

Frequently Asked Questions

Lighthouse Ministry International www.lighthouseministryintl.org

I. HOW CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMONIZED?

This question is a point of contention among many sincere and well “educated” Christians. We observe Jesus’ statement in Luke 10:21 how the Father did not reveal “these things” (spiritual warfare things) to the “wise and intelligent”, but to “babes”, or **beginners**. The King James translation of *diamonizomai*: as “possessed”, has been problematic. We rightly react against the idea that one who has been redeemed - bought with the precious blood of the Lamb - could ever be “owned” by another spirit. But that’s not what the word implies. A standard dictionary will give a second meaning of the word “possessed” - that is, to be “*controlled*”. The original word is clearly translated “demonized”, meaning **influenced or controlled in some degree** by an evil spirit. The only question then is how **much** influence can the enemy have over a Christian? We see two things:

- In the New Testament there are at least seventeen examples where God’s people are instructed, warned about, or seen engaging in spiritual warfare. You can look through the following verses:
 1. Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus is tempted by Satan;
 2. Matthew 16:23 - Satan is rebuked after speaking through Peter;
 3. Luke 9:55 - Two of Jesus disciples are rebuked by Him saying, “You don’t know what *spirit* you are of.”
 4. Luke 22:3 - Satan enters one of the disciples, Judas Iscariot;
 5. Luke 22:31 - Jesus warns Peter that Satan has obtained permission to “sift” him;
 6. John 14:30 - Jesus states that the “ruler of this world” has nothing **in** Him.
 7. Acts 5:3 - Satan filled the hearts of two disciples, Ananias and Sapphira;
 8. 1 Corinthians 10:20 - Christians are warned against becoming “sharers in demons”;
 9. 2 Corinthians 2:11 - Paul is careful to forgive in order that no “advantage be taken of us by Satan”;
 10. 2 Corinthians 11:3,4 - Paul fears for Corinthian believers who, being deceived, were “receiving” and entertaining a “different spirit”;
 11. 2 Corinthians 11:14 - Christians warned that Satan himself disguises himself as an “angel of light”;
 12. Ephesians 4:27 - Believers warned not to hold on to anger, giving the devil an opportunity (a place, ground) in their lives;
 13. Ephesians 6:10-17 - Believers instructed that **their** battle is not against a flesh and blood enemy, but against rulers and powers without physical bodies;
 14. 1 Timothy 4:1 - Believers warned that some will be deceived and led away from true faith by “deceitful spirits”;
 15. James 4:7 - Believers told to directly resist Satan;
 16. 1 Peter 5:8 - Believers told Satan is **“Your enemy,...but resist him,”**
 17. Revelation 2:10 - Jesus warns believers in Smyrna that the devil is about to cast some of them into prison to be “tested”...but to be faithful.

The evidence in Scripture that this is our war, and that Satan can be given influence and control in a believer’s life, is overwhelming. The good news is that we have been completely equipped for victory in every case, for even when the enemy is given permission from God to assert influence as with Job, or Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, in the end, the enemy ends up playing into God’s hand for our benefit, and God’s power is made complete in our lives.

- Secondly, we have witnessed over a quarter century of ministry how the degree of control or influence an evil spirit can have in a Christian - from simple deception, to physical manifestation and control - is not as important as the power and authority of the Lord

Jesus Christ to deliver His people from ALL bondage, no matter what the degree. We look at the outward appearance, but the stakes are often most high where there is a **subtle** strategy of the enemy, as in the garden of Eden when the whole human race was standing before Satan in Eve: no fireworks or side shows here, he simply gave a little twist to what God had said, and the whole race came under bondage to his will.

In all of this, we dare not appeal to our experience or lack thereof as the final word, but rather to the authority of the Word of God. We have been clearly instructed to resist the devil, and to walk in the same manner as our Lord Jesus Christ. We have seen the fruit of this in the lives of thousands of Christians when nothing else would help, and we thank God for this.

II. HOW DO THE SINS OF THE FATHERS “VISIT”?

In John 9:2, it was Jesus’ disciples that asked Him, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”** Jesus’ answer was not to correct their general assumption that the blindness could be a result of sin, but to say that in that case it was not sin that brought it on, but, like with Job, God allowed it as an opportunity to show His glory. The disciples’ understanding was well founded on the text we know as the ten commandments, and others, which states, **“I, the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,”** Deuteronomy 5:9, Exodus 20:5, Numbers 14:18, Exodus 34:7. The word “iniquity” means to pervert or make crooked, so that the thing that “visits” the children is **active** - causing a perversion in their lives. We often hear the comment, “You are just like your father!”, or “That sounds just like mom when you say that!”, and these are not typically compliments about our manners or our looks. It usually is when we are being sarcastic, mean-spirited or bitter. We ask, “What ever got into him?” Well, what **did?** We say that “it” runs in the family...but what is “it”? We make observations of what the Bible refers to as the iniquity of the fathers “visiting”, but in many cases there is no natural explanation for what we see, where the person had no opportunity to “learn” these things from the relative.

We have seen a pattern from the beginning of this ministry that especially among Christians, the doors opened by past generations to “influence” or “control” by the enemy can result in otherwise unexplainable bondage in future generations. Especially where there was some rite of “commitment” or dedication to the enemy as in Freemasonry, or cultic involvement in witchcraft, we often see severe bondage through the lineage. It is evident that when a grandma who was a fortune-teller dies, the spirits that controlled her don’t die with her, but these are allowed to “visit” down the family line. We have seen many hundreds of cases where believers were only set free from long-standing bondage when lineage spirits were resisted in the Name and Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. HOW DO CURSES AFFECT US?

Proverbs 18:21 says that **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue”**, and for those that have roles of authority in our lives, their words can have a unique power to either give strength or take it away. Throughout Scripture the “blessing” of one’s father was greatly sought after and treasured, and the pronouncement of blessing or curses by God was always observed as just, and never arbitrary. It is written in Proverbs 26:2 that, **“a curse without cause does not come true”**. Yet, Satan is called the “father of lies”, and the “accuser of the brethren” - and for those washed in the blood of Christ, who are deceived into giving his words “authority” in their lives, undeserved “curses” can be accompanied by a spirit who brings the pronouncement back to the troubled believer long after the blood of Christ has wiped away the record of sin in his or her life. When the words of a parent or teacher saying, “You are stupid!”, or “You will never amount to anything!”, or “I pity the person you marry!”, come back to “haunt” us to the point they are still affecting our lives, we consider these statements may be from a ‘curse’ stronghold. Our hope lies

in the work of Christ, as Galatians 3:13 says, **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us...”**. How can these things enslave Christians if this is true? Curses can be the work of lying spirits who have been given authority in our lives through deceit. We have seen how it is necessary to submit ourselves to God and resist these spirits, sending them to the pit as Jesus did (Luke 8:31) to finally be free from their influence.

IV. WHAT ROLE DOES “BINDING AND LOOSING” HAVE FOR THE CHRISTIAN?

We are introduced to spiritual “binding” in Matthew 12:29, where Jesus answered those who accused him of casting our demons by the authority of Satan by asking, **“Or how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”** Spiritual binding, as Jesus taught, requires the “keys” which he refers to in Matthew 16:19, saying to Peter and the disciples, **“I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and what ever you shall bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”** The context where Jesus speaks of using this binding and loosing comes in Matthew 18:18, where we are instructed on pursuing a believer who has strayed from the truth. The statement is one of spiritual authority, as he follows it by declaring that if two of us agree about anything in this process, God will do it. In “binding” the enemy and his influence on a straying believer, we can appeal to the true desire of the person and perhaps restore him back to the covering of God’s authority.

We note that when Jesus gave the “Keys of the Kingdom” to Peter and the disciples, it was in future terms. We believe that His finished work of the cross not only made our deliverance from the accusation of sin complete, but secured our position with Christ, seated “far above all rule and authority...” (Ephesians 1:21, 2:6) Upon completing His work, the Lord pronounced in Matthew 28:18, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth; go therefore...”** Our use of the Keys to the Kingdom must always be subject to our Lord’s guidance and authority, for the purpose of building His Church. As we have applied this for the past fifteen years or so, we have seen more decisive victories, and many who have been freed to respond to the Spirit of God in their lives.

V. WHY ISN’T PRAYER ALONE ENOUGH TO OVERCOME BONDAGE?

This comes from the direct commands of Scripture in James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:9, and the consistent example of Jesus Christ in His ministry. Even back in Genesis 4:7, God instructed Cain to “rule”, or take dominion over the “offender” crouching at the door. Man was in the beginning told by God to “rule” over the creatures, and over “all the earth”, and specifically the “creeping things”. Satan came to Eve in a “serpent” (double meaning of a hissing reptile creature and a “whisperer” or “enchanter”), and it is apparent that this creature was a “creeping thing”; But instead of “ruling” or taking dominion over it, Eve had a dialogue with it, and the result was devastating.

Later in the battle epic of recovering the Promised Land for the reign of God, Joshua was commanded to utterly destroy the inhabiting tribes, and saw the stronghold of Jericho fall only when God’s people **shouted**. But when they negotiated with the Gibeonites instead of executing judgment on them, bondage resulted (Joshua 9:11-20). These enemy tribes were already judged, and the people of God were commanded to execute that judgment, as Psalm 149:9 proclaims, “This is an honor for all His godly ones.” Today this idea of executing people offends our conscience, and rightfully so because judgment has been suspended for men, and our battle now is NOT against flesh and blood, but “against the spiritual forces of wickedness”. Ephesians 6:12. The commands under the Old Covenant concerning these tribes now must be applied to our **spiritual** enemy, who, like these tribes in former days, have already been judged and are to be put under the feet of our King (1 Corinthians 15:25). We see that Moses spoke to the enemy’s man Pharaoh, **saying** “Let my people go!”, and the prophet Isaiah mourned with God in his day that there was no one to say to the one who plundered God’s people, **“Give them back!”**. So

Jesus always resisted the devil verbally and with authority, as He taught the disciples: “**Say** to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it shall move.” We are not giving reverence, but giving **orders!** How can we address the Lord and Satan in the same manner? We have found that most Christians are uncomfortable giving orders to evil spirits, at first. Yet for those that follow our Lord in this by speaking in His authority, they find the freedom that only comes when the enemy has fled - **because he has to, or God’s Word isn’t true!**

Prayer isn’t enough when it’s spiritual warfare because it’s only half of what the Word of God says to do. James 4:7 says to “**Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**” It’s two things. The term “warfare prayer” is an oxymoron - how can we be in a posture of war (resistance) and prayer (submission) at the same time? With one we come under God’s authority, with the other we put the **enemy** under **our** authority in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As it is written in Hebrews 10:38 “**But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.**” Time after time we have seen that with just a mustard seed of faith, believers are able to stop shrinking back from the assaults of the enemy on their lives and are able to “speak to the mountains”, taking back ground that had been lost to enemy control and bringing it under the rule of Jesus Christ.