

DEMONOLOGY (7)

(Observation #4) - Demons can give great strength. Mark 5:2-4; Lk. 8:29

Demonic strength would be evidenced by feats of strength that would be impossible for a human to do in and of himself. It seems that if the power was from demons, there would be other bizarre symptoms closely connected with the demonstration of strength (Mk. 5:4-5/Lk. 8:29).

(Observation #5) - Demons can cause death. Job 1:19; I Cor. 5:5

One thing that must always be kept in mind is that God is always in sovereign control, even over the demonic world. **Demons cannot every act independently of the sovereignty of God.** If a demon were permitted to kill a person, it is because God permitted it to happen in accordance with His divine and mysterious plan and in the end such things will be shown to be fully consistent with this reality.

We are challenged time and time again to fear God, not demons. However, we do need to realize that God has revealed in His Word that demons are very real and very powerful. This should prompt the believer to pursue an accurate understanding of God's Word and to avoid anything that could, from our own initiative, bring us into contact with the evil spirit world. Demons are very powerful and very dangerous; however, "greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world."

QUESTION #7 – What are the various connections between humans and demons?

Demons can connect themselves to humans in at least three ways:

(Demonic Connection #1) - There is real demon possession.

Demon possession is the actual reality of a demon indwelling, living in and controlling an unbeliever's body and mind.

It is critical to sound doctrine to realize that Satan and his demonic forces **CANNOT EVER** possess a believer in Jesus Christ for five biblical reasons:

Reason #1 - I Corinthians 6:19.

God does not allow demons to possess His holy property. Satan and his demonic army cannot live in the Holy Temple of God. In fact, they were cast out of His holy presence.

Reason #2 - I John 4:4.

It is clear from verse 3 that the context is that of evil spirits. John's point is that one born of God cannot ever be overpowered by these evil spirits because the One who lives in the believer (the Holy Spirit—Rom. 8:9) is far greater than the evil spirits who exist in the world.

DEMONOLOGY (8)

Reason #3 – Colossians 1:13-14 .

Believers have been “transferred” (translated) out of the power and domain of darkness positionally and have been placed into God’s kingdom by the blood of Jesus Christ. No demon can ever possess a child of God and reverse this blessed reality.

Reason #4 – Ephesians 5:8 .

Once a person has been placed into the Lord, he has been placed into the sphere of light from the sphere of darkness. The believer is now positionally in the Lord. Therefore, the sphere of darkness cannot ever possess the child of God again.

Reason #5 – John 8:32, 36 .

A believer is set free and a demon-possessed person is not one who has been set free by God’s truth or by Jesus Christ. It is impossible for one who has been set free by God to be possessed by a demon.

One thing that must be observed regarding demon possession is that the most bizarre forms of possession occur in the Gospels, particularly during the three years of public ministry of Jesus Christ. Dr. Chafer observed: “...the authentic records of such control are almost wholly limited to the three years of the public ministry of Jesus...” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2, p. 120). Dr. Ryrie observed: “The term “to be possessed by a demon” or “to be demonized” occurs thirteen times in the New Testament, all in the Gospels...” (*Basic Theology*, p. 166).

We do know in the infant days of the church that Paul faced those who were demon-possessed—Acts 16:16-18; 19:11-16. It would seem from this that one thing that stirs up a demon-possessed person is the presence of one right with God and the proclamation of the grace Gospel.

The reason why it is so important for us to realize that the most bizarre forms occurred in these settings (Christ’s actual presence on earth; Paul’s church planting work) is because **during this time period, demon-possession will not always mean that one will be doing that which is bizarre or strange**. Apparently, Christ’s presence did cause demons to react this way, but the N.T. epistles make it clear that demonic possession also takes the form of those who appear as “angels of light” (II Cor. 11:13-15). Dr. Chafer wisely stated: “Demon possession in the present time is probably often unsuspected because of the generally unrecognized fact that demons are capable of inspiring a moral and exemplary life, as well as of appearing as the dominating spirit of a spiritist or medium, or through grosser manifestations that are recorded by missionaries concerning conditions which they observed in heathen lands. These demons, too, like their king, will appear as “angels of light” as well as “roaring lions,” when by the former impersonation they can more perfectly further the stupendous undertakings of Satan in his warfare against the work of God” (*Ibid.*, pp. 120-121).

DEMONOLOGY (9)

Satan is trying to keep people from growing deep in the true knowledge of God and His Word. Demon-possessed people will appear, in this age, very normal and very spiritual. They will teach in churches and they will pull people away from the pure truth of God. Do not be deceived, some of these people are as demon-possessed as one who foams at the mouth.

(Demonic Connection #2) - There is real demon influence .

Demonic influence is the demonic activity of influencing believers and unbelievers to turn away from God, to the ways of Satan (Eph. 2:1-3; I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 4:3). Alan Redpath called this demonic oppression or depression.

The major difference between possession and influence is that the possessed individual has no potential of ridding himself from the demon's control, whereas the influenced person—especially a believer, may rid himself of the demonic influence.

Demons influence people by using a variety of traps and techniques. The entire world's system is one major demonic attack zone designed to influence people away from God and His Word. As Dr. Chafer said, "Their influence is exercised both to mislead the unsaved and to wage an unceasing warfare against the believer" (*Ibid.*, p. 121). There are at least five ways that demons influence people today:

Influence Way #1 - Demons influence people in ways that are moral .

Victor Ernest, a man once deeply involved in spiritism, describes his contact with demons: "The spirits I encountered at séances were, for the most part, very moralistic. They encouraged us not to smoke or drink or do anything else that would harm our minds and bodies. Ministers were told to preach morality, good manners and civic pride. I knew ministers who actually had spirit messages taken down by their secretaries and then used them from the pulpit! The spirits often talked about an ethical Jesus, but never about the Savior who died a sacrificial death for sin" (Cited from Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 162).

Influence Way #2 - Demons influence people in ways that are immoral .

By virtue of the fact that demons are called "unclean" spirits, we know that they are involved in things immoral and perverted. Victor Ernest again writes: "In contrast to the high moral and ethical tone of the séances in our home, I attended some where the spirits were blasphemous and sensual" (*Ibid.*, p. 162).

There is no question that demonic forces are behind that which is immoral, pornographic and lustful. It is a known fact, testified to by those who have come out of satanic activity, that immorality was one of the lures that led them into it. One man, who is a Christian today but was formerly a Satanist, writes: "As Satanists, we would frequently participate in full-blown sexual orgies laced with witchcraft. ... On more than one occasion, I regret to admit, we participated in ritual sexual abuse that even involved rape" (*Schemes of Satan*, p. 73).

DEMONOLOGY (10)

The Apostle Peter implied that when we yield to fleshly things, which are lustful, we open ourselves up to a major war against our own soul (I Pet. 2:11). His counsel was to “abstain” from lustful things. Clearly the implication is that there is a demonic power at work in immoral and lustful things and the best way to stay away from any influence in this area is to stay away from it. There is no question that those who are involved in immoral and perverted activity are under the influence of demons.

In I Corinthians 10:20-21, Paul warns the believers not to go to the immoral temple rituals which were in Corinth and he was very clear that it was a demonic place. This is one reason why the Apostle Paul did not want us even associating with immoral people, especially those who are immoral and profess to be a believer (I Cor. 5:9; 15:33).

Those who are involved in lustful and immoral things are involved in that which is demonic.

Influence Way #3 - Demons influence people in ways that are afflictive.

There is no question that some physical problems and mental problems and afflictions are the result of demonic influence. There is no question that certain types of death are demonically-produced suicides, murders and some catastrophic tragedies that take the lives of people. Satan was permitted to send a tornado-type wind to devastate Job and kill his children. Many afflictions may have Satan as the source (Matt. 4:24; Mk. 1:32, 34; Lk. 7:21; 9:1; Acts 5:1-11; Rev. 6:12-17).

It needs to be observed that the Bible does not classify every sickness or death or catastrophic tragedy as being demonic. To assume that all sickness and afflictions are of Satan is a very inaccurate assumption.

At the present time we do not have the apostolic ability to determine who is really influenced by demons and who isn't. Our responsibility is to point people to the delivering power of God, which is only found in Jesus Christ.

Influence Way #4 - Demons influence people in ways that are idolatrous.

Demons are actively involved in promoting anything and everything that will keep people from a true, pure worship of the God of the Bible. Demons draw people away from a focus on God and His Word through that which is political and religious. He uses entertainment, sports and education to try and lure people away from God. You may be certain behind every American idol and every international idol anywhere in the world is the workings of demons (I Cor. 10:9-10).

The ultimate climax of this demonic activity will come during the Tribulation when demons will actually be worshipped (Rev. 9:20). But God's Word is very clear that all that is demonic and idolatrous will be destroyed.