

RESIST the Devil!

Satan's Purpose!

Satan the devil is "the god of this age" (II Cor. 4:4). The apostle Paul calls him the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). Jesus, when being accused of casting out demons by the spirit of Beelzebub, answered, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself—how shall then HIS KINGDOM stand?" (Matt. 12:25-26).

Did you notice it? Jesus says Satan *has a kingdom*.

Whether most "religionists" believe there is an actual devil or not—your Bible definitely says there is a devil! That devil is a fallen archangel, formerly called Lucifer, who took one full third of the angels of heaven with him in his rebellion! Christ says, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven" (Luke 10:18). And further reveals, "And his tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . ." (Rev. 12:4).

We know Christ shows in Revelation 1:20 that stars are symbolic for *angels*. Satan, then, took one full third of the angels *with him* in his rebellion!

Those angels are now called *demons*.

As demons, or fallen angels, they still have great powers. They are supernatural, created, *spirit* beings! Their minds, their natures and characters have become so twisted, warped and completely perverted that they are in constant rebellion and hostility toward God! They have been Satan's henchmen in deceiving and enslaving this world, causing it to do Satan's will!

The Nature of Demons

But notice what Christ tells us about demons! Turn to Matthew 8:28. "And when He was come to the other side of the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two possessed with devils, coming

out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out saying, 'What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come here to torment us *before the time*?'"

Notice—these demons possessing the minds of these two asked Christ whether He had come to *torment* them "before the time!"

They thoroughly recognized they are to receive *torment* in the future.

There are many different kinds of demons. We find, in the gospels, that demons could afflict various parts of the *body*, without necessarily possessing the mind. *Notice* just a few examples. "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a demon, blind, and dumb, and He healed him inasmuch that the blind and dumb both spoke and saw" (Mat. 12:22). And, behold, there was a woman which had a *spirit of infirmity* eighteen years and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him, and said unto her, 'Woman, thou art loosed from that infirmity.' And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight and glorified God." Later, in answering the ruler of the synagogue Jesus said, "And 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?" (Luke, 13:11-13, 16).

Here are cases where individuals were dumb, blind, or stooped over with afflictions in various organs of the body other *than the mind* as a result of affliction by demons.

Some demons are much more *violent* than others. "And one of the multitude answered and said, 'Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; and wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.' After calling for the child to be brought to Him, notice

how the demon possessing the child acted: ". . . And when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground and wallowed foaming." Jesus then cast out this violent demon and lifted up the child who was well and normal as before (Mark 9:14-29).

But Jesus showed the reason the disciples COULD NOT cast out this violent demon was because they were not as yet converted and not *close enough* to GOD! "This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29).

While the word "fasting" may not necessarily appear in all the original manuscripts, it is, nevertheless, certainly implied and is the vital prerequisite if we are drifting away from God!

Why Fear?

"Have you come to *torment* us BEFORE THE TIME" (Mat. 8:29), the demons asked Christ. These demons were fearful of *torment*. Jesus said, "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through *dry places*, seeking REST; and finding none, he saith I will return to my house from whence I came out" (Luke 11:24). Jesus reveals here that a disembodied demon is an uncomfortable, apprehensive, *restless* spirit—wanting desperately to get into and possess a body! God reveals that "FEAR HATH TORMENT!" (I John 4:18). Demons then are FEARFUL of their future judgment. James tells us, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the demons also believe, and TREMBLE!" (James 2:19).

No, we are not to FEAR Satan or his demons! However, we are not to go to the opposite extreme of taking these things lightly, or of attempting to become "familiar" with demons, all the while "kidding" ourselves since we are not *afraid* of them, we need not *avoid* them. God absolutely *condemns to death* anyone who will become FAMILIAR with spirits. (Lev. 20:27).



Do Not Be Ignorant

The apostle Paul wrote, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for WE ARE NOT IGNORANT of his devices" (II Cor. 2:11). No, the *apostle Paul* was not ignorant of Satan's devices—but are YOU? Apparently, some of God's people have been completely *ignorant* of the devices of Satan—and completely *without defense* against Satan's demons!

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against WICKED SPIRITS in high places" (Eph. 6:12). God tells us we *wrestle* in a constant STRUGGLE against wicked spirits who occupy high places in the darkness of this present society! It's about time we *awakened* and became a little more INFORMED of Satan's devices, and know how to RESIST Satan the devil.

What You Should Do

I remember one particular instance, where a young man came to me, telling me he was being molested by demons. I went through all of the scriptures in the New Testament directly relating to it, spelling out for him in simple order exactly what he should do. I encouraged prayer, and even FASTING with prayer. I encouraged more Bible study, and told him how to resist Satan the devil and exactly what he should do in the event any further molestation occurred. This man kept coming back again and again and again. I kept re-informing him of these same scriptures over and over again. He kept on coming back, and each time informing me the situation was worse. I rebuked him sharply on several occasions, *warning him* of the direction in which he was going. I told him God wasn't wrong, that the advice I had given him was directly from Jesus Christ, as revealed in His Word! I told him I, physically, could do absolutely nothing except to add my prayers to his—which I certainly did. Later, this young man became absolutely POSSESSED of these demons. It was *then*, that I found out *from others* that he had DELIBERATELY asked these demons to perform certain "interesting" acts in front of him.

Here is what *you* ought to be doing. James says, "*Resist the devil* and he will FLEE from you" (Jas. 4:7). Do you believe that scripture? Do you really believe God? God says if you *resist* the devil he is *bound* to FLEE from you!

Notice! The apostle Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME!" (Gal. 2:20). Jesus Christ *whipped* Satan the devil in the greatest spiritual battle that has ever been fought (Luke 4:4, Mat. 4:4). Jesus Christ is the SAME yesterday, today, and forever! (Heb. 13:8). If Jesus Christ is truly LIVING His life in you, then *think* of this:

Demons are fallen angels. Angels are created beings. Your Bible says not anything was made without Jesus Christ—that He made *everything* that was made. Therefore, Jesus Christ *made angels!* Christ, then is the very CREATOR of these demons! He is the Great, Supreme, All-powerful RULER over these foul spirits, and they must *obey* Jesus Christ IMMEDIATELY!

If Christ is really *living His life within you*, then the very One who created these foul spirits and is over them and rules them is living His life right within you! That means the demons are desperately AFRAID of YOU! You do not need to fear them—you need to respect and be wary and fearful of the consequences should you allow yourself to be tempted by them or to be influenced by them or become possessed by them. *But you are not to fear them.*

Here is the Bible "formula" for resisting Satan and His demons. If you feel an unnatural influence or anything of the kind say, "THE LORD REBUKE YOU!" (Jude 9). Call upon the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and begin praying to God.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Do ye not know that the saints shall *judge the world?* And if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? KNOW YE NOT THAT WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS?" (I Cor. 6:2). Demons are fallen angels. WE ARE GOING TO BE THEIR JUDGES! And we are going to consign them to "foaming out their own shame, *wandering stars*, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever" (Jude 13).

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