

# Questions About Differences Between Evil Angels, Demons, and Evil Spirits

By Pastor Ed Anderson

What's the difference between an evil angel, a demon, and an evil spirit?

## Answer:

Great question! While many people use the terms **evil angel**, **demon**, and **evil spirit** interchangeably, there are subtle distinctions in how they're understood biblically and theologically. Let's break them down clearly:

### 1. Evil Angels

Also called: *Fallen angels*

#### Definition:

These are **created heavenly beings** who were once **loyal to God** but **joined Lucifer's rebellion** in heaven and were **cast out**.

#### Biblical Support:

- **Revelation 12:7–9** – "...Michael and his angels fought against the dragon... and the great dragon was cast out... and his angels were cast out with him."
- **2 Peter 2:4** – "God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell..."

#### Summary:

- **Once holy** and lived in heaven
- **Followed Satan** in rebellion
- **Still angels**, but now **evil**
- Have **intelligence**, **power**, and **organization**

### 2. Demons

Also called: *Unclean spirits*, *devils*, or *evil spirits* in some translations

## Definition:

In most biblical usage, **demons are the same as fallen angels**—just a different name for the same beings, especially in the **New Testament** where Greek influence used the term *daimonion*.

## Biblical Support:

- **Luke 8:30** – Jesus casts out “many demons” from the man in the tombs.
- **James 2:19** – “Even the demons believe—and tremble!”
- **Mark 1:34** – “He... cast out many demons.”

## Summary:

- **Synonymous with evil angels** in most of Scripture
- Usually refer to **fallen angels at work on Earth**
- Often linked to **possession, oppression, or deception**

## 3. Evil Spirits

Also called: *Unclean spirits*

## Definition:

A **descriptive term** often used to describe the **operating nature** of a demon or fallen angel. It highlights their **spiritual presence** and **corrupt character**.

## Biblical Support:

- **Mark 5:2** – “...a man with an **unclean spirit** met him...”
- **1 Samuel 16:14** – “An **evil spirit** from the Lord tormented Saul.”

*(Note: this does not mean God sends evil—He allowed it for judgment)*

## Summary:

- Emphasizes the **corrupt, destructive nature** of fallen angels
- **Same beings**, but with emphasis on **spiritual activity** (possession, torment, lying)
- Can also describe **false prophetic spirits** (1 John 4:1)

### Summary Table

Term	Description	Key Bible Term	Are They the Same?
Evil Angels	Fallen angels who followed Lucifer	Revelation 12:9	Yes, same beings
Demons	Evil spiritual beings who harass, tempt, or possess	Luke 8:30, James 2:19	Yes, another name for evil angels
Evil Spirits	Describes their wicked influence or spiritual activity	Mark 5:2, 1 Samuel 16:14	Yes, often same beings, different emphasis

### Bonus Insight:

- **All demons are fallen angels**, but sometimes the Bible uses **different terms based on context**—whether describing their origin (**angel**), their function (**demon**), or their behavior (**evil spirit**).
- The Bible **does not support the idea** that demons are the **spirits of dead humans**. That's **spiritualism**, not biblical truth.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God...”  
 – *1 John 4:1*