

## DEMONOLOGY (6)

**QUESTION #6** – How powerful are demons?

Demons are very dangerous and very powerful. They aren't anything with which to fool. Those who think demons are their friends make a grave mistake. We may sum up the power of demons by making five biblical observations:

**(Observation #1)** - Demons can be very fierce. Matt. 8:28-33

Demons can be “exceedingly violent.” This text makes it clear they can be so fierce that “no one could pass by that road.” Demons are not friends of people; they are fierce enemies and even when they would appear to be friendly, they are out to destroy.

**(Observation #2)** - Demons can cause major physical problems.

**Physical Problem #1** - Demons can cause dumbness. Matt. 9:32-33; Mk. 9:17

**Physical Problem #2** - Demons can cause blindness. Matt. 12:22

**Physical Problem #3** - Demons can cause sickness. Lk. 8:2; Acts 5:16

It is clear from these passages that demons can cause sickness, but there is a distinction between demon possession and demon-induced sickness.

**Physical Problem #4** - Demons can cause deformity. Luke 13:10-17

**Physical Problem #5** - Demons can cause deafness. Mark 9:25

Demons are able to do much hurt in the physical world. A satanic faith healer can give a counterfeit healing in the name of “Jesus.”

**(Observation #3)** - Demons can cause problems that are mental:

**Mental Problem #1** - Demons can cause psychological insanity. Mt. 17:14-15; Lk. 8:26-27

This particular type of insanity seems to work itself out when people do bizarre things totally contrary to the norm in society. Demons promote self-destruction and undoubtedly many, if not all suicides have been demonically promoted as well as much self-mutilation (Mk. 5:5; Lk. 9:42).

**Mental Problem #2** - Demons can cause physiological insanity. Mark 9:18

Demons are able to cause abnormal physiological symptoms such as thrashing to the ground, or foaming at the mouth or grinding teeth. George Gardiner said he saw a man go wild at the mention of the name Jesus.

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**(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.

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### 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).