

***The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God that Sound Like the Truth***  
**by Jared Wilson**

**Weekly Discussion Questions for Men's Connect**

**Wednesday 6:30AM**

Ryan Jensen: <https://staffweb.zoom.us/j/91216459949>

Kevin Rippey:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83901734878?pwd=Wk9SQ2RDcUdiSFQ2Ymc5QVd2YldFdz09>

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**Wednesday 7pm:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3100304953?pwd=VFJdGZQitEQitaYm92RG96ZTgvZz09>

Password: 12345

**Week 1 (Introduction):**

1. Have you ever believed a lie or, worse yet, made up a lie that later on caused distress to you or the people that you love (You know, the ones that God put into your life)? Did these lies seem right to you at the time? Did the lie or lies promise "fulfillment, beauty and enlightenment?" How did you justify them?
2. Name at least one common lie of our 2020 secular culture that you either believed or that seemed right when you first heard it. Indicate how you came to see it as untruth. Have you been able to see it clearly for the lie that it is? Have you been able to walk away from it?
3. Have you ever questioned the wisdom or timing of God (be brave here!)? Did you ever think that God left you behind or forgot about you? What did you tell yourself? How did you resolve the particular question?
4. Have you ever felt alone and thought that God did not exist and if so, did he really care or know you personally? Have you ever been in spiritual despair?
5. Do you believe that Satan and his evil forces exist? Have you ever had to confront evil front and center? Have you seen times, places and events when Satan disguised himself as "an angel of light" like the Bible says and even deceived you?

## **Week 2 (Chapter 1):**

1. Are you happy? Define Happiness according to our culture. Is happiness something to be aspired to?
2. Have you ever had a desire that you could not or did not fulfill? Did you find joy and happiness without fulfilling this desire or did you just “walk away” and do what you wanted? Did you hold it against God and blame Him for not allowing you to be happy? Can you practice holiness and be happy?
3. What is the difference between happiness and joy? Have you ever experienced joy even in dire, or at least unpleasant, circumstances? Read Philippians 4:4 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16 and comment.
4. Comment on this excerpt from the Chapter: “The hurt is one reason why so many people reject the idea of God. They do not see how one who is all-loving and all-controlling could allow such pain and hardship in the world. He’s either not all-loving or all-controlling, they reason. And that makes perfect sense—*if* God’s main priority for us is happiness” (page 13, Chapter 1).
5. What is the worldview of materialism and how is it deficient to the worldview of Christianity (pages 24 and 25, Chapter 1)?

## **Week 3 (Chapter 2):**

1. Have you ever thought, “Why do good? It never gets noticed or rewarded!” Be honest please! Conversely, have you ever thought this? “I can do this thing. No one will ever see or notice. No one cares if I do something wrong.” Do you live for today? Do you strive for an eternal perspective and if you do what does that look like, day to day, hour by hour?
2. What do you deserve in this life? Why do you think you deserve things, pleasures, or experiences? Do you have a “bucket list?” Do you think God gives you bucket list experiences? Do you think that God begrudges it or you when you partake of “bucket list” experiences? Do you subscribe to “YOLO?”
3. Have you ever thought that you might be missing out on particular temporal experiences? When you thought about experiencing a temporal experience, did it seem urgent to try and fulfill this desire?
4. What do you think about these phrases from the book? “The only thing more stupid than not thinking beyond death is not thinking about death at all.” “‘You only live once’ is profoundly stupid in that the risks it gives rise to imply that {you think} you will live forever” (pp. 34, 35).

5. Read Hebrews 9:27, 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Ecclesiastes 11:9. Comment on these phrases from the book:

- a. "What Satan would love for you to do is spend this life as if that's all there is." (Pg. 37)
- b. "He {Satan} wants you drunk on a sense of immortality. This comes somewhat naturally to teenagers, boys especially, but it persists in a kind of perpetual teenagerdom in Western culture where youth is idolized...." (pp. 37,38)
- c. "What we do in this life matters far beyond a series of accumulations or our senses of pleasure." (pg. 39)

#### **Week 4 (Chapter 3):**

1. Does knowing the real truth about a certain matter or about an aspect of your character or your habits and behaviors give you peace or does it bother and maybe even upset you? Have you ever been told the truth about you by someone close to you regarding your attitudes or beliefs and saw that they were correct and that you were mistaken or even obtuse about the matter at hand?

2. Conversely, have you ever been slandered or lied about publicly or in front of others? How did you respond? Have you ever been lied to by someone close? How did you respond? Did you want to "get even?" Did you reciprocate in hate and scorn, even inwardly?

3. Have you ever lied to yourself? Have you ever justified the lie you told yourself? Reflect and respond to this quote from the book:

"So the justifications we offer for ourselves and our sins are usually pretty sophisticated, at the least, pretty wordy. We have convinced ourselves that we are right, despite the word from God to the contrary. Others have misread it. We have the real facts. It doesn't apply to us or to this circumstance specifically. We are the exception for whatever reason. We have to live 'our truth'." (Page 52)

4. Is there such a thing as "your truth" or "my truth?" Where is truth to be found? How does one find truth in the time we live in being deluged by 24/7 news cycles and endless memes and opinions on social media? What happens when "Everyone does what is right in their own eyes?" (Judges 17:6).

Respond to this statement from the book:

"The entire enterprise of self-orientation erodes boundaries of responsibility and clear outlines of universal truth." (Page 63)

5. Do you really believe that Biblical truth is absolute? For example, how do you respond to the scriptures that prohibit homosexuality? How do you respond to Scriptures that prohibit living together outside of marriage? How do you respond to Scriptures that say "turn the other cheek" when you are wronged? How do you reconcile what the Bible says with what our culture says? How do you communicate what the

Bible says to those who do not want to hear it? How do you interpret the Scriptures in 2020 to your satisfaction so that you can live and know truth?