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DEMON POSSESSION, OBSESSION, AND OPPRESSION

By

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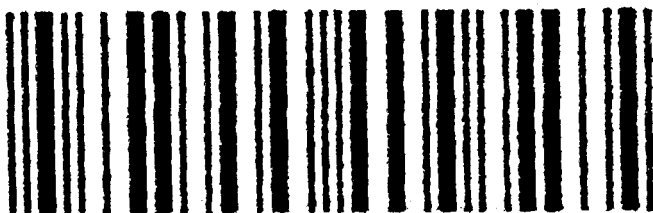
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Demon Possession, Obsession And Oppression

We realize that there will be many who will raise their eyebrows and wonder what sort of tangent we have gotten off on when they read the title of our subject. We have only this request to make. Do not discount what we have to say, nor denounce us as gone into some false ism or being fanatical until you have taken considerable time to search the scriptures and study on this subject.

For a scripture text we refer you to James 4:7 and these words "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We are commanded to resist the devil, not associate with him nor converse with him. There is a theory that is more or less general among the people who believe in heart-felt salvation that the temptations that come to the mind in unclean thoughts and evil thoughts are just influence. They are more than an influence; they are suggestions which come from demons and evil spirits sent from the devil. These Demons are just as real as you or I; they are real personalities. They are soldiers in the army of the devil. They are the followers of the same satan who entered into Judas Iscariot that caused him to be-

tray the Son of God and later commit suicide. They are the same evil speaking and cursing demons that influenced Peter to disown His Lord and to curse and swear in His presence when He needed Him most.

There is only one Satan but many demons, evil, and unclean spirits. In Psalm 34:7 we read "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." God has ministering spirits or messengers that encamp around his children to deliver them when they call upon Him. I Peter 5:8 declares, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith." The devil has under his command a mighty host of disembodied spirits called demons. These follow the direction of Satan in an effort to overthrow God or to hinder the work of God.

Before we enter into discussion on the subject of demons it would be well to fix in our minds the stages of demon power. Demon possession is where the demon takes over, comes into the individual and takes up abode or occupies the body, speaking and controlling the person they possess. Second, demon obsession is the antecedent to possession. Obsession is a state of

being vexed or beseiged by an evil spirit or spirits; shall we say influenced from without. Not possessed but influenced by demons, it is just one step from real possession and if not resisted, or rebuked, possession will follow. Third is oppression which is a state of being unreasonably burdened, afflicted, or depressed. This may be from the outside, or may be in body or mind. An individual may be oppressed of the devil but still not be possessed. Jesus healed all who were oppressed of the devil.

Another point that should be clear is the fact that there is only one Satan but many demons. Also that God is the only one who is omnipresent. The devil is not. He may seem to be but Satan does not make his appearance always. Evil spirits, under the direction and leadership of Satan make war against God and His people. Demons are real personalities. They are not something that has a forked tail and horns. They are fallen angels. They are disembodied spirits. Many have failed to recognize these evil spirits and have passed them by as a thought to do evil when it was a demon under the leadership of Satan that talked to them and made the suggestion. That demon is just as real as any person who could have approached you and made the same suggestion that you could hear with your physical ears.

When we see this point we will understand better how to resist evil.

Another thing that we must remember is that Satan was the wisest and most beautiful creature God ever created. He has knowledge that you and I do not have. He is supernatural. When Satan, who was originally the sun of the morning, Lucifer by name, fell he did not lose his personality. He lost his state of grace before God, he lost his holiness and purity. He is like a back-slidden preacher who has ability, personality and is an orator but has no God in his heart. We have seen preachers who could sway a congregation with their psychology and oratory. Folks would shout and run the aisles, yet the preacher was out of touch with God and had been for years. That is Satan's condition — ability, wisdom, knowledge, power, but a rebel against God.

Some of the names given to him in the Word of God are "the father of lies," "the accuser of the brethren," "adversary," "the ruler of darkness," "prince of this world," "prince of the power of the air," "the wicked one" and "the tempter." He appears in different ways. He may come as a roaring lion and he may appear to you as an angel of light.

There are a great many more people

demon possessed than we realize and a great many more who profess salvation that are obsessed of the devil. And still a mighty host of God's true saints who are oppressed of the devil due to the lack of teaching and knowledge on the subject. Many people are sick and afflicted, others have become discouraged and fell by the way and some are down in spirit, discouraged, and unable to live a constant victorious life because they do not know how to make war on Satan and his host. No one has ever instructed them how to defeat the enemy of their soul. The more we know concerning Satan and his demons and evil spirits that tempt, try, and influence, the better we will know how to wage a spiritual warfare. The more we study and understand his methods of approach, the character of his warfare and the type of weapons he uses, the easier it will be to resist him, the greater the victory we will have and the more victorious we will be able to live.

The words demons, devils, unclean spirits and evil spirits are used interchangeably in the scripture. There is only one Satan but many demons or evil spirits. These evil spirits are Satan's emissaries acting in the interest of the Kingdom of Darkness. They are sent as secret agents by Satan to appear to

man as angels of light and influence their victims in such a manner as to defeat the plan of God if possible. These messengers or demons are sent to spread reports favorable to their leader, Satan.

Demons are spirits capable of thinking, talking and hearing. they have power to influence and know the secrets of man. These evil spirits are more intelligent than man for they were beings of a higher order than man. Demons have no form that is visible yet we believe it is possible for them to be visible under certain conditions. They are disembodied spirits that are capable of entering and controlling man or beast. (St. Mark 5: 1-13)

All evil spirits are enemies of the Kingdom of Righteousness and are constantly waging a warfare on God, Christ, and His children. Satan uses his most effective weapon to defeat the plan of God. If you are a born-again Christian and the Spirit of God dwells within your heart, you are in the plan of God; therefore, you are an enemy of Satan and subject to attack by demon power. If you are a sinner then you are subject not only to attack but also to actual possession. By the word possession we mean that the wicked spirits under certain conditions are capable of entering into your body and

controlling your eyes, lips, and actions. They can and will speak through you at will. Once this happens, you are helpless and at the mercy of the devil until someone casts him out in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

Demons may attack Christians in various ways. They may oppress the believer by afflicting his body. If the believer is not constantly in an attitude of worship in heart, in an unexpected moment a demon may come as an angel of light and make a suggestion which will lead you from the center of the will of God. If you are not careful to catch the check of the Spirit of God, you will find yourself in a depressed and accused state with an accusing demon using all his strength to overpower you, causing you to surrender your faith in Christ and the power in His resurrection.

Many times we think of our afflictions, trials, and reverses as of the Devil but we fail to consider that it is not one personality in particular but a host of demons, an army of evil spirits who are under command of the arch fiend of hell, Lucifer, the fallen archangel, the enemy of God and the Commander-in-Chief of the regions of the damned. There was a legion of demons possessing one man in the time of Christ. (St. Mark 5:9) According to Webster's dictionary a legion is a com-

pany of from three to five thousand. We are not in a warfare with one personality but a great number of demons. As one army makes war against another in the natural, so it is in the spiritual, there is one Commander-in-Chief but many soldiers; there is one Devil, but many evil spirits.

We are warned concerning the character of our warfare in Ephesians 6:12. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Again we are commanded to resist the Devil. James 4:7 "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We count an army foolish which is in warfare with another and neglects to do all possible to learn the position of the enemy, the type of warfare he is likely to use, the method of attack, and how to recognize the enemy soldier and equipment on sight. Yet many people will refuse to talk of the demon power about us today. They neglect to study the method and approach of demons and the places they are likely to attack. As long as Satan can keep our eyes on him and our warfare on him, the demons that make up his army will constantly attack and defeat many. Nations take pride in the specialized units of

their armies but Satan has had them for centuries.

The Kingdom of Darkness has insane demons, violent demons, suicide demons, dumb spirits, blind spirits, disease demons, lust and torture demons, drink demons, religious demons, and many others. Some are possessing demons, others are obsession demons, and still others are oppression demons.

The average layman, as well as minister, thinks of demon possession as someone who suddenly goes insane, becomes dangerous and must be put into an institution for safe-keeping. We must confess that this is the case of some who are demon possessed but not all by any means.

LUST AND TORTURE DEMONS

Many of the horrible crimes where people are butchered in a fiendish manner is nothing but demon possession. In some cases a lust and torture demon enters a man, later a woman is found somewhere murdered, raped, and brutally butchered, beaten and naked. We say, a sex fiend. No, a case of demon possession.

Someone may ask how do such persons become possessed. Demons seek to enter into persons congenial to themselves. If an individual constantly thinks about sex and reads many of the

magazines which are published today that are not fit to be seen by a decent person, and they attend the lust pictures that are being shown in the theaters, and have their minds filled with filthy stories and their eyes full of adultery; they are the type of person that an unclean spirit, a murderous and torture demon can easily enter and take complete possession causing them to commit these horrible crimes in an effort to satisfy their passions and lusts that have been fanned by the demons that have taken possession of them.

LIQUOR DEMONS

The liquor or drunken demon has fastened himself to many men and women today. They are so possessed with liquor demons that they neglect their family, do without sufficient clothing, force their children to go hungry, and lose their sense of decency and become immoral, bringing them down to disgrace and hell. Only the grace of God can deliver from the drink demon. Can you see how the evil spirit will suggest that you can drink or leave it alone? You take a drink or two, the drink demon acts on your appetite, creates and fans a desire for more liquor to give the emotion the satisfaction it craves. Before you know what has taken place, you are a slave to the liq-

uor habit and open to possession of demons that may cause you to steal or kill. You may become possessed with a torture demon that will cause you to go into convulsions or delirium tremens. Later you will come to yourself in a jail cell only to be told that you have murdered your wife, baby, sweetheart, or someone else. You only can excuse yourself by saying that you do not remember what happened. You cry, why did I do it. The answer is demons. You may say that will never happen to me but if you do not have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in your heart, you are open to demon possession.

UNCLEAN SPIRITS OF IMMORALITY

Some of the prominent demons working among the people of this present age are the unclean spirits of immorality, demons of lust, sex demons, and immodest spirits. One of the characteristics of demon possession is nudity. The devil knows that if he can send a great host of immodest spirits into the world to influence women and men to scant dress that lust and sex demons will soon be able to possess those who are influenced. We fear many people who profess the experience of Holiness are obsessed by this unclean spirit. Many girls have been influenced to fol-

low the styles of Hollywood and Paris and have fallen into disgrace because they did not mind the checks of the Holy Spirit along the line of dress. This may be a strong statement but the increasing and soul-damning doctrine of nudist camps is nothing but a concoction from hell that has been promoted by immoral, sex, and nudist demons. Our opinion is that the people who frequent these places are obsessed by demon power if not possessed.

SUICIDE DEMONS

Suicide demons have caused many people to take their own lives and many times the lives of others. Many have been the poor depressed souls that demons have tormented and discouraged and at the time of their deepest sorrow or trouble, the suicide demon will approach and suggest that it's not worth it—why not just end it all—why not get out of this misery. He may suggest blowing your brains out in order to cause someone to be sorry. Perhaps leave a note that no one understands you nor appreciates you and jump from a building. He will argue that if you jump in the river you can drown yourself and your troubles too. If at a time like that, thought is given to such ideas, the demon will enter the mind and possess and overpower and the soul will

take drastic action taking their own life and bringing themselves to a suicide hell. No one is safe outside the blood of Christ and only those who live close to the heart of God are living where suicide demons may not possess them. Has it ever occurred to you that one of the features of the apocalyptic judgment will be that the abyss will erupt demons in great numbers? (Rev. 9:1-11)

RELIGIOUS DEMONS

When we mention religious demons folks raise their eyebrows, some look as if we are off the track, or gone into fanaticism for sure. But let us read on before we draw our conclusions. The devil would have you believe that such a thing is foolish. Religious demons are of a higher order than ordinary demons; they attack only the most spiritual people. These are demons that come as angels of light; they will suggest evil to promote good. Eve wanted to be like God and the devil suggested that if she eat of the fruit of the tree, she would be more wise, and tricked her. Everyone who is a Christian wants to be more like God but we must be careful that we are not persuaded by an evil spirit to partake of evil that good may come. We have seen people obsessed by religious demons. They suggest and if the mind will surrender to the suggestion, the re-

religious demon will enter and possess and cause the individual to do something or say something that under ordinary conditions they would not do or say; but after that they will continue to do it and believe it to be of the Lord while they are under the power of an evil spirit.

We have seen good people almost ruin a meeting under demon obsession. We have seen folks come into a service and when they entered the door, we could have told you what they would do before the preacher ever delivered the message. Regardless of how many meetings they attended, they will go through the same action. They feel blessed, they believe it is the Holy Ghost that is blessing them but it is a religious demon working on their emotions and deceiving them. We have had meetings where some have the habit of taking over the meeting. They will arise to testify and in just a few seconds will be denouncing everyone who does not act as they do. That is demon obsession. That is not the Spirit of God. Have you not seen people in whom you had confidence as a Christian who at times seemed to have a spirit that was not conducive to the Holy Ghost? The following explanation is from a tract entitled "Demon Obsession" published by the Pisgah Home Movement and used here by their per-

mission; "There are religious demons, not holy, but nevertheless religious, and filled with a devilish form of religion which is a counterfeit of true, deep spirituality. These pseudo-religious demons very rarely attack young beginners, but they hover around persons who advance into deeper experiences, and seek every opportunity to fasten themselves upon the conscience or the spiritual emotions of persons of high states of grace, and especially if they are of vivid or energetic temperament. These are the demons that play havoc among many professors of holiness. The way they get hold of persons is as follows: A soul goes through a great struggle, and is wonderfully blest. Floods of light and emotion sweep through the being. The shore lines are all cut. The soul is launched out into a sea of extravagance. At such a juncture these demons hover around the soul, and make strange suggestions to the mind of something odd, or outlandish, or contrary to common sense and decent taste. They make these suggestions under the profession of being the Holy Ghost. They fan the emotions, and produce a strange fictitious exhilaration, which is simply their bait to get into some faculty of the soul. For example, one man said that just after receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, as he would lie

in bed at night, a strange, wild sort of exhilaration would shoot thru his mind, and a sudden impulse to jump out of bed and go screaming all over the house, which if he had yielded to at once would likely have given the demon access to his brain.

Another good man says that he felt like running around the camp and climbing every tree, but had enough discernment to "try spirits," and found the impulse was not of God. But another person at the same camp-meeting felt the same impulse and yielded to it, and went yelling and screaming through the woods, climbing trees, tearing clothes, exhausting his body, and in a short time became utterly useless in the work of God. Another person said he felt like rolling on the floor and groaning and pulling the chairs around, but he distinctly perceived that the impulse to do so had something wild in it, and a touch of self-display contrary to the gentleness and sweetness of Jesus; and as quick as he saw an attack of a false spirit he was delivered, and the tide of pure love flowed on through his breast. But another man had the same impulse, and fell down groaning and roaring, beating the floor with his hands and feet, and the demon entered into him as an angel of light, and got him to think that his outlandish conduct was of the

Holy Ghost, and it became a regular habit in the meetings he attended, until he would ruin every religious meeting he was in.

It requires great humility to try these spirits and detect the false ones. The most dangerous demons in existence are those pseudo-pious ones who soar around the high altitude of the spiritual life, like eagles around great mountaintops, and seek to fasten their talons upon the lofty but unconscious prey. These are the demons of spiritual pride, of religious ambition, of false prophetic vision, of strained and far-fetched illuminations, of wild and fanatic notions, of strange and abnormal affections. These are the demons that flit over the sunlit regions in the land of Canaan, and attack very seldom any but advanced believers.

The effects of being possessed by this sort of demons are manifold, and plainly legible to a well-poised mind. Such possessions cause people to run off into things that are odd and foolish, unreasonable and indecent. It leads them to adopt a peculiar voice or unnatural shouting, or some senseless shaking of the body; of the striking of certain attitudes, or the adoption of some silly whim. Or such a possession may be manifested by peculiar heresies in the mind, of which there is a nameless

variety. It produces a certain wildness in the eye and harshness in the voice. Such persons invariably break the law of love, and severely condemn people who do not conform to themselves. As a rule, such persons lose their flesh, for demoniac possession is very wearing on the vital forces, and produces a terrible strain on the heart and nervous system.

There are many persons who are truly godly, and want to live holy lives, who have failed to discern those evil spirits, and under strange impulses have allowed some kind of demon to take hold of them; and though they are still conscious servants of God, they are so influenced by evil spirits of a high order as utterly to ruin their usefulness.

How can they get delivered? They must frankly admit to themselves, to God, and to others, that they have been misled and then request the saints to pray God to cast the demon out. To detect the agency of evil spirits, and then to have the humility frankly to acknowledge it, is more than half the victory.

To make a confession requires a self-abasement which very few persons are willing to undergo. The great scheme of a demon is to hide himself under the guise of the Holy Spirit, or another's personality, and the greatest triumph over evil spirits is the power to detect them and try them. To do this the great-

est requisite is humility, that gets into dust and ashes, and looks up from the bottom of self-abasement into the eyes of God for compassion and help.

This is humility that is nauseating to a demon, and makes him fly. The lack of this fathomless humility is the reason why not one fanatic in a thousand ever gets delivered and restored to sanctified common sense, and to that peaceful loving spirit which is the foundation of true usefulness."

There are still other types of religious demons. Satan has sent forth in these last days great hosts of teaching demons spreading false doctrine that causes people to depart from the faith, (II Peter 2:1, 2) and others that deny the Christ. Be sure that all who deny Christ, whether it be His Virgin birth, His resurrection, the power of His blood, or His second coming, or His Diety, mark it down that it is a doctrine of the devil being proclaimed by teaching demons.

INCIDENTS OF DEMON OBSESSION

You may recall the experience of Saul. He was converted. The scripture says that "God gave him another heart." He was a child of God. He disobeyed God and I Samuel, chapters 15 and 16 tell the story that God permitted an evil

spirit to trouble him. In I Samuel 18: 8-11 we find that he was obsessed with a religion demon and a demon of extreme hate that would have murdered David had it not been for the all-powerful hand of God. The scripture says the evil spirit came upon Saul and it also says the people at the same time wondered if he was numbered among the prophets. How did he die? He left a spiritualist meeting and went out on the battle field. The suicide demon possessed him and he left this world and went to a suicide's hell. What were the steps? Born of God, disobeyed and backslid, became obsessed by the devil, attended a spiritualist meeting, became devil possessed and committed suicide.

~~You may follow the life of Judas Iscariot. He became a disciple of Jesus, was elected treasurer of the disciples, was sent to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, cleanse the leper, etc. He let jealousy and covetousness enter his heart. Demon obsession caused Judas to sell his Lord. When he came to himself, he tried to return the money and found himself in a terrible state of affairs. Immediately the suicide demon suggested that he hang himself and end it all. Why face disgrace. He opened his mind to the demon's suggestion and he entered and took possession of Judas. Judas died a suicide and went to hell.~~

DEMON OPPRESSION

Demon oppression is the act of demons unjustly treating the children of God with hardship or compelling them to perform their service to God under burdens, afflictions, or depression. In plain words, it is to be afflicted by demons.

You may be a spirit-filled Christian and still be oppressed by the devil. Jesus healed all that were oppressed by the devil. When a child of God is afflicted in body, it is the devil trying to handicap him to hinder the work of God. He may cause discouraging times or hinder in any way possible your pilgrimage to the New Jerusalem. Jesus gave His disciples power over unclean spirits and commanded them to cast them out. James commanded the sick to call the elders of the church and anoint with oil (*all sick*) in the name of the Lord and the prayer of faith would save the sick (oppressed) and the Lord would raise them up. We should refuse sickness and resist it as we do sin. The Word says to resist the Devil and he will flee from you. Do it in the name of Jesus.

When doubts rush in, when a gloomy demon comes to pay a visit, when you go to pray and the demon of confusion attempts to have you think of everything but prayer, rebuke the evil spirit

in the name of Jesus Christ and command him to leave you alone. The Devil will fight prayer more than anything else for he knows that it is your supply line of life. You recall that Daniel prayed and the Angel of the Lord told Daniel that God heard him the very first time he prayed; but the angel was hindered for twenty-one days before he got the answer to Daniel.

Demon oppression is real. Some say, "I don't talk about the devil, I preach Christ, I magnify Jesus, I'm too busy telling the world about the great love of God to preach about demons and evil spirits." To that we answer that those are the ones who are responsible for many souls being afflicted in body and soul. They have failed to tell of the enemies that will come in and rob you of your victory, come as an angel of light and deceive and side track you in your experience. They are the ones who let the deaf and dumb spirits afflict the body and say nothing nor do anything to give deliverance. Yet they are commanded to preach deliverance to the captive, a gospel of good news, power in the Blood to deliver man from everything the Devil has chained him with and return to him everything in Christ that he lost in Adam's fall.

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall

they cast out devils; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." His command is to go! This is a day when we have neglected the preaching of a personal devil until people now put the devil in the same category with Santa Clause. Sometimes we wonder if many people these days are not so controlled by Demons that they are almost reincarnated in some of them. That is why they do not preach nor believe in demons and the warfare we have in this day with them.

DEMONS OF GLOOM

These demons will come and attack the individual in an effort to discourage the child of God. They suggest depressing subjects; they cast a cloud over you and then accuse you of backsliding. They suggest that you are not sanctified wholly or that you have completely backslid. They suggest you are playing the hypocrite. If you give them ground they will attempt to possess. Resist them in the name of Jesus. Refuse to give place to the demon power.

RESTLESS SPIRITS

These restless demons have so filled the air in this generation that few worldly people are not obsessed by them. People who are obsessed by the restless demon want to go. They must

be on the move seeking worldly pleasures. This restless demon will not permit the individual to relax. He must go here, he must go there. They are never at home, they are not contented, they are not satisfied. Many folks will get up in the morning and run to town and do it every day. They do not have anything to go for but to cater to a restless demon. If you ever get victory over this restless demon, you will be forced to take sides against him, refuse to give him any place in body, soul, or spirit.

ADULTEROUS DEMONS

You may disagree with us on the subject of demons but that does not change the facts. All about us are examples. Observe for yourself and any sane thinker will agree that many are the divorces that are demon inspired. Definitely this is Satan's way of wrecking the home. A strange power will besiege or obsess either the man or woman and out of it will grow hatred for the other until the divorce courts with a Judge under the influence of satanic power grants the divorce. These words may seem strong but we must stay by the Word of God. "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt. 19:6 This being the Word of God, then the judge

who grants a divorce is putting them asunder thus going contrary to the Word of God and places him under satanic influence.

Demons many times bring an indifferent spirit between husband and wife, then a strange drawing to the opposite sex. At this point the adulterous demon enters, a divorce takes place. Remarriage is the next step which is demon inspired and as a rule after the demon has its victim thus ensnared, few have the courage to back up and turn from sin.

PREJUDICIAL, CRITICAL, ACCUSING and SEDUCING DEMONS

Few people have stopped to consider the fact that many of these prejudice spirits have kept many of God's people apart. Satan has an army of confusing spirits and doubting spirits as well as critical spirits and accusing spirits to play havoc with the church. One individual in the church obsessed by a critical spirit can wreck a church. There have been times when a demon will possess an individual in or out of the church with an accusing spirit. They will openly or privately accuse and denounce with no grounds, cutting the innocent and causing confusion. Confusing spirits will sow discord, cause general confusion and wreck a church for in confusion there is nothing but de-

mons. "God is not the author of confusion."

Doubting spirits prevail in the church. The faith of the church has been wrecked by doubting spirits. They attacked Peter half way from the boat to the Son of God. They attacked the disciples at the foot of the Mount of Transfiguration. We see little accomplished along the faith line because we have tolerated and accounted for its action as a lack of faith when it is a doubting spirit hindering our faith by appealing to our senses in answer to our faith instead of standing on the Word of God.

When these spirits are working hard to wreck the church, seducing spirits enter and many today are in false doctrines and a host are in hell today because of these seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Seduce means to "lead aside or astray." They come on the scene telling their prospective victims that there is no harm in this or that. ~~Do not be too radical or severe in your stand, you drive others away. Preach love, don't preach about hell, devil, and demons. You should have more fellowship with those who are modern and broad-minded—that is the suggestion of demons. Compromise is the word. Where there is union there is no compromise. Seducing spirits tell you to keep quiet along certain lines and soon the poor~~

soul has been led away and is believing in doctrines of demons. That is not the doctrine of a man, but devils. I have many times talked to folks who one time enjoyed full salvation who have now been deceived by seducing spirits and believe doctrines of the devil. That is the danger of every backslider. They will believe a lie and be damned because they believe not the truth.

DISHONEST DEMONS

We have called it shop lifting and given it numerous other names. One preacher put it "a natural born thief." We class it as a dishonest demon or a stealing spirit. You may call it kleptomania if you desire but it is still demon possession by a stealing spirit.

LYING DEMONS

There are those who are possessed with a lying spirit. They lie and don't know why they do it. They will even lie when the truth would be easier to tell. They may be professing that they are saved and then a searching message comes and you find them at an altar of prayer confessing that they have told things that were untrue. They ask forgiveness and promise they will not do it again. Soon the same thing happens. What is it? Demons suggest and obsess them, they give ground to the demon

by thinking about it and before they realize what has happened, the demon possesses and the lying spirit causes them to do the thing they said they would never do.

Those who are possessed by lying spirits must constantly resist them. The very suggestion that would enter the mind should be turned out and the demon rebuked and commanded in the name of Jesus to leave. Folks may feel strange when such suggestions are made to "rebuke the demon and command him to leave you." That is because they do not realize that the suggestion to the mind to do wrong was from a real personality just as real as they are. When someone constantly torments us, what happens? After a certain length of time we tell them to get out and let us alone. Then why not practice the same method on Satan and his demons that would drag you to the brink of the pit of eternal damnation and then shove you in. Rebuke the evil spirit in the name of Jesus.

DISEASE DEMONS

Afflicting demons or spirits are going about causing sickness. Sickness is a result of the fall, therefore it is of Satan. What we lost in Adam we had restored unto us in Christ. Healing of the body is one of the redemptive privileges. We

should resist sickness in the same manner that we resist sin. We must refuse to accept it in the name of Jesus. The Word of God declares in Psalms 103:3 "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; *who healeth all thy diseases.*" Also Isaiah 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and *with his stripes we are healed.*" In the New Testament it declares that Jesus of Nazareth went about doing good and healing all that were oppreseed of the devil. We must have our faith in God's Word, not in our feeling, not in our reasons but in the fact that God said so. As long as Satan can afflict God's people, he can hinder God's work.

Regardless whether it be sickness, sin, or distress, it is not of God. We have the right to refuse it in the name of Jesus Christ. Command the demon to let you alone, be in a spirit of prayer. Stand on the Word; remind God of His promises. Prayer and study of the Word will be your weapons against demon power.

SATANS METHODS

Demon power works in many ways. Demons may suggest something to your mind and then immediately accuse you of committing sin. They are real artists

and they will paint the faults of others that you might criticize and fall. You may go to prayer and an army of demons rush in to confuse your mind. Demons will some times cause a preacher to lose the power of his message by having someone start shouting and walking the aisles in the middle of the preaching, drawing the attention of the people away from the message. ~~Demons will promote a revival that will preach a gospel which does not expose sin, which makes no demands, which does not require the seeker to refrain from sin.~~ We have not written these lines to stir someone into running about casting out the demons and evil spirits of the other fellow because he does not see his way.

HINDRANCE BY DEMONS

We notice that when Daniel prayed that the angel of the Lord was hindered for a period of twenty-one days and had to have assistance from Michael, the arch-angel, to get to Daniel with the answer. See Daniel the tenth chapter. The angel referred to the "Prince of the Kingdom of Persia." This prince is not an earthly prince but a prince of Satan set over the rule of Persia. Every government has a demon prince set over it by Satan. Does not the scripture say that he is the prince and power of the air. Did it ever occur to you that as the

angel of the Lord encampeth about the child of God to deliver him; so Satan has demons stationed to cause contention, influence and obsess and many times possess the loved ones in the home to make it as hard on you as possible. Some folks if they ever get their children into the Kingdom of God will be forced to rebuke the demon that drives that boy or girl after the pleasures of the world and command him to let them alone in the name of Jesus. (This should be done in your secret prayer closet.) MAYB

Those under the influence of demon power must desire to be free from it before they can receive help spiritually. ~~They must admit their state,~~ this will be a step toward deliverance. Resistance is absolutely necessary for complete deliverance.

The way demons get possession is by taking all the ground you will give them. ~~They possess the mind or any part~~ they can by your consent or by yielding to their suggestions. Habit demons must be resisted. Tobacco habit may have fastened itself upon you until you feel you are unable to live without it, but if you will cast it away, refuse to have anything to do with it and refuse the suggestion of Satan when the demon brings a craving appetite for it. Rebuke the demon power, command him to leave in the name of Jesus and take

his habit with him. God will deliver, but you must have a desire to be delivered, a will to refuse the habit and then God can do the rest. He not only is able but He is also willing. The same is true of any case where demon power is the cause.

A christian must constantly resist the devil. The Christian warfare is all spiritual. That is the reason we are to put on the whole armor of God. (See Ephesians 6:11-17) Our warfare is not with flesh and blood but against a high order of fallen angels, against influencing and reasoning of demons that have power of attorney for Satan, against the ruler of the prince of darkness who has a large number of demons of all types under his supervision. We also fight against spiritual wickedness in high places. It is he and his fallen angels or demons that hinder your prayers, brings depressing thoughts, etc. upon you. That is why God requires the whole armor, TRUTH, the Word of God, RIGHTEOUSNESS, the Gospel of Peace, Faith, and The Spirit. Why are we to put on the armor? To withstand the fiery darts of the wicked.

Many times a demon will possess an individual causing them to make accusations or causing them to have raging times of anger. They resist the work of God. Demons have a contempt for spirit-

ual things. But there is victory over them. There is deliverance from them through Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "In my name shall they cast out devils." (Mark 16:17) To the child of God (the born-again Christian) Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater things than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." St. John 14:12-14

When we come to God or come to face demons we come in the name of Jesus. We already have access to God and we already have the victory over demons, for we do not come as servants, we do not come as slaves. We come as a son of God. We come on the authority of God's Word, not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Living God. We can and will conquer. We have the victory in the name of Jesus. We must conquer in the name of Jesus. Walk before God, live in the spirit, and keep His commandments and no power of Satan can stand before you.

CASTING OUT DEMONS

When casting out demons, it is necessary to be scriptural. In Mark 16:17 we

read, "In my name shall they cast out devils." If we are to expect the demon to leave, it must be in the name of Jesus. It would be well to remember that when Jesus commanded the demons to leave, He always addressed the demon, He never rebuked the individual. Paul also in Acts 16:18, "Paul being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour." Again when Jesus cast out the Legion of demons in St. Mark 5:8 He said, "Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit." On another occasion Jesus entered the synagogue and the unclean spirit in a man began to cry out. Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit saying, "Hold thy peace, and come out of him." Mark 1:25

All through the scriptures demons were commanded to leave. When Jesus rebuked the demon that had afflicted the boy (Matt. 17:14-21) (Luke 9:37-42) and (Mark 9:14-27) and commanded him to come out of the individual, the demon was always the one rebuked. Jesus addressed the spirit in (Mark 9:25) "He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."

"And when he had called unto Him his twelve disciples, he gave them power

against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” (Matt. 10: 1) When any one is possessed, obsessed or oppressed of the devil, to be delivered he must first believe that God is able to deliver. Then they must have confidence in the one praying and commanding the demon or oppressing spirit to leave that what they ask of God in the name of Jesus Christ, He will do, at the time they ask. There is no need to ask anyone to pray for your body or anoint you for ~~healing in whom you have no confidence.~~ ~~You will not be healed by the prayer of anyone who is a disbeliever in divine healing.~~ For the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise them up. Our faith cannot be in the person doing the praying, but in the Word of God. Take the written Word of God for the foundation of your faith.

Faith in God's word is what performs the unusual. When the man in Mark 9: 22 said, “If thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us,” Jesus reversed it and said, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” Without faith it was impossible for Jesus to do the unusual. (Mark 6: 5) “And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed

them.” This was because of their unbelief.

To be delivered from the power of Satan one must see his state, realize the need of deliverance, resist the attack of the enemy, refuse ground for possession, request prayer, and believe God and His word. Use the authority given to every believer in the name of Jesus Christ, command the demon or the oppressing spirit to leave in the name of Jesus. Stand on God’s Word and refuse to give ground to the enemy. The victory is yours through Jesus Christ. Jesus defeated Satan. He is a conquered foe. You are not a servant of God facing demons. You are not a slave of God’s when you rebuke unclean spirits. You are a son of God, a joint heir with Christ. Jesus said, “I give you power over ALL the POWER OF THE ENEMY.” USE IT AND LIVE VICTORIOUS TO GLORIFY GOD.