

Demonic Encounter

What is A Demon?

Demons are spirit beings that have personality and intelligence. As members of Satan's kingdom and as enemies of God and humans, they are evil, malicious and under Satan's authority. Mt 12:43-45. Demons are the power behind idol gods, so that to worship false gods is essentially to worship demons. (1 Co 10:20) Demons are within the hierarchy of the rulers of this age; Christians must wage continual warfare with them. Eph 6:12

Demons can, and often do, live in the bodies of unbelievers (Mk 5:15; Lk 4:41; 8:27-28; Ac 16:18) and use their voices to talk. They enslave such individuals and influence them toward evil, immorality and destruction. Demons can cause physical illness in the human body, although not all sickness and disease are the result of evil spirits. Mt 9:32-33; 12:22; 17:14-18; Mk 9:20-22; Lk 13:11,16; Mt 4:24; Lk 5:12-13.

Spirits and Sorcery

Those involved in spiritism, magic and sorcery are dealing with evil spirits; this can easily lead to demonic bondage. (Ac13:8-10; 19:19; Gal 5:20; Rev 9:20) God specifically says that anyone who sacrifices his offspring in fire, who practices divination or sorcery, who interprets omens, who engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium, or who consults the dead, he or she is detestable in the sight of the Lord.

Dt 18:9-11

In the New Testament, the public burning of magical books shows that new believers were taught immediately to turn away from occult practices. Witchcraft, black magic, sorcery, spiritism and other occult practices are satanic activities completely incompatible with the Christian faith. Dabbling in the occult and spiritism will leave one open to powerful satanic influence and demonic possession.

Last Days of This Age

Evil spirits will be especially active in the last days of this age, promoting the occult, immorality, violence and cruelty; they will assault God's Word and sound doctrine. (Mt 24:24; 2 Co 11:14-15; 1 Ti 4:1) Satan, the master of deception uses evil people as his agents, transforming them into false apostles, deceitful workmen. The Bible speaks of these deceitful leaders as people who, energized by Satan, appear to accomplish great things for God, preach attractive gospel messages and appear to be righteous but in reality reject godliness and deny its power. (2 Ti 3:5) All believers must beware of these misleading ministers and leaders and not be deceived by their charisma, eloquent oration, education, miracles, numerical success or popular message. (Mt 7:15; 16:6) All religious leaders must be judged according to their attitude and loyalty to the blood redemption of Jesus Christ and to the gospel

as presented by Christ and the New Testament writers. (Gal 1:9) The ultimate outpouring of demonic activity will be in the antichrist and his followers. (2 Th 2:9; Rev 13:2-8; 16:13-14.)

Jesus Attacks Satan

One of Jesus' clearly stated purposes in coming to the earth was to bind Satan and to set free those enslaved by him. (Mt 12:29; Mk 1:27; Lk 4:18)

In his miracles, Jesus often attacks the power of Satan and the demonic. (Mk 1:26,34,39; 3:10-11; 5:1-20; 9:17-29; Lk 13:16) "Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us: I know who you are – the Holy One of God!' "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" (Mk 1:23-25)

Jesus' binding of Satan, accomplished in part through his driving out of demons and more completely in his death and resurrection (Jn 12:31), shatters the power of Satan's realm and restores the power of God's kingdom. Hell, the place of torment, has been prepared by our Lord for the devil and his demons. (Mt 8:29; 25:41)

Demon-Possession

Scripture teaches that no true believer who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit can be demon-possessed; the Spirit and demons can never live in the same body. Demons may influence the thoughts, emotions and actions of Christians who fail to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. (Mt 16:23; 2 Co 11:3,14) If you are a true believer you have power over Satan's forces. Individual steps to follow:

* Recognize the spiritual battle. (Eph 6:12)

* Live Righteously. (Ro 12:1-2)

* Use your spiritual weapons. (2 Co 10:4-5)

* Proclaim the fullness of the gospel. (Mt 4:23; Lk 1:15-17; Ac 1:8; 2:4; 8:12; Ro 1:16; Eph 6:15) *Pray, Fast, Drive out the demons. (Mt 10:1; 17:17-21; Mk 16:17; Lk 10:17; Ac 5:16; 8:7; 16:18;19:12)