

CHRISTIANS & DEMONS

By Conrad Barrett

Christians and demons are not compatible. Christians are in God's kingdom and demons are in the Satanic kingdom. These kingdoms are totally opposite of each other and have no affinity with each other.

Christians can never become demon possessed because of who they are and mainly who lives within the Christian. Christians are not only disciples of Jesus Christ, but are the property of God; therefore, Satan and his followers, whoever and whatever they are, can never move inside nor occupy that which belongs to Christ. Demonic homesteading in any Christian is expressly forbidden by Christ. It can never happen.

Satan can oppress and even depress but his common tactic is fear saturated with turmoil. His reign of operation is mainly in the mind and sometimes extends to the body. He must leave the heart and soul alone. He learned that lesson in Job's case. That was the part of Job that God forbade him to touch. His operation ingenuity can go only so far. Like the mighty tides of the giant oceans there are perimeters in place. He can tread in the waters but must leave the rest alone. God only allows him so much latitude and beyond that he must not invade. It is a fact established by God. The scriptures are clear on this point.

Whenever a Christian takes on characteristics peculiar to satanic influence it is usually predicated on spiritual withdrawal. When anyone leans on his own understanding and does not depend on the Lord Jesus Christ for guidance, the mind becomes a fertile place for demonic activity. Satan usually infiltrates the mind whenever he has opportunity and when the mind is vulnerable. This is not possession, but oppression. There is a vast difference between oppression and possession. Possession connotes ownership while oppression relates to influences.

If behavior of Christians seems controlled by forces other than Christ, it usually happens when the Christian has not prayed sufficiently. Prayer is a must for all Christians and a consistent daily Bible reading is very important. Know the Bible and the Christian position in all things, including demonic activity.

Demons are intelligent creations and are products of Satan's world. They can understand and communicate. Jesus spoke to them at Gadara and sent them into a herd of swine. They had formerly possessed a man and had driven him to insanity by taking possession of his mind, soul and body. The misery of the poor man of Gadara was so great that he was forced to live in the cemetery. Such is testimony of what Satan can actually do to people. Luke, Chapter 8, gives the story.

At Gadara Jesus simply spoke and the demons obeyed. This tells us that the power of Jesus is superior to the powers of demons. Once Jesus spoke those commanding words, the demons submitted and the man formerly possessed was instantly free from his tormentors.

Demonic behavior can be described as being demanding and without grace. Control is perhaps the best word which describes demons and while Christians can never be demon possessed, they are many times influenced and sometimes controlled by demon activity. Directly and indirectly Satan presses into our life styles! He even influences Christian homes and churches and could easily be at the heart of church problems and splits. It's unfortunate when Christians are led by wrong influences and lots of good people are hurt as a result. Hurt feelings sometimes last for a life time. Christians should ask themselves a simple question about demons and Jesus. That question is "who is leading us"? Is it the Christ of love or of Satan who is the leader of the opposite of Christ and the one who divides us?

Jesus raised the subject of His power and strength when He compared Himself as the strong man as opposed to Satan the weaker one in Matthew, Chapter 12. In illustrating who the strong one was, He made clear the weaker source must overcome the stronger One before he could spoil his goods. In this case of Christ versus Satan, we know that Jesus never can be defeated.

Every Christian should be aware that we can be influenced by the wrong spirit or the right spirit. Many great Christians have learned the blessing of following Christ and encouraging others while some still depend on people both inside and outside the church for guidance. People who are fellow Christians can help to some degree, but a higher level of Christian maturity is achieved when we learn to trust God and His word, implicitly.

Never minimize the influence of a controller and how he/she may affect us. If any other source exercises control over us than the Lord Jesus Christ, we should examine it carefully. Sometimes such controlling influence comes from the strangest places and people. Whether in church or in other structures, do evaluate who is leading whom.

Demons are adverse to the things of God and are tormentors and trouble makers. Never let people who have the characteristics of both attach the Lord's name to such behavior. We cannot do bad things in the name of the Lord. Satan has three things in mind for people and they are theft, death and destruction. Be aware!

Good and perfect things come down from the Lord. Bad things come from Satan and his kingdom. Never become controlled by bad influences, regardless. Keep your soul and mind free from bad stuff. Let your mind which in Christ Jesus becomes your dominate strength.

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