. A good submitter needs a toolbox as well, and God has provided us with the tools we need to keep in there. Our number one priority here is to remember God. A priority can be defined as something that is regarded as more important than any other. If we were to make a submission priority list, the only thing that needs to be on it is: GOD ALONE. Everything else will fall in place. Everything is about God; everything belongs to God; is controlled by God. Only God guides, provides, protects and heals. God is Omnipotent.

Whatever occupies your mind most of the time is your god (33:41, 7:205). So God has given us tools to keep our mind on God most of the time. You can reach into your toolbox whenever you need a little help remembering God.

Wake up in the morning and thank God for the day, start with "in the name of God Most Gracious, Most Merciful," / "There is no other god beside God" (in Arabic or in any language). When you eat or drink anything, remember His name and thank God for the provision. Be kind and humble with the people you meet, greeting them with "peace." Especially honor your parents. When you start your car, remember to acknowledge that only God subdued it for your use. As you listen to the radio, insert "praise God" into the lyrics and it makes the song much sweeter. If you see a leaf fall, think of the verse 6:59: *Not a leaf falls without His knowledge*, or a bird fly overhead, think of 16:79: *None holds them up in the air except GOD*. Even a humble fly reminds us that we can't create even such a small thing (22:73). Be appreciative of all the

beauty around you by thanking the One who created it all. When you walk along, you can use the rhythm of your footsteps to meditate on God—left foot "thank You," right foot, "God."

Everything we see, hear, smell, taste and feel should instantly remind us of God, our Creator.

God has given us specific tools that we can reach for—Salat prayer pulls us away from this world and brings our focus back on God; Zakat charity reminds us that what we have is a gift from God and is meant to be shared; Fasting makes us appreciative of His blessings of food and water and inspires us to remember God frequently.

In addition, God tells us to seek forgiveness. [3:133-36] *You should eagerly race towards forgiveness from your Lord and a Paradise whose width encompasses the heavens and the earth; it awaits the righteous, who give to charity during the good times, as well as the bad times. They are suppressors of anger, and pardoners of the people. GOD loves the charitable. If they fall in sin or wrong their souls, they remember GOD and ask forgiveness for their sins—and who forgives the sins except GOD—and they do not persist in sins, knowingly. Their recompense is forgiveness from their Lord, and gardens with flowing streams; they abide therein forever. What a blessed reward for the workers!*

He tells us to be appreciative: [14:7] *Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe.*

[31:12]... *"You shall be appreciative of GOD." Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good. As for those who turn unappreciative, GOD is in no need, Praiseworthy.*

This life is an individual journey back to God. Each person must find the tools that work best for him or herself. What works for me might not work for you. So we can "borrow" tools from all kinds of places, finding the right tool for each one of us. I have found many of the principles and

practices of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) to be personally very helpful and they fit perfectly with the Quran.

For instance, remembering the Serenity Prayer: "GOD, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." [26:83] *"My Lord, grant me wisdom, and include me with the righteous.*

AA also encourages you to call your sponsor if you're feeling weak, as God encourages us to consult with one another (42:38); to attend meetings, as we are encouraged to come together for Jumu'ah or Quran studies (62:9, 18:28); to help newcomers, as we are told to treat everyone in the best possible manner (17:53); to do service work, as God tells us to do righteous works (23:57-61); to be charitable, expecting nothing in return (76:7-9). They urge you to put your shoes under your bed at night, so first thing in the morning you have to get down on your knees to retrieve them, as God urges us to willingly bow and prostrate before Him (13:15, 22:77).

So, the tools in your toolbox can come from many places, whatever you find that works for your soul. We need to depend totally on God (22:15), remembering that this life is an illusion (57:20) and that we will be tested (2:214, 3:186), but that God never burdens any soul beyond what it can handle (2:286).

We want to run to the front of the line on Judgment Day and eagerly say, "Come read my record." We especially want to avoid the "fire sandwich" which awaits the disbelievers.

[39:15-6] *"Therefore, worship whatever you wish besides Him." Say, "The real losers are those who lose their souls, and their families, on the Day of Resurrection." Most certainly, this is the real loss. They will have masses of fire on top of them, and under them.* A most miserable "fire sandwich"!

With the subtitle: *Conditions for Staying Within God's Protection*, 5:12 makes it clear what we need to do to earn God's

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support and favor. [5:12] **GOD** had taken a covenant from the Children of Israel, and we raised among them twelve patriarchs. And **GOD** said, "I am with you, so long as you observe the Contact Prayers (Salat), give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and believe in My messengers and respect them, and continue to lend **GOD** a loan of righteousness. I will then remit your sins, and admit you into gardens with flowing streams. Anyone who disbelieves after this, has indeed strayed off the right path."

When we do the things we need to do, then God puts a protective force field around believers. We have to keep the field fully charged by using the tools in our toolbox. Satan will try to weaken the force field and slip in through the smallest crack. So, trust in God: [14:12] "Why should we not trust in **GOD**, when He has guided us in our paths? We will steadfastly persevere in the face of your persecution. In **GOD** all the trusters shall trust." Implore God: [4:106] You shall implore **GOD** for forgiveness. **GOD** is Forgiver, Most Merciful. And never despair of His mercy: [39:53] Proclaim: "O My servants who exceeded the limits, never despair of **GOD**'s mercy. For **GOD** forgives all sins. He is the Forgiver, Most Merciful."

Use the tools in your toolbox regularly. They will never break or wear out. With use, they become increasingly more useful.

Mike

Response from a Submitter on the 12-Step articles

Some ideas in the Big Book that are similar to the Quran.

[Quran 22:15] If anyone thinks that God cannot support him in this life and in the Hereafter, let him turn completely to (his creator in) heaven, and sever (his dependence on anyone else). He will then see this plan eliminates anything that bothers him.

Big Book instructions on taking step 3 of the 12 steps. This is the 3rd step prayer: "God, I offer myself to Thee--to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life. May I do Thy will always!"

We are instructed to take this spiritual step with optional wording and express *honestly* and *humbly* that we were ready at last to **abandon** ourselves utterly to Him.

Summary: Turn to our creator in heaven and sever dependence on anyone else. (Quran)

Summary: Abandon ourselves utterly to Him. (Big Book)

Quran promises us we will be kings and queens in this lifetime (24:55) and the hereafter (9:72). We are guaranteed perfect happiness now and forever if we are Submitters.

*God's Promise
Kings and Queens on Earth*

[24:55] **GOD** promises those among you who believe and lead a righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone; they never set up any idols beside Me. Those who disbelieve after this are the truly wicked.

The Big Book offers us "The Promises" on pp 83-88:

... we are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness

...we will comprehend the word serenity and know peace

... fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us

... we will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.

... we will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Victoria