



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Doctrine: Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed?

Doctrine: Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed?, on: 2011/6/1 3:22

Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed?

Galatians 1:8, Matthew 12, 2 Corinthians 6, Colossians 1:13, 1 John 2:13,
Code: QA191

By John MacArthur

We must remember, first of all, that God's Word is our only reliable source of truth about Satan and demons.

Princeton theologian and scholar Dr. Charles Hodge rightly warned:

No amount of learning, no superiority of talent, nor even the pretension to inspiration, can justify a departure from the . . . truths taught by men to whose inspiration God has borne witness. All teachers must be brought to this standard; and even if an angel from heaven should teach anything contrary to the Scriptures, he should be regarded as anathema, Gal. 1:8. It is a matter of constant gratitude that we have such a standard whereby to try the spirits whether they be of God (Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans , p. 395).

What does God's Word, the touchstone of truth, say? Can demons inhabit or spatially indwell a true believer? Can they walk through an open door and become a squatter? Proponents of today's spiritual warfare movement say yes, but they base their answer on subjective experience, not on God's Word. The Bible makes it clear that such a claim has no justifiable basis.

There is no clear example in the Bible where a demon ever inhabited or invaded a true believer. Never in the New Testament epistles are believers warned about the possibility of being inhabited by demons. Neither do we see anyone rebuking, binding, or casting demons out of a true believer. The epistles never instruct believers to cast out demons, whether from a believer or unbeliever. Christ and the apostles were the only ones who cast out demons, and in every instance the demon-possessed people were unbelievers.

The collective teaching of Scripture is that demons can never spatially indwell a true believer. A clear implication of 2 Corinthians 6, for example, is that the indwelling Holy Spirit could never cohabit with demons:

What harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (vv. 15-16).

In Colossians 1:13, Paul says God "delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son." Salvation brings true deliverance and protection from Satan. In Romans 8:37, Paul says we overwhelmingly conquer through Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15:57, he says God gives us the victory. In 2 Corinthians 2:14, he says God always leads us in triumph. In 1 John 2:13, John says we have overcome the evil one. And, in 4:4, he says the indwelling Holy Spirit is greater than Satan. How could anyone affirm those glorious truths, yet believe demons can indwell genuine believers?

DEMON POSSESSION AND TRUE CONVERSION

Many of the leading voices in today's spiritual warfare movement are too quick to hail every profession of faith in Christ as proof of salvation. That reflects the easy-believism that has swept this generation.

A thorough biblical understanding of the doctrine of conversion makes it clear that demons could never indwell or possess a believer. Jonathan Edwards wrote about true conversion:

Scripture describes conversion in terms which imply or signify a change of nature: being born again, becoming new creatures, rising from the dead, being renewed in the spirit of the mind, dying to sin and living to righteousness, putting off the

the old man and putting on the new, becoming partakers of the divine nature, and so on.

It follows that if there is no real and lasting change in people who think they are converted, their religion is worthless, whatever their experiences may be. Conversion is the turning of the whole man from sin to God. God can restrain unconverted people from sin, of course, but in conversion he turns the very heart and nature from sin to holiness. The converted person becomes the enemy of sin.

What, then, shall we make of a person who says he has experienced conversion, but whose religious emotions soon die away, leaving him much the same person as he was before? He seems as selfish, worldly, foolish, perverse and un-Christian as ever. This speaks against him louder than any religious experiences can speak for him.

In Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, neither a dramatic experience nor a quiet one, neither a wonderful testimony nor a dull one, counts for anything. The only thing that counts is a new creation (The Experience That Counts! p. 99).

In Matthew 12, Christ rebuked those who were following Him just for the sake of witnessing great signs and wonders:

When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, "I will return to my house from which I came"; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes, and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation (vv. 43-45).

Instead of responding with spectacular signs and wonders, Christ addressed their need for salvation. Many people appear to have their lives in order. But in reality, they have not trusted Christ as Savior and Lord. Their souls are "unoccupied"—that is, the Holy Spirit does not indwell them. Thus they are open to demonic invasion. That cannot be true of those whose bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Cor. 6:16).

According to 1 Peter 1:5, when Christ reigns in a person's life, that person is kept by God's power. As a result, "the evil one does not touch him" (1 John 5:18). When the Holy Spirit inhabits a person, no demon can set up house as a matter. Indwelling by demons is only evidence of a lack of genuine salvation.

This article originally appeared in Pulpit Magazine, an online magazine of the Shepherds' Fellowship, Grace Community Church.

Re: Doctrine: Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed? - posted by savannah, on: 2011/6/1 7:27

The following link is to a downloadable PDF booklet which addresses the subject of this thread.

<http://www.ihcc.org/download/sites/all/files/booklets/demonization-of-the-believer.pdf>

Anyone interested in researching this subject would profit from this short booklet.

I recommend it!

An excerpt from the introduction:

Can a believer be demonized? There is a movement within Evangelicalism today that says, "Yes." This movement is teaching that a high percentage of sin among Christians is caused by demons. Followers assent that a person can be a believer in Jesus Christ, experience fullness of salvation, and still be in bondage to Satan and demons. The popularity of this movement can be seen in the seminars being held across the country and the best-selling books being published that promote this teaching...This booklet is not meant to be an exhaustive study of demonology.

Instead, it is an analysis of the demonization movement in light of Scripture. Throughout this booklet, I often refer to the works of two men, Neil Anderson and Fred Dickason, who have had great influence in promoting demonization teaching.

Re: , on: 2011/6/1 7:53

Quote:
-----Followers assent that a person can be a believer in Jesus Christ, experience fullness of salvation, and still be in bondage to Satan and demons.

The subject of my post is that Believers cannot be demon POSSESSED. It does not mean they cannot be demon OPPRESSED. There is a huge difference. Christians suffer from depression and fear that is often the result of such oppression. Also, Job could be considered one example of demonic oppression.

Re: Doctrine: Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed? - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/6/1 7:53

"There is no clear example in the Bible where a demon ever inhabited or invaded a true believer. Never in the New Testament epistles are believers warned about the possibility of being inhabited by demons. Neither do we see anyone rebuking, binding, or casting demons out of a true believer. The epistles never instruct believers to cast out demons, whether from a believer or unbeliever. Christ and the apostles were the only ones who cast out demons, and in every instance the demon-possessed people were unbelievers."

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16: 15-18).

These are the words of Jesus. The Lord has given every child of God the authority to cast out demons. Isn't it amazing that the casting out of demons was common in the ministry of Jesus and His disciples but now some well known men are telling us that there is no basis for this? I would rather believe the authority of the scriptures. I would rather believe God than man. Men have formed their own doctrines because of their own unbelief and lack of experience in this area.

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21).

"He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1John 3:8).

The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. All those that are born of God have been sent to do the works of God, and to destroy the works of the devil.

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:17-19).

Jesus has given his servants power (authority) over all of the power of the enemy. The Lord would not have given us power over demon spirits if He didn't expect us to use that authority.

While the church debates whether or not a Christian can have a demon, many are in bondage, and now we do not cast out demons any more, we counsel those that are afflicted, so that they can learn how to live with the demon that is tormenting them.

The Church should be doing the same works that Jesus did. We are His Body, His hands and His feet.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." (Luke 4:18).

Many Christians are apposed to deliverance ministry because they have seen much misuse and abuse by those that see a demon under every bush and are demon conscious.

There are two extremes to be avoided when it comes to dealing with demons. One is to give more attention to the subject than it deserves. Our focus needs to be on the Lord and our minds should be set on those things that are above. The other extreme is to believe that evil spirits cannot have any effect on a child of God.

Every believer that is following the Lord should be involved in spiritual warfare. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickednesses in high places." (Ephesians 6:12).

God has given us mighty weapons to wage this war with and to fight the good fight of faith.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

Deliverance is no cure all. The cross must be taken up daily in the disciple's life. No child of God will have lasting victory until we get victory over ourselves. The flesh (sin nature) must be crucified. We must live holy, consecrated lives. We must believe and appropriate all of the Word of God, every promise of God to live in victory.

Mike

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/6/1 8:18

Quote:
-----These are the words of Jesus. The Lord has given every child of God the authority to cast out demons. Isn't it amazing that the casting out of demons was common in the ministry of Jesus and His disciples but now some well known men are telling us that there is no basis for this? I would rather believe the authority of the scriptures. I would rather believe God than man. Men have formed their own doctrines because of their own unbelief and lack of experience in this area.

Amen.

God bless,
Lisa

PS: Oh and what better place for evil spirits to hide but in this teaching; they have a clear paved road ahead of them with no worries?

Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2011/6/1 9:05

I do not believe that a Christian can be "possessed" by a demon in the sense that the Christian is completely controlled by the demon. Satan can however send thoughts into a Christian's mind and if the believer is not alert and discerning may accept those thoughts as his own. Satan will try to send 1) lies and deception, 2) accusations against the believer and God, and 3) enticements to sin into the mind of the believer. If the believer accepts and acts on these thoughts, he falls into darkness.

1 John 5:18

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Yes, the evil one cannot DIRECTLY touch the child of God. But he can influence him/her. Just as Baalam could not directly curse Israel as they wandered in the desert, he did the next best thing. He got them to commit sin and bring a curse and bondage upon themselves.

In our Western worldview, we tend to assume that a demon cannot do anything to a "good" Christian, and that the best thing to do with Satan and demons is to ignore them. We do this in spite of the fact the Bible never tells us to ignore the devil; that is just where our Western worldview has led us. The Bible, on the contrary, tells us to resist the devil. The Greek word translated resist or stand against is the same in Ephesians 6:13, James 4:7, and 1 Peter 5:9, and "good" Christians are not exempt. Even the apostle Paul had a "messenger of Satan, to torment" him (2 Cor. 12:7), and Satan "hindered" him from carrying out his plans to visit Thessalonica (1 Thess. 2:18, KJV). The apostle Peter warns us that:

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

But somehow in churches today we get the message to ignore the enemy instead of resisting him. There needs to be balance however. Back in the 1970s there were deliverance ministries that saw demons behind every problem. There is such a thing as being too preoccupied with all things demonic. But we do need to be knowledgeable and alert against the wiles of the devil.

Re: , on: 2011/6/2 21:25

Quote:
-----These are the words of Jesus. The Lord has given every child of God the authority to cast out demons. Isn't it amazing that the casting out of demons was common in the ministry of Jesus and His disciples but now some well known men are telling us that there is no basis for this?

You are a liar. Like the serpent in the garden, you are twisting my words/intents and John MacArthur's. He never said we are not to cast out demons! He is only stating that demons cannot inhabit a Holy Ghost filled Believer in Christ. If there are any demons to be cast out it would only be from heathen. YOU are twisting scripture to your own use. Shame on you.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2011/6/2 21:51

Quote:
-----You are a liar. Like the serpent in the garden, you are twisting my words/intents and John MacArthur's. He never said we are not to cast out demons! He is only stating that demons cannot inhabit a Holy Ghost filled Believer in Christ. If there are any demons to be cast out it would only be from heathen. YOU are twisting scripture to your own use. Shame on you.

Sister this is very unchristian. You owe Mike an apology. You need to go back and read your op again.

Blessings to you!

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/6/2 23:15

hi, few have had experience in this area and are like priests teaching on marriage. on the field you see people whose lives have been cursed by witchcraft. i have seen and been involved in many events where people who have made a profession had demonic influence on their lives. Jesus said that deliverance was the childrens bread. jimp

Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2011/6/3 0:57

I would say that this is not as simple and straightforward as it may appear. I respect Mr. MacArthur as a brother in Christ, and have been blessed by some of his teachings--but when a friend of mine reached for one of his books titled 'Charismatic Chaos,' in the church library, I suggested that he should put it back. Mr. MacArthur has very strong opinions, and he is only one voice in a very diverse set of voices that make up global Christianity.

That being said, some of the best and brightest minds in missions, at both the level of practitioner and in the academic settings wrestle with this question--because despite all of the theological wrangling, most Christian Missionaries working in non-Western settings have run into things they cannot explain with pat-answers and a couple verses from the bible.

I was blessed to be able to take a class on Spiritual Conflict at Wheaton College taught by Dr. Scott Moreau. Aside from being an incredible teacher, he is also the editor of Evangelical Missions Quarterly and operates MisLinks.org. He has been involved in the ongoing discussion of Spiritual Warfare within the Lausanne Theological Working Group.

The main point of the class was that Spiritual Warfare was real, and most Westerners are blissfully unaware of how much of a reality it is even in our own daily lives. This naivety is shaped by and has its roots in our Western post-Enlightenment worldview, and leads to a very narrow view of the scripture and Christian experience.

Here are some resources to help you in your own exploration of the topic of Spiritual Warfare:

Lausanne Statement on Spiritual Warfare and Worldview (1993)
<http://www.lausanne.org/all-documents/spiritual-warfare-1993.html>

Spiritual Warfare and Worldview by Paul Hiebert (article)
<http://www.lausanne.org/all-documents/spiritual-warfare-and-worldview.html>

Lausanne, Evangelization Issues: Spiritual Warfare (resources)
<http://www.lausanne.org/issues/spiritual-warfare.html>

Deliver Us from Evil (Lausanne Consultation Statement, 2000)
<http://www.lausanne.org/all-documents/consultation-statement.html>

MisLinks: Spiritual Warfare
<http://www.mislinks.org/topics/spconflict.htm>

Network For Strategic Missions: Spiritual Warfare
<http://www.strategicnetwork.org/index.php?loc=kb&view=b&fto=571&sf=Y>

I hope that you will see that the diversity of different views when it comes to Spiritual Warfare (and Demonology) is as a result of how very important and complex this issue is to the church of Jesus Christ and his mission work around the globe. That means we should listen to all of the voices, and be less quick to pull a verse or two out of context to make a broad theological statement.

Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2011/6/3 1:22

Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2011/6/3 1:22

Just to share one of those alternative voices to Mr. MacArthur, I give you Don Rogers, former missionary to the Philippines and prominent voice on Spiritual Warfare. From his the FAQs section on his website www.sw-mins.org:

Quote:

-----TOPIC ONE: Can Christians have demonic problems?

ANSWER:

I know that there are a lot of Christians that believe this is impossible. They believe if this were possible it would undermine the the work of Christ at the cross. Another argument is also posed. "How can the light dwell with darkness?"

First of all, if God is permitting the Christian to experience demonic problems, there is a reason; there is probably sin that needs to be addressed. God often used Israel's enemies to chastise them. Paul was speaking to Christians in Eph. 4:26-27 when he said,

"Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." (NIV)

The Greek word for foothold means a place of influence in one's life. Sin provides the enemy with an opportunity, even with Christians, if they persist in sin.

The argument of the light not being able to dwell with darkness is based on logic, not God's Word. God is present everywhere and cannot be limited by the darkness of this world. If that were the case, the Holy Spirit would not be able to dwell and work in a world full of sin and evil forces.

On the other hand, the apostle Paul indicates that Christians can open themselves up to evil spirits if they do not adhere to God's word and obey it. He said to believers in 2 Corinthians 11:3-5,

"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough." (NIV)

What Paul is saying here is that believers can receive into their lives another spirit in the same way they received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit entered when they believed the truth about Jesus Christ. An evil spirit can enter when you believe the lies of the enemy in the form of another gospel. In fact, when any sin is practiced by a believer, there is the potential that God may permit an evil spirit to enter in to establish a foothold as an agent of chastisement. The Christian becomes demonized, not demon possessed. Unfortunately, Christians are not pursuing holy living, because they are enjoying too much of the world in their lives. They ignore the convicting prods of the Holy Spirit because of the enticements of the flesh.

And Christians put up with the oppression because they are blinded by their sin and lack discernment. Paul could not have made it much clearer for us

and

Quote:

----- TOPIC TWO: I believe it is possible for Christians to be harassed by demons, but how is it possible for demons to invade a believer's body?

ANSWER:

This is somewhat related to the first question. I think the best way to understand what is happening is to look at Romans 8:22-23.

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies." (NIV)

The reason we can be physically vulnerable to demonic activity is because our physical bodies still await redemption. That is why disease can enter our bodies and even bring death to us. If we understand that the sovereign God can do whatever He pleases, even to using the enemy's activities for His purposes, then we will not have such difficulty with this issue.

And remember that God has given a couple of great promises to stand on.

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." - 1 Cor. 10:13 (NIV)

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28 (NIV)

aimōniōn. This may either mean teachings "respecting" demons, or teachings "by" demons. The particular sense must be determined by the connection. Ambiguity of this kind in the construction of words, where one is in the genitive case, is not uncommon; compare Joh_15:9-10; Joh_21:15. Instances of the construction where the genitive denotes the "object," and should be translated "concerning," occur in Mat_9:25; "The gospel of the kingdom," i. e., concerning the kingdom; Mat_10:1; "Power of unclean spirits," i. e., over or concerning unclean spirits; so, also, Act_4:9; Rom_16:15; 2Co_1:5; Eph_3:1; Rev_2:13. Instances of construction where the genitive denotes the "agent," occur in the following places: Luk_1:69, "A horn of salvation," i. e., a horn which produces or causes salvation; Joh_6:28; Rom_3:22; 2Co_4:10; Eph_4:18; Col_2:11. Whether the phrase here means that, in the apostasy, they would give heed to doctrines "respecting" demons, or to doctrines which demons "taught," cannot, it seems to me, be determined with certainty. If the previous phrase, however, means that they would embrace doctrines taught by evil spirits, it can hardly be supposed that the apostle would immediately repeat the same idea in another form; and then the sense would be, that one characteristic of the time referred to would be the prevalent teaching "respecting" demons. They would "give heed to," or embrace, some special views respecting demons."

<http://davidwilkersonsontoday.blogspot.com/2009/07/dealing-with-our-strongholds.html>

<http://ministers.ag.org/pdf/Possessed.pdf>

<http://www.svchapel.org/downloads/TheologyLessons/angelology.pdf>

http://www.bhd.bz/apts/aeimages/File/AJPS_PDF/00-1-scarter.pdf

You choose what you believe.

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2011/6/3 5:57

1 John 5:18 (KJV) We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (KJV) 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (KJV) 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (KJV) 14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

A person cannot be possessed of God and of the devil at the same time. God will not share His temple with the devil. If a person is possessed of the devil he/she is not saved but lost and under the power of the evil one.

A Christian needs to be certain of who he is, where he stands, and where he is going. He is to give no place to the devil. If he is truly born of God he will overcome through faith. If he gives ground to the devil then he will be oppressed and needs to immediately take back the ground he lost. If he loses all ground back to the devil then he has been in disobedience and if he does become possessed of the devil then the Holy Spirit does not dwell in him, therefore being lost and now under the control of the devil. God and the devil cannot possess the same vessel. God will not allow it for he is holy and will not share with the devil the same temple.

Again possession is a strong word and I take it to mean ownership and the truly born of God have been bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus Christ and are not their own anymore and we don't have to worry that God is going to give any ownership to the devil. Praise God he does protect us from the devil if we abide in Him and are trusting in Him.

Blessings to all!

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/6/3 6:16

Not going to lie, this thread kind of hurts my brain. :)

Re: the opposing view - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/6/3 7:45

Quote:
-----The argument of the light not being able to dwell with darkness is based on logic, not God's Word. God is present everywhere and cannot be limited by the darkness of this world. If that were the case, the Holy Spirit would not be able to dwell and work in a world full of sin and evil forces.

Very well put by Don Rogers. Thank you so much for supplying it and daring to speak against the majority!

And I wanted to add this book, *The Authority of the Believer*, was written around the 1910's and written by J. A. MacMillan. The whole book is posted and it too, is about his experiences in Philippines too and another country...

The Authority of the Believer. Principles set forth in the Epistle to the Ephesians. By Rev. J.A. MacMillan

<http://www.worldinvisible.com/library/macmillan/authorityofbeliever/authority-c.htm>

God bless you,
Lisa

Re: Doctrine: Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/6/3 7:49

Rbanks,

I respect you very much and accept your corrections on matters but I've found this to be the second area we disagree on !! I hope it doesn't cause us to break fellowship, it truly is nothing personal against you (or anyone else who disagrees with me).

God bless you brother,
Lisa

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/6/3 9:13

I believe that we all can agree on one thing, and that is that a true child of God that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit cannot be possessed by an evil spirit. We have been bought with a price by the blood of Jesus. We are not our own.

The problem is that the enemy has been given place to in many Christian's lives. Any Christian that has participated in the occult opens the door to demonic spirits. Any believer who has continually yielded to sin in some area is doing the same.

I don't particularly care if the demon is on the inside or the outside. If a Christian is being harassed by a demon, let's deal with it. But we have to be aware of the open door that allowed the demon access, repent and close the door, and take authority over the demon in the name of Jesus.

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I am not talking about mere doctrine here. I am talking through experience, ministering to other Christians for nearly 40 years now. I have seen many Christians not possessed but oppressed and in bondage to the enemy. I have also seen them set free through the power of the blood and name of Jesus. Anyone who wants to be free can be free. The devil can only have authority in a Christian's life if that has been given to him. The ground that has been given to the enemy can be taken back.

I have ministered to prison inmates for many years now, and they do not seem to have a problem with this area. Many of them that have become Christians still struggle in certain areas, and long to be free.

The strongholds of the enemy are in the mind. You can be a Christian with the Spirit of God dwelling in you and not have a renewed mind. The enemy deceives Christians and if they believe his lies, then strongholds are formed in the mind. These strongholds can only be overcome by receiving the truth. Truth and light expose lies, and the enemy is overcome by falling out of agreement with these lies and coming into agreement with God and what He says.

If we have a heart to see the children of God set free in every area of their lives, the Lord will give us revelation to help them to be free.

Mike

Re: Doctrine: Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/6/3 9:50

If I recall, this subject was discussed at length not so long ago. Why does it keep resurfacing?

In doing a search on demon possession, one can see it comes up quite often...SIGH

Re: Resurfacing - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/6/3 9:54

Quote:
-----by ginnyrose on 2011/6/3 6:50:31 If I recall, this subject was discussed at length not so long ago. Why does it keep resurfacing?

It's not because those of us who believe in it keep bringing it up!! LOL

God bless you,
Lisa

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2011/6/3 10:01

Quote:
-----And I wanted to add this book, The Authority of the Believer, was written around the 1910's and written by J. A. MacMillan. The whole book is posted and it too, is about his experiences in Philippines too and another country... The Authority of the Believer. Principles set forth in the Epistle to the Ephesians. By Rev. J.A. MacMillan <http://www.worldinvisible.com/library/macmillan/authorityofbeliever/authority-c.htm>

Sister thanks so much for this book!

I took the time to read it through and was blessed. This was well articulated and needs to be read by the body of Christ.

Blessings to you!

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2011/6/3 10:04

Quote:
-----I believe that we all can agree on one thing, and that is that a true child of God that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit cannot be possessed by an evil spirit. We have been bought with a price by the blood of Jesus. We are not our own.

Thanks brother for another good post!

I also agree with the rest of your post.

Blessings to you!

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2011/6/3 10:07

Quote:
-----Rbanks, I respect you very much and accept your corrections on matters but I've found this to be the second area we disagree on!! I hope it doesn't cause us to break fellowship, it truly is nothing personal against you (or anyone else who disagrees with me).

I don't know what you are talking about sister. Where do we really disagree?

Blessings to you!

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/6/3 12:14

If there is one area in which the enemy is working overtime, it is that where he is present, where he is working, is being denied by many Christians. This denial suggests the working of lying, deceiving spirits so that the powers of darkness can continue to work unhindered.

Mike

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/6/3 13:46

"And I wanted to add this book, The Authority of the Believer, was written around the 1910's and written by J. A. MacMillan. The whole book is posted and it too, is about his experiences in Philippines too and another country... The Authority of the Believer. Principles set forth in the Epistle to the Ephesians." By Rev. J.A. MacMillan <http://www.worldinvisible.com/library/macmillan/authorityofbeliever/authority-c.htm>

"all principality, and power, and might, and dominion." "The great princes and authorities, of whom we have previously spoken, are subject to Him. So are the lesser ones: He is far above all "might" (dunamos, a word used usually in the New Testament of spiritual power). This refers to that working of Satanic energy which is becoming increasingly manifest, directed as it is against the bodies and minds of the children of God. The inroads that are being made into Christian communities are appalling, but few in the Church are as yet awake to the fact that fresh powers from the unseen world are flooding in upon us. Nor is the cause of this hard to trace. In the parts of the heathen world, where the Word of God energized by the Spirit of God has penetrated, the powers of the air have fallen back. Demon-possession ever retires before an aggressive evangelism, and its manifestations become less frequent. But, in our so-called Christian lands, the authority of the Word is now called in question by the great leaders of the churches, and there are few theological institutions where it is recognized as the very Word of God. In like manner, the Spirit of God is dishonored firstly, by this very denial of the Word which He has inspired, and secondly, by the disregard paid to His Person and authority. Thus, there is a reversal to heathen conditions spiritually, and as the great Agents for the overthrow of demoniacal powers (the Word of God and the Spirit of God) are discredited, these powers are pressing in again upon our country and people. One single evidence of this fact is the tremendous advance that spiritism is making among all classes; while, as another proof, the very doctrines of the Church, depleted, as they are becoming, of their vital spiritual force, are showing undoubted marks of those "teachings of demons" of which the great Apostle bade his hearers beware."

Every believer should know the authority and power that we have in Christ. This stems from knowing that we are identified with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. The believer has been raised up together with Christ and made to sit in heavenly places in Christ. This is the believer's position of authority. All things have been placed under the feet of Christ, and we are in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Mike

Re: Doctrine: Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed?, on: 2011/6/3 15:44

Brother Mike/AbideinHim wrote this post on the previous page and I agree with this because it's Scriptural - the only word that would Scripturally need to be changed is "stronghold" - needs to be "foothold".

"Stronghold" is only used once by Paul and in that chpt - in context - he used that word which actually in the Greek and his problem in the church were "Arguments" against his authority in Corinth, but "foothold" is used for Satan gaining ground.

My only concern through-out these discussions were to keep them 100% Bible so that there is no "foothold" among us.

Other than that one word change - this post by Brother Mike is good and as far as any of us should go on this topic.

Thank you Brother!!

Quote:

"I believe that we all can agree on one thing, and that is that a true child of God that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit cannot be possessed by an evil spirit. We have been bought with a price by the blood of Jesus. We are not our own.

The problem is that the enemy has been given place to in many Christian's lives. Any Christian that has participated in the occult opens the door to demonic spirits. Any believer who has continually yielded to sin in some area is doing the same

I don't particularly care if the demon is on the inside or the outside. If a Christian is being harassed by a demon, let's deal with it. But we have to be aware of the open door that allowed the demon access, repent and close the door, and take authority over the demon in the name of Jesus.

I am not talking about mere doctrine here. I am talking through experience, ministering to other Christians for nearly 40 years now. I have seen many Christians not possessed but oppressed and in bondage to the enemy. I have also seen them set free through the power of the blood and name of Jesus. Anyone who wants to be free can be free. The devil can only have authority in a Christian's life if that has been given to him. The ground that has been given to the enemy can be taken back.

I have ministered to prison inmates for many years now, and they do not seem to have a problem with this area. Many of them that have become Christians still struggle in certain areas, and long to be free.

The strongholds of the enemy are in the mind. You can be a Christian with the Spirit of God dwelling in you and not have a renewed mind. The enemy deceives Christians and if they believe his lies, then strongholds are formed in the mind. These strongholds can only be overcome by receiving the truth. Truth and light expose lies, and the enemy is overcome by falling out of agreement with these lies and coming into agreement with God and what He says.

If we have a heart to see the children of God set free in every area of their lives, the Lord will give us revelation to help t

hem to be free."

Mike

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/6/3 18:39

Good post Mike.

Quote: ""The strongholds of the enemy are in the mind. You can be a Christian with the Spirit of God dwelling in you and not have a renewed mind. The enemy deceives Christians and if they believe his lies, then strongholds are formed in the mind. These strongholds can only be overcome by receiving the truth. Truth and light expose lies, and the enemy is overcome by falling out of agreement with these lies and coming into agreement with God and what He says.

If we have a heart to see the children of God set free in every area of their lives, the Lord will give us revelation to help them to be free." ""

I agree the war is in our mind. It cannot be our spirit for that is the Spirit of Christ and the indwelt Holy Spirit. If our minds are not being renewed by the Word of God through the Holy Spirit daily, we can be enticed away and our weaknesses be tempted and being tempted we allow it into our minds and carried away into lust of giving the temptation of anything that is not aligned with the truth, then it is conceived and we are in sin. If the Holy Spirit comes and convicts us of sin, we have an Advocate with the Father and He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse from all unrighteousness by our agreeing, confession to God.

How can we be set free from this body of sin? Praise God, through Christ Jesus, just as Paul was set free.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: , on: 2011/6/3 19:11

Amen Brother Philip, the battlefield is in the mind. James says we're tempted and drawn away of our own lust - even with false doctrines and manifestations.

Was just now reminded of Jesus' warning to us and Paul's and John's and Peter's about "deceptions in the last days" through false doctrines and lying signs and wonders.

How many times did they warn us to be careful in these things as well as to be careful of sin.

Whenever we believe a lie or tell a lie, we're open to more lies, until the enemy does have a foothold into our lives and we need to pray to not be deceived by teachings or be deceived about ourselves or to deceive others or try to even deceive GOD by believing we're something more than what we truly are in our 'private' thought lives.

GOD will protect the truly humble and candid soul, and anything that happens to us that isn't quite pleasant after that, is just to "try" us, purify us more and make us more fruitful, ie. Dan 11:35, Rom 8:28,29 and John 15:2b.

I believe that's the danger of forums. We post messages and believe we are what we post completely, but only time alone with Him, praying that He show us ourselves and truly wanting to see it all, is the real "truth in the inward parts".

We are not what we openly post - we are what we privately think.

Amen - it is "all in the mind".