

The Truth About Demons

So why should we talk about this top because the Bible tells us in 1 Peter 5:8-9 in The New Living Translation Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. Or in The Message Bible Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world.

So here's a topic that is not talked about much and people seem to like to steer clear of. It is a topic that in general is misunderstood by the church and thus other areas that have to do with this are also misunderstood or mistreated. What I want to look at today is the overall view of what demons are all about and clear up some misconceptions and offer some information that may help us beat down the enemy wherever he attacks.

Now the obvious place to start would be the simple question of where do demons come from? Well it all started with an angel named lucifer the most beautiful of all angels and created for a purpose. lucifer was the Anointed Cherub. Anointed, means to be set apart for Gods Divine purpose. It also means "bestowal of Gods divine favor", and "appointment to a special place or function." God had given Satan certain amount of power and authority. But he perverted that power. Lucifer wanted to exalt himself above God... rather than "just" being the Angel of God. Have a look at what it says here in Ezekiel 28:12-19 which is not talking about a human man, but rather lucifer. "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was

found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. 18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. 19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.' " also in Isaiah 14:12-13 it says How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

Now if it had only stopped with one angel we wouldn't have such a problem, but the bible states in Revelations 12:3-4 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. 4His

tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. Later on in verses 7-9 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. So because of lucifer, or as he became know satan, because of his influence a 1/3 of the angels of heaven were cast out of heaven onto the earth. Now demons are disembodied spirits that are at work virtually everywhere in the world today. They are evil in nature, and are obedient to Satan, their ruler. In the Bible they are also known as "evil spirits" or "unclean spirits".

Ok so demons and satan are merely fallen angels who through their free will chose to rebellion against God and serve satan, they are no longer beautiful because sin has corrupted them and consumed their beauty. Now because they were cast onto the earth, they no longer dwell in the heavenlies, they are bound by time and space, and satan is limited in power because he can not be everywhere at once, and cannot know the future, only what is happening in the present time.

The next question we can look at is how did satan get so much power? Well God gave all power over the earth to Adam and Eve, but when satan, as the serpent, tricked Eve who then convinced Adam to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which God had commanded them not to eat of, mankind became sinful because of their disobedience to God. satan had corrupted mankind and the authority that man had, was given to satan and so satan became the prince of this world as referred to in a few verses one of them being John 16:11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. So we live in a world where because of the original sin, the enemy, satan and his demons have dominion. God is ultimately in control of the universe, but satan has much power on the earth. Ephesians 6:12 says For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

The truth is demons exist and so does satan, the biggest deception satan ever achieved was convincing the world he doesn't exist as a real entity. But he does, the bible tells us this and we believe what the bible says. Now there is a misunderstanding about how demons interact with humans. The notion

of “Demon Possession” is completely wrong, if you were to watch a movie like the exorcism you might think otherwise or you might disagree with me because of what you have learned in your upbringing. But there is no such thing as demon possession in the conventional sense of the phrase, all dealings with demons is actually demonic Oppression. There is not one mention in the bible where a person was demon possessed in the way that the demon controlled them. Demonic possession is actually that the person possesses the demon or the person has taken possession of a demon. For instance if you buy a car off the internet and then go and pick it up I would say you have taken possession of a car, it could be referred to as car possession, you possess the car, it doesn't possess you. Now I know that some might be already upset with me and think I'm wrong, but there is no mention in the greek of the new testament that refers to a person being controlled by a demon in the classic idea of demon possession only that they had demons in them, or with them as I prefer to say.

Lets have a look at an analogy to help you understand what demonic oppression is really about. Take you life, lets say it's a car you drive from birth to death. Now a person who isn't a Christian will be behind the wheel steering their lives by the choices

they make. Now a Christian is a little different, they will either have Jesus Christ as a passenger, meaning that though they have made a decision to follow God, they still decide which roads their lives takes, or they will have given control to God and Jesus will be the driver. Now demonic oppression can affect either a non-christian or a Christian. Simply put demon oppression is when you have demons in the back seat or the boot. And there's nothing worse than a back seat driver influencing your decisions. So to think just because I'm a Christian means I don't have to deal with demonic oppression is wrong.

These back-seat demons can come into your life through a few different ways.

1..your grandfather or great grandfather might have been involved in the occult or some practice like Masonary or Free-Masonary (Masonic Halls) the religion which is actually part of the occult, and because of their involvement can pass a curse down to the 3rd & 4th generations as stated in Exodus 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the **third** and fourth **generation** of those who hate me. In these instances people may not even realize they have spiritual passengers of the evil kind until they are much older and become Christians and their

nature begins to directly conflict with the demons oppressing them.

2. If a person continues to involve themselves in something that is sinful such as looking at pornography, they can open the door in their lives for a spirit to come in, so it would be like stopping to pick up a hitchhiker. It is impossible to think that someone can look at pornographic pictures and not be affected by a spirit of lust. After a long exposure, the spirit will take residence in the back seat of your car and influence your thoughts towards what it wants you to think about.

3. By involving yourself in evil practices or the occult, dark arts such as witchcraft, fortune telling or tarot cards which is called divination and ouija boards which are not as innocent as they claim. This will directly open a door for spirits to come in, and not just 1 but many. It's like stopping your car, getting out and opening the door for a bunch of spirits to get in your back seat.

4. By using drugs. Now some drugs are for our benefit and we call those drugs medicine, the drugs I'm referring to are for the most part illegal such as speed, ice, marijuana, heroine, cocaine, or any other similar drugs which can interfere with the way the body and mind works. PHARMAKIA –Use of medicine and drugs used not for medicinal purposes ,

used in spells and religious rituals and ceremonies or **for ones own pleasure**. This includes the use of charms, amulets and occult powers.

In Gal.5:19-21 it gives a list of practices that are from the fallen nature of man that are condemned. One is called witchcraft (sorcery) this word in the Greek language is Pharmakia where we get our word Pharmacy. These are things used to put people under an outside influence bringing them into an altered state. That is a state that is not natural to mind but prompted by a foreign substance. this is called sorcery and is just as forbidden as drunkenness caused by another foreign substance, alcohol. Drugs can open one up to the spiritual realm as it alters the mind to function in a way unnatural to the how we were made. The invisible wall between the spiritual realm and the physical realm can be removed when under the influence of drugs and you will see things that you are not meant to see, and with long exposure, this can leave the door open between realms so long after you stop taking the drugs you could still see things that you were never designed or meant to see, at that point only God can close that door in your mind. Because of these effects, we can allows spirits to get into our backseat and oppress us without even knowing they have joined our carpool.

Ok so demons exist, are they all the same? An uneducated person, which would be most Christians, would say yes, they are all evil. But the truth is, they are not all the same, yes they are all evil because of sin corrupting them, there is no way for them to be redeemed, but to lump them all together would imply that they can all be dealt with the same way. A dear friend of mine and of my family's, is a retired Anglican minister who was in the same church for 43 years, we'll call him JB. He has had to deal with many, many demons, he himself has lost count, but he knows it is over 300. I was talking to him about this subject and in his dealings with demons he has come to see that there is 6 different types of demons. Not all demons are the same and different types of demons require different ways to deal with them.

1. FRIENDLY - basically harmless demons who went with the crowd in the rebellion ... they will normally leave of their own accord, and are NOT malicious

2. FEARFUL - often come as a result of circumstances in life. FEAR is their main hold, and they respond to authority. (They fear authority).

3. FIERCE - Dangerous (may include witchcraft and its many derivatives). The demonised person must release them before they can be dealt with. They may put up a fight, but will respond to authority.

4. **FREAKISH** -often religious in nature (christian, buddhist, atheist, agnostic, hindu, etc). They hide in theological and religious talk. They will acknowledge Jesus as Lord, but it is a demonic jesus whom they acknowledge. They can only be dealt with through the gift of discerning of spirits, and **THEN** they will respond to authority.

5. **FOREMEN** - These are princes who are generally in authority over a principality or realm. They must be dealt with by the authority of the church.

6. **SATAN** - Dealt with by the Lord (eg epistle of Jude)

So we can see that different types of demons can require different handling to cast them out. Now let me just say this, after talking to my dear friend JB, the term “deliverance” that we use for dealing and getting rid of demons is not correct, we do not deliver demons from people, in fact there is 12 different Greek words for deliver in the New Testament and none of them are to do with getting rid of a demon. When getting rid of demons we simply cast them out, the Greek word for this means expulsion or eviction from the person. Now something very important to consider is this, that when someone is demon oppressed, they have spiritual passengers or demons who go along with

them. To set someone free from a demon, the person who has the demons or possesses those demons must desire for them to leave. If there is no desire for the spirits to go, then they have all the right to be there and stay. We can not remove them by force and if we do try we risk traumatic damage to the person involved. To remove the right of demon to stay attached to a person, you must get the person to admit they want it to go and the demon must go, it has no right to stay, but may have to be convinced of that fact that it has lost its right, by being removed by being cast out or commanded to leave.

Ok so a person who is spiritually oppressed, has admitted a desire to be free of the demons oppressing them, how do you go about this? Well first the person must be willing to repent and no longer follow the path they are on, or it will lead right back to the current situation. They must out loud say that they want the demon or demons to go. Now it is unlikely that a person who is oppressed can deal with the demons themselves, simply because the demons would get in the way of that, not impossible, but rather unlikely and very difficult. Now the other thing that you need to cast out a demon or demons is authority. Now this authority is not just something you go ask your priest or pastor for, it's not that kind of authority. This authority comes from your identity

in Christ. Now I don't want to go into this subject too deep, but there is a big difference in knowing who you are in God, and knowing your identity in God. Everyone who has become a Christian is a son or daughter, a child of God. But this is not enough to give you the authority to cast out a demon. You must know your identity in Christ. Understanding the nature of the spiritual battles is critical for victory.

The Christian encounters demonic activity primarily as a truth encounter (as it was in the beginning with the serpent). The mind is the focal point for this activity. For this reason, Biblical teaching is filled with commands and encouragement to renew our minds with the word of God. Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

How does the identity of the believer defend against demonic attack?

Who you are in Christ and who Christ is in you are two fundamental building blocks to successful living. If you do not know who you are, then you will not be able to exercise the gifts you have, enjoy the rights and privileges afforded one in your position, or combat the enemy who would deceive you. If you do not know who Christ is in you, you will never be

successful in combatting an enemy who is stronger than you. This is why the identify of the believer is so important. This is why Satan chooses to attack here. The Bible says, **Psalms 11:3, NIV "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"**. If the foundations of your identity can be ripped apart, the whole person will collapse. Mere knowledge of your identity in Christ is not enough; the truths must be believed. Satan will try to counter the truths with his slick lies. Some of these truths are

- **You are a child of God.**

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

- **You are saved by grace alone.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast.

- **You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the

redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- **You are a new creation in Christ.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

The list could go on. Suffice to say that being assured of your status before a holy God brings great joy and peace. It is also much harder to intimidate one who is assured of the basis of his relationship with God. Confidence in the truths presented in God's word about our identity in Christ will bring victory in the truth encounters with Satan. For the most part when dealing with demons, they have convinced the person they oppress of a lie, if you break the power of the lie, you break the power they have over the person, there never has to be a power struggle if you go after the thing that gives the demon power. Now I have had debates with other Christians who believe that who you are in God is the same as your identity but I beg to differ, when we are first saved we can come to know we are a child of God, but if that person had to come against a demon they would be shot down because they wouldn't know the weapons of warfare and the rights and authority they have in knowing Christ.

In closing, I want people to be aware that the enemy is real, demons and satan stand against us because we stand with God and in some way all Christians are called to spiritual warfare. So to succeed we need to know our enemy and understand who and what it is and how to overcome it. Most of us will never be called to serious spiritual warfare, but if God calls you to cast out a demon and you don't know what you're doing, it will either fizzle or be a very bad experience for you and the person you're trying to help. We must never try to cast out a demon or go into a situation where we are on the enemy's turf in our own authority, if God didn't send us, we have no protection, we go in alone and there are no angels there to help us, we **MUST** only tackle spiritual warfare in any form whether big or small if God has told us to. I hope that everyone has a better understanding of what we fight against every day and that you all can grow stronger in the Lord, come to know your identity in Christ, who Christ is in you, so that when God calls us to battle we are ready to fight through his authority and kick some demon tail.