

Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 4)

Note: The following is a written transcript of *Dr. Whitcomb Answers Your Questions (No. 4)*, which is available in audio form on Whitcomb.SermonAudio.com.

Paul Scharf: Hello again friends, this is Paul Scharf for Whitcomb Ministries. I'm privileged to be here tonight with Dr. John Whitcomb and we're going to be providing more answers to the Biblical questions that you have sent in via WhitcombMinistries.org at the *Frequently Asked Questions* section there on our Web site. I'll say more about that a little bit later, but we want to get right to it.

Dr. Whitcomb, we have three questions we're going to try to answer in this short session for SermonAudio listeners and our Web site readers.

And our first one was sent in by Cora. She writes to you, Dr. Whitcomb, and says, "My son started listening to a radio ministry which teaches that a Christian can have demons living in them. What is your view on this?"

Dr. Whitcomb: Thank you for that question because some people are really worried about that, and in the light of the fact that the Apostle Peter, who was the foundation, as it were, of the church, among the Apostles, had a problem. He confessed, "Jesus, 'Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God'" (Matt. 16:16, KJV). Jesus confirmed that as a foundation for the church – that confession. Within minutes, he said the wrong thing to Jesus, "Don't go to Jerusalem and die." Jesus said, "Get thee behind me, Satan" (Matt. 16:23, KJV).

Was Peter demon-possessed, satanically overcome? Yes and no. Temporarily yes, because even a born-again Christian, or in Peter's case, a born-again Jew, is capable occasionally, momentarily of being used of Satan to say the wrong thing, to have the wrong interaction with people. But why? Because we have a sin nature that Satan can manipulate. But nevertheless, Colossians chapter 2 makes it clear to us that we have Christ as our Lord.

Now listen to the introduction to that statement in Col. 1:27: “This mystery among the Gentiles...is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Every born-again Christian has Christ in him or her – that’s our hope of glory. Anyone who does not have Him indwelling is not a believer. So Christ can’t share his “apartment,” if I can put it that way, with a demon. No. Temporarily, momentarily we can be influenced by the devil, of course. That’s why James goes on to say in James 4:7: “Resist the devil and he will,” what? He will “flee from you.” Which implies that for a while, momentarily, occasionally he can be near you or use you or guide you or deceive you or so. But there is no temptation taken you but such as is common, but God is able even with the temptation to make a way of escape.

Now friends, it’s a very delicate issue, isn’t it? If we walk with the Lord, we can never, ever be used of Satan to say things or do things that will hurt the body of Christ. But we can, because of our sin nature, which doesn’t leave us till death or rapture, be somehow occasionally tempted, manipulated, influenced, by Satan and demons. That should not defeat us or discourage us because we can do what? James says we can, “Resist the devil and he will flee from (us).” That’s because Christ is in us and He is our hope of glory.

And we say, “Thank you Lord, I see the battle, I see the temptation, I see my weakness, but in Christ, Paul said it, I believe it, ‘I can do all things through (Christ) who strengthens me’” (Phil. 4:13). That’s our dynamic and that’s our hope.

Paul Scharf: Dr. Whitcomb, the next question was sent in by Noah. And he says, “What can I tell someone about what the Bible says about men who wear earrings, baggy clothes and have braids in their hair?”

Dr. Whitcomb: This is obviously an increasing problem in our society, even in our Christian subculture, isn’t it friends? Men and women looking similar to each other and, of course, God has spoken very concisely about that issue, hasn’t He?

He wants to maintain a distinction between man and woman. Otherwise, how can you have a true image of God as reflected in the triunity of the Godhead – Father, Son, Holy

Spirit – reflected in what? Equality with distinction, with uniqueness. The father is not half mother; the mother is not half father. In fact, even the clothing we wear, God says, should reflect that distinction, that difference, for God’s purposes, that sometimes are not fully understood by us but are very important.

Listen to Deuteronomy chapter 22, verse 5: “A woman shall not wear man’s clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman’s clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.”

Now friends, we realize that in many cases we don’t go quite that far, but the point is obvious. Let us maintain the distinctions that God has created and explains to us as a basis, a foundation, for a real God-reflecting, God-honoring home and family situation. Children are deeply affected subconsciously by a father and a mother that don’t function as God intended them to.

Listen to 1 Corinthians 11 on this. “Does not even nature itself,” verse 14, that’s 1 Cor. 11:14. “Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering” (v. 14, 15). In other words, in a certain respect, even the way we adorn ourselves or dress, or have our hairstyle makes a statement. It communicates a message. That we are reflections, or we are distortions of God’s original plan and purpose of man and woman, as what, equal before God, but different, separate, distinct in their function in the home, in the family, in the church, in human society. These things should guide our thinking and give us great caution about how we come across, what appearance we make, what impact and impression we have upon those who see us and hear us.

Paul Scharf: Thank you, Dr. Whitcomb, for these Biblical answers to the questions. And before we get going to our final question for this session, I just want to say a quick word to our SermonAudio listeners as they are tuning in all around the world, and we thank you for catching up with us here on SermonAudio.com/Whitcomb. It’s a wonderful

privilege to be broadcasting God's Word and to be able to reach people with this kind of information.

These questions were submitted at WhitcombMinistries.org in the *FAQ* section of our Web site. And there you will find questions, and answers to questions that are submitted, and also you will find this material used by way of audio here on SermonAudio.com on our pages here. And also, in time, we'll get this up in PDF version here on SermonAudio.com/Whitcomb so you can, again, read a transcript of these *FAQ* sessions that we're able to record and to deal with these questions that come in. So it's wonderful to be able to reach out with God's Word in this format and we thank you for joining us and for listening in here on our pages and we are just grateful to God for this opportunity.

And so, Dr. Whitcomb, our final question for this session is, comes from Nick. And he says, "The church is full of people who claim to be Christians but show no evidence of being born-again." And he says, "Via James and 1 John, etc., how can someone know if they are really saved?"

Dr. Whitcomb: The book of James is so practical. James puts it this way, by the Holy Spirit's inspiration: "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,' and he was called the friend of God." So, "You see," James goes on to say, "that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone" (James 2:21-24).

Now he is not contradicting the Apostle Paul at all, who says we're saved by faith alone. The point is, it's what kind of faith? A faith that doesn't produce works is not genuine. God called us to produce good works, the Bible says over and over again. That's an outward sign, or confirmation, that we have a genuine faith. Now it's very possible for a Christian, a genuine born-again Christian, to be out of fellowship with God and not demonstrating outwardly by his works that he is a true born-again Christian. That's

possible, but that is a very dangerous situation to be in, friends, and God says, “Prove, examine yourselves, see whether or not you are in the faith” (cf. 2 Cor. 13:5).

Well then, how do we know if we have genuine faith? Well, we read in 1 John chapter 5 these amazing words: “Whatever is born of God overcomes the world.” (v. 4) In other words, a truly born-again person evidences, demonstrates that genuineness of faith by overcoming the world – the temptations – demonic, satanic, from our sin nature. He overcomes. He’s an overcomer. Not sinless, but he’s processing, moving forward, onward, progressing.

Now listen to this, “And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith” (1 John 5:4). You say, “Well how, what do you have to do to have victory, to be an overcomer?” And it’s very simple and yet profound. Listen, 1 John 5:5: “And who is the one who (has) overcome the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” Friend, do you really believe in your heart, with all your mind and soul that Christ is the Son of God, that He died on that cross for your sins? That He paid for the sins of the world, that He rose from the dead, victoriously, triumphantly? “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God (hath) raised Him from the dead,” Paul says in Rom. 10:9 and 10, “you shall be saved”! It’s not that you’re sinless, it’s not that you’re perfect. An overcomer does not completely experience victory at every moment, night and day, but that’s the general direction of his life and it’s the foundation of overcoming, of victory, of assurance of salvation – is what? Genuine faith that produces an overcoming lifestyle for the glory of God.

Paul Scharf: Thank you, Dr. Whitcomb. It’s been so good to deal with these questions and we trust many will listen and these will be helpful to people. And we encourage you to continue to send in your questions, again, at WhitcombMinistries.org. There on the *FAQ* section of the Web site you can submit a question to Dr. Whitcomb in any of several different categories, and as the Lord allows in His timing here, we’ll answer these and trust the Lord to use them to the ends of the earth here on the Internet.

And so, until we join you again here on SermonAudio.com, we wish you a great day and God's blessings. Thank you for joining us.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Scripture quotations marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.