

CHRISTIANS & DEMONS

I noticed some interesting comments in Steve's room today. He was saying that he wasn't even going to play the audio clip of Todd Bentley that he was sent, because he didn't want to unleash those spirits into his own chat room. Wise decision. He realizes that Christians *can come under the power* of evil spirits, especially if they act foolishly and don't stay under God's protection—and listening to Todd Bentley for the sake of curiosity is sheer foolishness. Someone in the room said if a Christian opens up to these kinds of spirits, they can become possessed. Then another person said they didn't believe a Christian can be demon possessed.

Can a Christian be “demon possessed”?

Can a Christian “have a demon”?

Can a Christian be “bound” by demon spirits?

Does it really matter what term we use if the person ends up under the influence of demons, is drawn away from the faith as a result, and ends up in the Lake of Fire?

Many of those who say a Christian can't “have” a demon think they are on Scriptural ground because they assume God can't dwell in the same vessel or person that Satan dwells in. They also say that the apostles never really spoke clearly on the subject.

This second argument is not true. The apostles may not have spoke a lot about the subject, but they did address it. Maybe one of the reasons they didn't focus on it too much was because the biggest part Jesus' ministry was the casting out of evil spirits—and this was well known.

*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or **if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received**, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

II. Corinthians 11:3-4

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

II. Thessalonians 2:3-4

*Now **the works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, **witchcraft**, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies.*

Galatians 5:19-20

Talking to Christians, Paul said he was afraid they would “*receive another spirit*” after they had received the true, Holy Spirit. In Thessalonians he said Satan would sit in the “*temple of God*” (ie: Christians). When he describes the works of the “flesh”, he says one of them is “*witchcraft*”. I hate to have to inform you of this, but (1) our “flesh” cannot practice witchcraft without the aid of demon spirits; and (2) we all have a “flesh” nature. That means whenever we are walking in the “flesh”, we are giving demons spirits an opportunity to move in us and through us.

As for the idea that the Holy Spirit can't possibly dwell with darkness (evil spirits) in a person, such a situation is possible because when we are born again, the Spirit of God regenerates our human spirit, which was dead. God's Spirit comes into our spirits and dwells there.

What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

I. Corinthians 6:16-17

The Scripture says he who is joined to the Lord is "one spirit". One spirit—not one soul, not one heart, not one body—one spirit. God saved and recreated *our spirits* and now dwells in them. He does *not* dwell in the soul. He *moves on* the soul. The soul is what He is working to change. The soul is what He is working to purify, and perfect. No darkness can dwell in our spirits; but our souls are a different matter. They contain darkness, and it's in the soul realm that the demons *traffic*. So it's very possible for a Christian to "*have a demon*". That is, it's possible for evil spirits to traffic in those parts of the soul which have not yet been crucified in experience (*we are all crucified legally and positionally*) and raised in resurrection life. Whatever part of the soul that has been crucified in experience and filled with God's resurrection life, that part can no longer be affected by demon spirits. I am not necessarily talking about demon "possession" here. I am simply talking about the ability of the enemy to move through the areas of our soul life that have not yet been crucified.

This is why the "death-to-self" message is *not* a silver-bullet-cure-all for all our problems. Maybe I should say it's not an *instant* silver-bullet cure-all. It takes time for the soul life to be crucified in experience. It's done bit by bit, by the Spirit of God (*as long as we co-operate with Him and allow Him to do it*), over a long period of time, and during this whole process, there are areas of the soul that are not yet crucified. Any of those areas can have demonic activity involved. This is how it's possible for the "man of sin" to sit in the "Temple of God".

I know many people believe the man of sin being referred to is a man sitting in a literal, re-built temple in Israel, but that is not what Paul is talking about. Neither is he talking about the "old man" (*the sinful flesh nature, self*) sitting on the throne of the human heart, for Paul said the spirit of Satan enters the temple through "*signs and lying wonders*". Our old man (*ie: flesh; self life*) cannot produce "signs and wonders". Having self on the throne of our hearts does come about by *supernatural power*. Self has no supernatural power. There are only two sources of supernatural power in the universe: God's power and Satan's power. So the "man of sin" is a reference to demonic power, and that demonic power sits in the Temple of God.

The Spirit of God dwells in us and it's only the presence of God in us that makes us His temple to begin with. Yet darkness (*a Satanic power*) will take its seat in that temple. In short, many true Christians will be overtaken by a religious, seducing spirit that is posing as the Holy Spirit, and who has the power to counterfeit everything God does in a person's life. That's scary...but this is what you are seeing all around you. Unless you adopt a basically Fundamentalist view point—which is that those who are being deceived are just pseudo-Christians, (*ie: fake Christians, not true believers*)—then as the days progress, the truth of what I have just shared will become more and more apparent to you. As a matter of fact, I believe it will become so obvious you will have *no choice* but to accept it, for you see, Lakeland isn't the end of the matter. It's going to get worse. The miracles are going to become *even more spectacular*. At that point, you will either be deceived and believe that power you are witnessing is coming from God, or you will realize that Satan does indeed have this kind of power, and both believers and unbelievers are susceptible to it.