

Sermon: Demons and Christians



Introduction

- I. **Ephesians 6:12** – *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*
- II. We are in a ‘Spiritual’ war.
- III. **Questions:**
 - a. Who are the players in this ‘Spiritual’ war?
 - b. What are demons?
 - c. What power do they have over born-again believers of Jesus Christ?

Purpose

Today is the first of a two part series on Christians and Demons. This week we will be going into the Bible to see exactly what it says about who demons are and how they can influence Christians. Next week we will be going into the topic of ‘deliverance ministry’ which is a ministry of casting out demons that was part of the great commission given by God.

I. Prayer

II. Who is Satan

- a. In order to understand the enemy we must understand the combatants in the battle. We will start with the being who leads the battle against us...Satan himself.



III. Etymology of the Name

- a. Hebrew - ‘*sah-tan*’ – “To act as an adversary”
- b. Greek Transliteration of Hebrew word - ‘satan’ or ‘satanas’
- c. Greek - ‘*Diabolos*’ – “devil”, “adversary”
- d. ‘*Kategor*’ - “accuser” (**Rev 12:10**)



IV. Other names for Satan

- a. “Tempter” – **Matt 4:3, I Thess 3:5**
- b. “Beelzebub” (prince of demons) – **Matt 12:24**
- c. “Enemy” – **Matt 13:39**
- d. “Evil One” – **Matt 13:19, I John 2:13**
- e. “Belial” (worthlessness) – **II Cor 6:15**

- f. “Deceiver” – **Rev 12:9**
- g. “Great Dragon” – **Rev 12:3**
- h. “Father of Lies” – **John 8:44**

V. The Origin of Satan

a. We have to go to multiple scriptures to understand who the Devil or Satan is as the picture of this being is pieced together.



- i. **Ezekiel 28:15** – Show us that Satan actually began as a specially created being called a ‘Guardian Cherub’ (vs. 14). We know there one other angel recorded in the Bible that was given a title as high as the one of Lucifer:
 1. Michael – Daniel 10 and Jude 1:9.
 2. Gabriel – Daniel 8:16 and 9:21 and then as a messenger angel of high regard who stands in the presence of God in Luke 1:19, 26.



- ii. **Revelation 12:7-9** – *“And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

1. **Verse 4** - A Third of the angels were taken down with him in the rebellion – ‘Stars’ = Angels



- iii. **Isaiah 14:12** – *“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!”*

1. “Morning Star” – Lucifer (Hebrew – ‘helel’) meaning – ‘brightness’ or ‘star of the morning’.



- iv. **Luke 10:18** – *“He Replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’”*

VI. What Happened after the Fall?



- a. **Genesis 3:1-7** – *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”*

"The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

i. **Gen 3:14** – Prophecy of Jesus destroying Satan – “Crush your head”

ii. We know this ‘serpent’ referred to here is the Devil based upon the references to the fall of man and other scriptures where Satan is called ‘the serpent’

-  1. **Revelation 12:9** - The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient **serpent** called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.
- 2. **Revelation 20:2** - He seized the dragon, that ancient **serpent**, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.
- 3. **II Corinthians 11:3** - 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.

 VII. Other Scriptures Describing Satan’s Purpose on Earth

a. His place is on the earth:

- i. God of this world – **II Cor 4:4**
- ii. Prowls the Earth – **Job 1:7**
- iii. A murderer and the father of lies – **John 8:44**
- iv. Accuser of the Brethren – **Rev 12:10**
- v. Seeks to snare men in sin – **II Tim 2:26**
- vi. Attacks Christians – **Ephesians 6:11**
- vii. Keeps people in bondage – **Acts 10:38**

 VIII. What are Demons?

a. Etymology of the name ‘demon’

- i. Hebrew - **“Evil Spirit”** –
 - 1. *ra`-râ `âh* – ‘Evil’ (RAW RA-AH)

2. *rûach* – ‘Breath’
- ii. Greek – “Demon” or “Devil” –
 1. ‘*daimon*’ and ‘*daimonion*’ (DAYMON and DAY-MON-ION)
 - a. Not originally a word that held an evil connotation
 - b. Spirits of the departed who had supernatural power – given the status of a god.
 - i. **I Corinthians 10:20** – “*Sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God,...*”
 - c. When NT was translated into Greek the term ‘*daimonion*’ was narrowed to mean an evil spirit.



- IX. Where did Demons come from?
- a. **1. Fallen Angels – Matthew 25:41**
 - b. **2. The off-spring of angles and antediluvian women – Genesis 6:2**
 - c. Theory that demons can’t be angels comes from two scriptures:
 - i. **Jude 1:6** - “*And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home— these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.*”
 - ii. **II Peter 2:4** - “*For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...*”
 - iii. In the end – **We don’t know for sure**....we just know there are indeed demons and they work for Satan.

- X. Characteristics of Demons
- a. **They know who Jesus is:**
 - i. **Luke 4:33-35** – Identifies ‘Jesus of Nazareth’
 - ii. **Luke 8:28** – Demon identified Jesus as the ‘Son of the Most High God’

- b. They can cause illness and physical affliction:
 - i. **Luke 13:10-13** – Woman crippled by a spirit for 18 years
 - ii. **Luke 11:14** – Mute man caused by mute spirit
 - iii. **Luke 9:42** – Boy convulsing and foaming at the mouth – Possible Epilepsy
 - iv. **Matthew 12:22** – They caused the man to be blind and mute.
-  c. They can control the human body:
 - i. **Luke 11:14** – Mute man caused by mute spirit
 - ii. **Luke 9:42** – Boy convulsing and foaming at the mouth
 - iii. **Matthew 12:22** – They caused the man to be blind and mute.
 - iv. **Acts 19:15** – Seven sons of Sceva and the demon possessed man
-  d. They can speak through a person:
 - i. **Luke 4:41** – Demons speaking to Jesus
 - ii. **Luke 8:26** – Demons begging Jesus to be merciful to them
-  e. There are categories of spirits:
 - i. **Mark 9:25** – *“When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. “You **deaf and mute spirit**,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”*
-  f. They are disembodied and desire to be inside something living:
 - i. **Luke 11:24-25** – *“When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of the man is worse than the first.”*
-  g. They can group together as one spirit with one identity:
 - i. **Mark 5:9** – *“Then Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘My name is Legion,’ he replied, ‘for we are many.’*
-  h. They can exhibit great strength:
 - i. **Acts 19:15** – Demon beat the sons of Sceva

- ii. **Luke 8:29** – Demon possessed man breaking chains from his hands and his feet.



XI. Examples within the Bible about Christians dealing with demons?

- a. There is no ‘demon’ chapter in the New Testament but we do see, primary in the writings of Paul who wrote specifically to the churches and people who had received the Holy Spirit, there are indications that indeed a Christian can be ‘demonized.’



- b. **II Corinthians 11:3-4** -³ *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.* ⁴ *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.*

- i. Obviously speaking to Christians – church at Corinth
- ii. The verb ‘Receive’ is the same one used when talking about receiving the Holy Spirit
- iii. It had happened to some of them already



- c. **I Tim 4:1-3**- *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*

- i. People who were Christians following deceiving spirits
- ii. These spirits were actually ‘teaching’ those being deceived. No demon Bible so therefore it appears there was an issue of control.



- d. **Acts 5:1-10** – *Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?”*

- i. The Holy Spirit prompted them to sell their land.
- ii. Satan had ‘filled’ his heart.



- e. **1 Corinthians 12:7-10** – *Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.* ² *You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.* ³ *Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking*

by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

- f. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

- i. Paul was addressing a problem and was even showing that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit was the discerning of spirits.

- g. **Mark 8:31-33** – *"He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."*

- i. For Jesus to call Peter 'Satan' really seems like a an over-reaction
- ii. Jesus called things as he saw.
- iii. 'Get behind me, Satan!' – Rebuking the spirit that had been influencing Peter.
- iv. **Luke 22:1-3** – *Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³ **Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.***

XII. Demons and Christians

- a. Question: How much control can a demon have on a believer? Can a believer be 'possessed'?

- b. Answer: To understand this we must first understand how God designed man.

 **XIII. The Triune Man**

-  a. **I Thessalonians 5:23** - *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

-  b. **Hebrews 4:12** - ¹² *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

c. Graphic One – The Body

-  d. **The Body** – Greek – *“Soma”* Meaning literal ‘Body’
- i. Our literal bodies
 1. **II Peter 1:13-14** – Earthly tabernacle
 2. **2 Cor 5:1** – ‘Earthy Tent’

 e. **Graphic Two – The Soul**

-  f. **The Soul** – Greek – *“Psoche”* – ‘Breath’ or ‘spirit’
- i. The life that is given to man as it related to the personality of man.
 - ii. Thoughts, Will and Emotions
 - iii. Our human nature, personality, and our character are projected by the soul.
 - iv. The divider between body and spirit.
 1. **Matthew 22:37** – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
 2. **1 Corinthians 2:14** – “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”
 - a. A man cannot intellectually accept the things of the Spirit. His mind cannot grasp it.

g. Graphic Three – The Spirit

-  h. **The Spirit** – Greek – *Pnuema* – ‘a current of air’
- i. The innermost being of man

- ii. The most sacred of places
- iii. Where the Holy Spirit dwells – **I Cor 3:16**
- iv. The seat of spiritual understanding
- v. Similar to the soul but its function is totally different
- vi. That part of man which knows and sees and discerns spiritual things such as faith.
- vii. It is what unites with God’s Spirit to help us understand spiritual truth.
- viii. **1 Corinthians 2:11** – “For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”
- ix. **Romans 8:16** – “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”
- x. **1 Corinthians 14:14** – “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”

 **XIV. Three Descriptions of Demons and People**

a. To ‘have’ and unclean spirit

- i. Matt 11:18, Mark 7:25, Luke 8:27

b. To ‘be with’ and evil spirit

- i. Mark 1:23, Mark 5:2

c. To be *demonized*

- i. Matt 4:24, 8:16, 8:28, Mark 1:32, 5:15, Luke 8:36

 **XV. Possession versus Demonization**

a. ***Daimonizomai*** (DIE-MON-EES-OH-MY) better rendered ‘demonized’

b. **Mark 5:15** – “They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down...”

c. **‘Possession’**

- i. English = ‘Total control’
- ii. Greek = ‘To be influenced by’

 **XVI. Triune Christian & Demons**

a. Can ‘demonize’ the body and the soul but not the Spirit.

b. **1 Corinthians 6:11** - Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

XVII. The argument against Christians being afflicted by demons

- a. 2 Corinthians 6:14 – “What fellowship can light have with darkness”
- b. I agree – Scripture NEVER says a demon works in the realm of our SPIRIT. Only in the soul and the flesh.

 **XVIII. What kind of control can a demon have in a Christian’s life?**

- a. Quote From Article
- b. *“A Christian can ‘have’ a demon, just as they can have a sickness or disease. Saying a Christian can be possessed, is like saying that a person’s body is owned by an infection on that person’s finger. The infection may ‘influence’ the body, but it does not mean that it ‘owns’ the body. The same is true here: while a Christian can have a demon and be in bondage (influenced), it does not mean that the person is owned by the demon.”*

 **XIX. What are we told about Satan and his devices?**

- a. **Ephesians 4:27** - “Neither give place to the devil.”
- b. **II Corinthians 2:11** - “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

XX. WE ARE NOT TO FEAR SATAN – SIMPLY KNOW WHAT HIS TACTICS ARE

- a. **James 4:7** – “Resist the Devil and he will flee from you”
- b. **1 John 4:4** – “Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.”

 **XXI. How do Demons enter a Christian**

- a. Doorways that are opened in our lives either willingly or unwillingly.
- b. Sins in the past before the believer came to know and accept Jesus
- c. Abuse (emotional, mental, physical)
- d. Past dealings with the occult
- e. Un-Godly Soul Ties - Sexual sin
- f. Un-forgiveness
- g. Rejection
- h. Destructive Secrets

 **XXII. Possible evidence of demons**

- a. Addictions that cannot be totally beat

- b. Chronic illnesses
- c. Unusual fears
- d. Chronic relationship difficulties
- e. Suicidal thoughts
- f. Extreme behavior

XXIII. Response