

Prayer Study #68
“Can a Christian Have a Demon?”
Ephesians 4:27

Leave no room or foothold for the devil...give no opportunity to him.(Ephesians 4:27, Amplified Bible

In an era of rampant occultism and increased demon activity, great perplexity exists among many Christians concerning the extent to which Satan and demonic powers can enter and control the life of a believer. Many Christians naively assume that the potential of satanic power in the life of the regenerated is practically nil. They live in a sort of fool's paradise, imagining that becoming Christians magically shields them from satanic attack of demonic invasion. **Merrill Unger**

The unguarded Christian may have demon possession in the soul, which would affect mental processes and emotions; or in the body, as was the case of the woman who had a “spirit of infirmity eighteen years and was bowed together and could in no wise lift up herself”(Luke 13:11. Of her, the Savior said when He healed her, “Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” To say that a Christian cannot be demonized in any area of his life is a happy but inaccurate generalization.

Dr. V. Raymond Edman, late president of Wheaton College

As a young preacher I was so tormented by uncontrollable bouts of depression that I was actually tempted to give up my ministry altogether. Later, when confronted by people I longed to help, I could not because of my own doctrinal preconceptions and uncertainties. I kept asking myself, “How could it be that so many Christians are oppressed by demons?” I can now look back over more than thirty years, however, in which scarcely a single month has passed without my being involved in helping someone who needed deliverance from demons. **Derek Prince**

Possessed, Demonized, or Oppressed

Matt. 10:8, Mark 3:15, Mark 16:17: Jesus tells His disciples to cast devils **out**, not **off** of people. *Possession can mean to occupy.*

Some Examples of Scripture Implying that Believers Are or Can Be Demonized

1. Unknown man in the synagogue in Mark 1
2. Simon Peter-Mark 8:33
3. Believer's Son-Mark 9:17-29
4. Spirit of Fever in Peter's mother in law-Luke 4:38-39
5. Woman with the issue of blood-Luke 13
6. Ananias and Sapphira-Acts 5:3-4
7. Simon the sorcerer-Acts 8:20-24
8. Corinthian Believers-2nd Corinthians 4
9. Galatians-Galatians 3:1
10. Ephesians-Ephesians 4:26-27
11. Hymenaeus & Alexander-1st Timothy 1:19-20

Spirit, Soul, and Body

People are made up of a spirit, soul, and body according to 1st Thessalonians 5:23. When a person is born again, Jesus comes into a believer's spirit. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:6 It is the other components of a person-the soul(mind, will, emotions) and the physical body-that are not born again and are targets of demonic attack.

Scriptural Type of Deliverance for a Christian

Matthew 21:12-14-*And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple and overthrew the tables of the money-changers and the seats of them that sold doves. And said unto them, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."*

1st Corinthians 3:16-*Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

Parts of the Temple: Outer Court, Inner Court, Holy of Holies

In what part of the Temple did Jesus expel the evildoers?

Where in the Temple is God's presence?

What part of the believer does the holy of holies represent?

Deliverance is Not for the Unbeliever

Deliverance is not for the unbeliever. Let's think about it. What good would it do to cast demons out of an unbeliever, unless that person were going to be saved? Unbelievers cannot maintain their deliverance. In fact, according to Luke 11:24-26, the unbeliever who receives deliverance will later be inhabited by seven times as many demons as before. John Eckhardt

Some Ways How Demons Come into a Believer

1. Habitual Sin
2. Generational Sin or Curses (According to Exodus 20:5, we can be affected to the fourth generation by the sins of our ancestors. A Biblical generation is normally thought to be 40 years. That means we can be affected by what our ancestors did all the way back to 1846.
3. Emotional or Physical Crises including molestation and other acts others perpetrate on us.
4. Ungodly music, movies, books, subliminal messages, etc.
5. Involvement in cultic and occultic activities and other forbidden practices