

## Demons Against Humanity

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

**This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> study from our book titled “Deliverance from Demonic Depression.”** In our last study we looked at the Scriptures that told us about the beginning of Satan and demons. And the biblical evidence that demons exist brings to light another question: Are demons really working in our modern world of science and so called enlightenment? **Skepticism and ignorance concerning the Word of God causes us to miss reality by a mile!** Those individuals who deny the existence of Satan and demons are also denying their belief in the truthfulness of the Word of God.

**Child of God spiritual warfare is not a game, and the devil is not a figment of one’s imagination.** He is the master deceiver, thief, murderer and the force behind nearly all evil. He is full of all kinds of cruelty, pain, curses and blight known to the human family.

**To survive his attacks, you must realize that the devil is a real enemy, hell-bent on destroying you.** In light of that truth, Ephesians 4:27 warns us “give no place to the devil.” Therefore, I challenge you to determine today to get serious about how to rebuke him and to keep him from hindering your service to the lord.

**Denial is the thinking of many liberal preachers and untrained laymen.** They leave the security of the Word of God and are caught away in the swirling currents of occult, fortunetelling, spiritism, magic, and false cults. A notable example is the late Bishop James A. Pike, who in September 1967 allegedly communicated in a televised séance with his deceased son (a suicide), through a well-known medium, Arthur Ford (now deceased), who was at the same time a Disciples of Christ minister. **This sensational séance startled people all over the**

world and alerted Bible students to the reality of modern occultism and the traffic in demonism.

The tragic picture today includes the well meaning but ill-taught Christian who professes to believe and honor the Word of God. Such a Christian, through ignorance of what the Bible teaches, may naively become the victim of the erroneous reasoning that since God, can heal and perform miracles, then every case of healing and everything that passes for a miracle is from God. In seeking to be healed or helped, Christians may become involved in some form of demon-energized magic.

Satan knows biblical terminology. He is also a master in masquerading under the guise of divine power. Alleged miraculous cures or manifestations often are accompanied by doctrinal errors. Every believer should realize that Satan can use doctrinal error to his advantage, but he cannot overcome the Christian's defenses in God's Holy Word. That is why *what we believe must line up with the Word of God!* This is our defense against demonic infiltration.

Demonism flourishes in direct proportion to our neglect or spiritual ignorance of the Word of God!! Ignorance of biblical truth breeds gullibility. Deception is easy when the Word of God is not taught accurately. We are often ready to believe anything even when we cannot evaluate it in the light of biblical truth. It is for that reason we have been told in 1 John 4:1-6, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

**As Satan makes his move on unsuspecting Christians the sales of horoscope magazines run into the millions.** Monthly horoscope columns appear in prominent magazines such as "Cosmopolitan" "Harpers' Bazar" and "Ladies Home Journal." One being authored by Sybil Leek, who passed away in October 1982, was also known as "the most famous witch in the world." Even with their readership declining Horoscope columns continue to appear in over a thousand daily newspapers.

**The scope and power of modern occultism staggers the imagination.** Millions are unknowingly oppressed and enslaved by the occult. No wonder *mental* and *emotional* problems increase at an alarming rate. Unless the *reality* and *purpose* of Satan and demons are acknowledged, some of these problems will not be solved.

The Bible presents demons as spiritual beings or spirit personalities, as seen in Luke 24:39 where Jesus said, "A spirit does not have flesh and bones..." **That is, demons do not possess a material body.** On the other hand, demons can act upon the *human body*, as well as the *human soul* and *spirit*. They are capable of *entering in* and *assuming control* of a human body, *speaking* and *acting* through it from time to time and even *possessing* it, as if it were their own property.

**The fact that demons are spirits is clear from numerous references in the Gospels.** Matthew 8:16 tells us, "When the evening was come, they brought to him many that were possessed with demons: and he cast out the spirits with his word." When the seventy returned and joyfully declared in Luke 10:17, "Lord, even the demons are subject unto us," our Lord replied in verse 20, "Nevertheless in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you." The "demon" who went out of the lunatic boy in Matthew 17:18, is also called a "foul spirit" in Mark 9:25.

**The Apostle Paul emphatically declares that Satan and his demons are spirits.** In describing the Christian's conflict against the powers of darkness, he indicates that the intense warfare "is not against flesh and blood" but against evil spirits, described as "principalities,

powers, rulers of the darkness," and "spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

**The Apostle John also indicates that demons are spirits.** He describes the three unclean spirits issuing from the mouth of the dragon, of the beast, and of the false prophet, as the "spirits of demons" (Revelation 16:14).

**The fact that demons are spirits does not in the least suggest that they lack individuality, with all the elements of personality such as will, feelings, and intellect.** Like all of God's creatures, they were constituted with self-determining choice. Created originally sinless, they joined Satan in a chosen course of rebellion. **Their decision was deliberate and in the full knowledge of the infinite goodness and holiness of their Creator.** This is why they are unforgivable and confined in their depravity with no hope of repentance or change. Like Satan's, their choice is irretrievable; their doom is sealed.

**The fact that demons are individuals is attested by their intelligent and voluntary actions.** They *think*, they *speak*, they *act* through a *spiritistic medium* or through a *person over whom they have acquired control*, as seen in Acts 19:15-16, "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? And the man in whom the evil spirit was, leaped on them and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." In the case of the possession, the domination is almost complete, as seen in Mark 9:17-18, "Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid." In the case of demon oppression, their control is less complete and direct, as seen in 1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaks expressly that in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons."

**As spirit beings, demons are invisible.** But spirits can become discernible to men through transcendence of natural law. Evil spirits may be seen and communicated with through an intermediary or

**medium.** Just as Peter and Paul saw and talked with an angel in Acts 5:19, 27.

**Communication with the demon world often results in supernatural manifestations, but these, strictly speaking, are not miraculous.** Demon *possession* and *extrasensory phenomena* await people who enter into a spirit realm from which God has forbidden us to go for our own protection, as seen in Deuteronomy 18:10-11, "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or who uses divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter of mediums, or a wizard, or a necromancer."

**When men ignore God's warnings and enter a forbidden realm, they may witness the appearances of spirits, trances, automatic writings, magic phenomena, as well as oral communications.** Such manifestations are not miracles. They simply represent the operation of the *occult* with a certain well defined sphere tolerated by God. Demon *possession* and demon *oppression* are the inevitable penalties to all who traffic in the realm of evil supernaturalism.

The Bible reveals the fact that all demons are wicked, but they varying degrees of their wickedness, as seen in Matthew 12:43-45, where Jesus was teaching the worthlessness of self-reformation, "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, I will return to my house from which I came. And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation." **Their wickedness manifests itself in the terrible things they do to their victims.** The Bible often refers to them as spiritually and morally "unclean."

**People who deal in the occult are often found to be immoral.** Men and women who abandon themselves to immorality reach a point when **God gives them up, in the sense of restraining Satan and**

*demonic power from them*, so that they are abandoned to the degrading depths of immorality and are shamelessly reduced to actions of uncaring godlessness.

In such moral decay the "unclean spirit" takes possession of the sinner to gratify his demonic senses through every type of unclean pleasure. This is apparently why a demonized person often desires to live in a state of *nudity* and *harbors evil thoughts*. When men disobey the moral laws of God, especially the law of loving and honoring their Creator, they choose the depraved way of Satan and demons.

If you have never received Christ as your personal Savior, why not today?

Please stand for prayer.

Father, Your Word is true. Although I have an enemy, I confess I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me. In Jesus' name. Amen.