



Empowering People to Change the World

Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?

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Our Cosmic Warfare Prayer (The Lord's Prayer)

Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?

Today will feel more like a Seminar than a Sermon...

- **Can a Christian be *possessed*?**
- This is one of the most controversial questions that theologians and churches have grappled with.
 - My answer, Yes and No.
 - To adequately answer this question, we need to look at the true meaning of *demon possession*.
 - The KJV has, at times, missed the meaning in the Greek of a translation.

What is Demon Possession?

- Thirteen times in the New Testament, the KJV and NKJV use the word “possessed” to describe someone with demons.

Turn to Matthew 4:24

“Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.”

- Possession in the English implies ownership or complete possession of something.
- But the Greek word used for *demon possession* is ***daimonizomai***.

The Greek word used for demon possession is *daimonizomai*.

- The Greek word does not mean *ownership*. It means *to be influenced by or under the power of*.
- **A better translation would be *demon influenced, demonized, or demonization*.**

- To return to our previous question, do I believe that a born again believer in Christ, a Christian, can be *demon possessed* or have complete *ownership*? Then my answer is “No!!”
- But if we mean *influenced by* or have an area of their life that is being directed and influenced by a demon, then my answer is “yes.”

Most of the New Testament letters speak of the battle of the Christian with the demonic.

James 4:7

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

- If the Devil has no influence over the Believer, then why would James write this.
- If you daily submit to God, the enemy will flee from you!
- But remember the other side, if you don't, he won't...

Matthew 16:21-23

“From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!’

But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’

- Peter is being *influenced by* Satan and his plans. I don't believe Peter is *demon possessed* but he is being influenced by Satan to such a degree that Jesus rebukes him.

One noted theologian, a close friend while alive, and author writes,

“In my research, I have noticed several things. For one, almost all those who themselves are actively involved in a ministry of exorcism or

deliverance affirm that Christians can be demonized. Those who deny it, by and large, have had little or no direct contact with the demonic.

For another I have discovered that several Christian leaders have changed their opinion on this matter over the years. But the changes I have found have all been in the same direction: from once denying that demons can harm Christians to now affirming that they can and do. As of yet, I have not known of those who have changed from believing that demons harm Christians to not believing it anymore...for example, Charles Swindoll has changed his opinion.”

(C. Peter Wagner, *The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit* p. 71,72)

How does a person, even a Christian, become demonized (demon influenced)?

Turn to Ephesians 4:17-27

“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, putting away lying, ‘*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*’ for we are members of one another. ‘Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”

- *Feeding on* fleshly desire and sin.
- Like rats feeding on old food...

Verses 27

“nor give place to the devil” (NKJV.)

The NIV reads, “do not give the devil a foothold.”

- Demons need a “foothold” or “opportunity” in order to enter.

Seven most common ways people get demons:

- 1. Indulging a Sin. By far the main way one becomes demonized.**
Indulging in a particular sin for a prolonged period and demons come along and entrench themselves, attached to that particular sin.
 - Pornography and sexual sin.
 - My lust struggle in Japan.
 - Uncontrolled anger, violence, and lust.
 - Yasu with Karate-spirit of war and violence.
- 2. Dedicated to Pagan Gods.** I saw this much more in parts of Asia.
- 3. A Religious Spirit.** Religious spirits through a fixation and legalistic understanding of religion.
- 4. Prolonged Drug and Alcohol Abuse.** The word for *witchcraft* is *pharmakea*.
- 5. Sins Against Us.**
 - Sexual abuse as children.
 - Injustice committed against the person, especially as a child.
- 6. Involvement in Occult Practices and Idol Worship.**
 - Idolatry...yes even in the West, whatever you worship is your idol.
 - A Japanese staff member who could not get over a girl he loved...she had become an idol in his life.
- 7. Unforgiveness and Bitterness. This is huge!** Unforgiveness is most dangerous because most people feel they are so justified in it, Hebrews 12:

“Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.”

8. Lust for Riches.

1 Timothy 6:8-10

“And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

What kind of tactics will the enemy use? Nothing new!

Genesis 3

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’

And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’

Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

The Seven Tactics of Satan & Demons.

1. Question God’s goodness.

2. **Question our true freedom.**
3. **Create discontentment.**
4. **Think there are no consequences for our sin.**
5. **Enticement to rebellion through the eyes.**
6. **Shame and escape.**
7. **Hiddenness and fear.**

- Attacks our thoughts with doubts, fears, propaganda, lust, pride...
- Jealousy and envy are huge!!
 - Look at King Saul with David.
- Scripting in childhood.
 - Comes as an angel of light and seduces us with thoughts of wealth, power, and pleasure.

“You will be happier if...”

“You will be more significant if...”

“You will be more noticed if...”

Six degrees of demonization.

Degrees - Experiential, not Theological

1 st Degree	Occasional temptation, harassment which the Christian can have victory through resisting, turning from the temptation, and praying.
2 nd Degree	Demons <i>around</i> a person. One can feel their presence. Victory can often come through prayer, a rebuke, or just leaving the place.
3 rd Degree	Afflicted, oppressed, sick, demons <i>on</i> a person, Luke 13:10-13. Victory often comes through prayer from others and continual renewing of one's mind and heart.
4 th Degree	Infested, disabling in a particular area, demons <i>in</i> a person, Mark 7:26-30. Victory only comes as the body of Christ

ministers to the person and the person engages his/her will to be renewed daily.

- 5th Degree Dominated by, *controlling* a person, Luke 8:26,27. Victory only comes through prolonged prayer and power ministry and taking back the ground step by step.
- 6th Degree Owned by Satan and demons (Judas) through a pact or an agreement with the enemy. No desire to be set free. No true believer in Christ could come to this point. Modern examples would be: Hitler, Mao, Stalin, Manson, Idi Amin, etc.

You must fight for freedom!

Turn to Ephesians 6

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (NKJV).

- We are told to put on the full armor of God to withstand the enemy.
- We are told that every believer will wrestle with principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness.

Put on the Armor

Armor Up Daily!

