

How Can Satan Assist Us in Identifying Weaknesses Within Ourselves?

Identifying Weaknesses and Strengths with the Help of Satan

How familiar are you with the temptations and attacks of Satan? What methods do you usually use in identifying weaknesses within yourself? Have you ever considered that Satan can also be a source of growth and help us in identifying weaknesses?

Whether we like it or not, we are all somehow connected to Satan; this connection can be destructive and harmful or constructive and beneficial. Just like our interactions with other creatures, for example, fire is a divine blessing that, if handled correctly, can meet our essential needs. Otherwise, it can be harmful and dangerous. Fire itself is not bad; it is our approach to it that determines its usefulness or harmfulness. Satan is also one of God's creations, with a single entity that can have dual effects, depending on how we engage with him. If we are weak in understanding him and his attacks, we may be misled. However, if we learn to confront him and his attacks with a correct and humane perspective, we can turn the threat of Satan into an opportunity for achieving spiritual growth and human perfection.

If we look at life correctly, we realize that our entire existence is a battlefield, and one of the constant adversaries we must grapple with is Satan. The Satan acts like a sparring partner, targeting our weaknesses. From the failures we experience against him and his attacks, we can precisely identify which parts of our personality are flawed and need repair. Just as wrestling with opponents in battle strengthens

us and reveals our weaknesses, engaging with Satan is also a blessing that strengthens our soul day by day.

In this article, we aim to answer the following questions:
How is Satan's function, his attack mechanism, and the way he enters our heart?
How can we utilize Satan for identifying weaknesses within ourselves?

Satan's Function When Entering the Heart

Satan acts like a vaccine in relation to us, and his attacks are weakened microbes of despair, weakness, fear, sadness, laziness, and lethargy that are injected into our hearts from various angles. He knows that our most important asset for eternal life is a sound heart; therefore, he constantly is lying in wait to fill any empty spaces in our heart with worthless and tainted thoughts. Satan is always lurking from four directions: behind, in front, right, and left, seeking opportunities to attack us. Sometimes, through an attack from the left, he leads us to sin; at other times, through his attacks from behind, he brings up our past grievances, failures, and sins, magnifying them to drain our energy and motivation. Occasionally, through a frontal attack, he paints a terrifying picture of our temporary worldly future, causing us to forget about our eternal future and lose the ability to think about death, resurrection, and the hereafter. The most dangerous attack from Satan is his attack from the right side, as it is harder to recognize than other attacks. In this type of attack, Satan magnifies our strengths and sacred perfections to the point that we become arrogant and proud, leading us to follow in his footsteps and distance ourselves from God.

Many people face various attacks from Satan throughout their lives without ever recognizing these types of attacks. Let's not forget that despite all the disturbances and annoyances Satan causes us, he is the greatest tool for our growth and identifying weaknesses within ourselves; we just need to learn how to confront him. If we believe in the heart as the essence of our existence and see Satan's attacks as a necessary part of our being, we can identify weaknesses and achieve growth and perfection. Otherwise, we will perceive his attacks as threats and fear them.

Our Weaknesses as Satan's Entry Points into the Heart

Satan finds our weaknesses and enters our hearts through those points. He infiltrates our hearts according to each person's temperament, like a skilled psychologist. Some are ensnared by money, others by lust, some by fame and status, and others by prayer and worship.

Typically, Satan approaches us when we face a void in *ma'rifa*, worship, or emotions. If we lack spiritual nourishment or receive impure things in these areas, we will undoubtedly be attacked by Satan. However, if we fill our existence with spiritual nourishments—such as learning from knowledgeable mentors, remembering God, associating with the righteous, and engaging in healthy and beneficial activities—we will have no capacity to accept negative thoughts and Satan's attacks. It is important to note that Satan has no control over us; he only generates thoughts in our minds when we give him an excuse. In reality, our weaknesses and deviations in communication, decisions, thoughts, and behaviors create suitable condition for Satan's influence and control.

Prejudice, arrogance, and ignorance are three major vices that, if we fall into them, Satan will invest in us. As long as these weaknesses exist within us, we will not be free from Satan's grasp. For example, holding grudges is a significant entry point for Satan into our hearts; as long as our hearts are filled with resentment, Satan will continue to occupy our heart, and we will not be able to escape his influence.

In this article, we discussed Satan's function, the nature of his attacks, and how he enters the heart. We noted that Satan enters our hearts through our attachments or weaknesses in certain areas. Therefore, if our perspective on his attacks and their nature is correct and well-considered—recognizing the heart as the essence of our existence and viewing Satan as someone who helps us grow and be successful in identifying weaknesses—we can find our weaknesses and voids from where he attacks us.