

Order of Worship: The Road

8-29-15

Ministry Testimony: Steve Burak

Antiphonal Reading

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Pastor: *vs 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.*

Congregation: *vs 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

All: *vs 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

Testimony tonight: Mina Adams

Announcements:

- **The Wholeheart Advance** is closed or The Wholeheart Advance has ___ number of spots left
- **Victor Marx** will continue our series on “War” next week as he speaks from his unique perspective of demonization...
- **Mark Tedder** will be leading worship next weekend! He is also leading the worship at The Wholeheart Advance
- The week of The Wholeheart Advance, we have a special speaker coming in but I’m not going to tell you who it is. (Jared Anderson will be leading that weekend also?)
- **Hether Ruland’s prophetic dream...**
- **NexGen:** Put on the hat of the IDF, “Just say yes” to our children

Tonight, we are looking at one of the most controversial of questions:

Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?

Satan can only be at one place at one time and thus for his influence to grow on the earth, he has foot soldiers, fallen angels called demons to do his bidding.

Demons are ground level troops that fight against us, try to influence us, and attempt to disrupt all that is godly, holy, and is being used to usher in the kingdom of God

- Demons are especially interested in disrupting anything and anyone who is a threat to Satan's dominion on the earth
- We are talking about ground level demons that would want to cripple anything that is getting in the way of the advancement of satanic power over the earth. "Lawlessness will increase and the love of many will grow cold" (Matt 24:12)
- Can a Christian be "possessed?"
- This is one of the most controversial questions that theologians and churches have grappled with
- What do you think? My answer: Yes and No
- To adequately answer this question, we need to look at the true meaning of "demon possession"
- The KJV and many other Bible translations have, at times, missed the meaning in the Greek of a translation

What is "Demon Possession?"

- 15x in the New Testament, the KJV and uses the word "possessed" to describe someone with demons

- **Matthew 4:24**

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. NKJV

- “Possession” in the English implies ownership or complete possession of something. Ex. The bank possessed my car; I have “possessions” that I own
 - But the Greek word used for “demon possession” is: daimonizomai
 - The Greek word does not mean “ownership.” It means to “be influenced by.”
 - A better translation would be “demon influenced”, “demonized” or “demonization”
- To go back 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”

- **Matthew 16:16-23**

- Peter had just confessed Christ and at the same time is filled with Satan and his plans. Jesus said, “Get behind me Satan!”

- **Acts 5:1-11**

- Annaias and Sapphira are filled with satan and his plans. Peter said, “**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie**”

The New Testament letters speak of the Battle of the Christian with the Demonic

- Indeed we learn the power and influence of the demonic almost exclusively through the letters of the NT, written to Christians

- **James 4:7**

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

- 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!
 - Very interesting passage! Very powerful! If we resist the devil he WILL flee from you!! You CAN resist!!
- Paul, in writing to the Ephesians made a very interesting statement

Turn to Ephesians 4

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. NKJV

- “give place to the devil” comes from the Greek word *topos*, which means “give an opportunity to the devil”
- Ex. Like a stirrup on a saddle—Satan and demons can get a foothold if we are not careful
- Ex. Like rats feeding on discarded food, demons look for ways to infiltrate our lives, influencing our choices, stealing our hearts away
- Think of anything that steals your heart. Whether it be lust or greed or TV or sports, etc. Anything that can steal our heart away from passion, worship, and zeal for God has the potential to be a “foothold” of demons

Matthew 12:43

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”¹

- It appears from our text that a demon can't enter a place already occupied
- Hence I don't believe a Jesus disciple can be demon possessed or owned by a demon, but I do believe they can have considerable influence
- The problem is that many believers are not filling their lives with wholehearted devotion, worship, and prayer. A house filled with affection for the Lord, worship, meditation in God's Word will not be easily influenced by demons
- But if we are not filling our house with the thoughts and passions of the Lord, Peter says that Satan is like a “roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.” I have seen Christians “devoured” by the Enemy!
- A demon's influence is through trickery, deceptive scheming, and loss of spiritual vitality

How does a Demon get a Foothold? How Can a Person be demonized?

- **Remember, Galatians is written to believers**
- **Galatians 5:16-21**
I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident,

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mt 12:43–45). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. NKJV

- Note that if such sins continue to be indulged in habitually, that person is not a Christian
- But all of us can struggle with our flesh—read Romans 5-7 to better grasp our battle
- Demons “Feed on” fleshly desire and sin
- Demons need a “foothold” or “opportunity” in order to enter
- Illustration: Using fingers to illustrate point of contact-→ “open window”-→(over time and indulgence) stronghold

Common ways People get Demons:

- 1) Indulging in a particular sin for a prolonged period of time—willfully choosing to indulge in a fleshly area
- 2) Addiction to something of the flesh. The word for drugs or pharmaceutical comes from the root word for sorcery. Anything we’ve allowed to control our minds, our hearts, and our bodies could be demon influenced
- 3) Sexual sins, adultery, pornography. Men know what I’m talking about. The flesh desires this stuff. If we are not walking in the Spirit and taking our thoughts captive to Christ, we can get in big trouble here
- 4) Anything that controls our emotions—anger, jealousy, violence, envy—again the heart emotions can be left open to a foothold. We must renew our emotions and thoughts

- 5) Unforgiveness and hatred toward someone is huge in a stronghold being built up in someone. This is so difficult to deal with because people feel they are justified in it
- 6) Involvement in the Occult, false religions, satanic rituals all open one up to demons
- 7) Having an altar to worship an idol in the home. Paul reminds the Corinthians that sacrificing to idols is the same as sacrificing to demons: ***“What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.”***²
- 8) Being dedicated to pagan gods, false gods in a Temple. I know of people who were baptized in a Mormon Temple and a demon entered them
- 9) Demons don't play fair—they will use anything to build a stronghold. Rape, incest, and injustice done to someone can bring upon them a demon.
- 10) Shame and Condemnation usually in childhood—often from a person in authority or peers who make fun, bully, or say things that demean and abuse
- 11) Religious Spirit. Even supposed Christians who use the Law, Legalisms to control people can be demonized
- 12) Lust for riches and more stuff—seduction of riches and power
 - 1 Timothy 6:8-10
And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 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. 10 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.

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Co 10:19–20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

How do we Resist? How do we Fight?

#1 Pull Down the Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

- If undealt with a foothold can become a stronghold and you need help from others. Confess your sins and you will be healed.
- In the form of arguments in your mind that have convinced you that you are: a loser, stupid, ugly, boring, a failure, etc.
- For many it is in the form of fleshly sins that we have indulged in
- Get people around you—Spirit empowered people to pray over you
- Get in a D Group, we all need accountability and allies in the battle

bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

#2 Renew your Mind, renew your heart

- You've been believing the lie—a lie that has told you that if you do this or that it will satisfy your heart and it doesn't
- Behind every lie is a fear and behind every fear is an idol. Idols are established wherever we don't believe in God's provision for us
- We renew our mind through spending time in God's Word, reading it, praying it, meditating in it. Remember that the purpose of a relationship with Christ is intimacy→ loving Christ with all of your heart

- We renew our minds through speaking out the “blood of Christ” and the “name of Christ” it overcomes the enemy! Say it out loud
- We renew our minds through worship and prayer→loving Jesus with all of your heart

#3 Put on the Armor of God and Stand

- **Ephesians 6:10-18**

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. 13 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; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—³

Ex. Demonstrate once again how to put on the armor

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Eph 6:11–18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.