

DEMONS

I. WHO OR WHAT ARE THEY?

- A. **ORIGIN**– (Scripture references: Matthew 12:43-45, Ephesians 6:10-14, Mark 5:1-9, Isaiah 14:12-17) The Bible gives us no detailed study of the genesis of Satan. The Word of God does not go into his history in any depth, except for his fall. But God prepared enough facts through His Word to prepare us to stand against Satan.

Lucifer was a created being with a divine purpose. There are two scriptures that give us pertinent information concerning Satan's origin. These scriptures can be found in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. The name Lucifer means "the light bearer" or "the shining one." Because Lucifer was created, it follows that he was perfect, as all of God's creations are perfect.

Being perfect and without flaw, Lucifer was also perfect in wisdom and beauty (Ezekiel.28:12). Because of his wisdom, he was entrusted with much responsibility in the administration of the affairs of God. Lucifer was an Archangel and had many of the host of heaven under his authority. He was of the highest order of the angels (Ezekiel 28:14). He is described here as "the anointed one" meaning "one of a kind" and implying a special work of the Holy God. The definition of "anointed", according to Webster's dictionary, is "consecrated." This Archangel was also the anointed "cherub that covers." The word "covers" indicates protection and defense, so it is probable that the angel was the nearest one to the throne of God.

Lucifer was so beautiful as to reflect God's glory (Ezekiel 28:13). Lucifer was not only a musician, but he was music himself. This explains why the world's music is an important tool of Satan.

At some point, Lucifer began to let pride and ambitions come in, because of his great beauty, power, and importance. He possessed a will and at first was in total accord with the will of God. But vainglory entered in and this angelic musician developed a prideful will (Isaiah 14:13-14). Thus, through his own will, Lucifer fell to become a diabolical creature named Satan. The Greek word for Satan is "Satanus" which means adversary.

Here are other names for Satan, which give insight into his character:

1. **"The god of this world"** – He became god of this world when Adam forfeited the dominion that God gave him (II Corinthians 4:4).
2. **"Angel of light"** – It is known how much of his qualities as Lucifer the "brilliant one" Satan still retains. He has winsome charm, awesome brightness, and the power of persuasion. He also has the ability to travel at amazing speeds but is not omni-present (everywhere). Above all, he is the master of deception and the "father of lies" (II Corinthians 11:14).
3. **"Adversary"** – He was, as the "cherub that covers", well versed in the art of defense. Now he has distorted that art and knows best what to defend or fight against.
4. **"Accuser of the Brethren"** – He uses inference and insinuations (Revelation 12:10).
5. **"Prince of the World"** – This designates his position of legal authority from the garden of rebellion until the Golgotha victory (John 16:8-11).
6. **"...As a Roaring Lion"** – He impersonated a lion; but in fact, he is the counterfeit of the Lion of Judah, who is our Savior (I Peter 5:8).

The fact is that Satan is a foe, needlessly feared. But he has done decisive damage through that method of intimidation. The word says that he is already defeated. He knows it, and you and I know

it. He is a foe who is fallen, but not finally done away with.

B. **OPERATION OF SATAN’S ARMY** – There are four divisions (Ephesians 6:12):

1. **Principalities:** The Greek word is “arche”, meaning “beginning”. These principalities are the generals in Satan’s army. They have tremendous power and are referred to in the deliverance ministry as Controlling Spirits or “Strong Men.”
2. **Powers:** The Greek work is “dunamis”, meaning dynamic or “dynamite”: ones who have power and ability (Rom. 8:38, Eph. 1:21, Cor. 2:10-15). These powers are demons under the command of the principals or generals. These powers or demons are real, intelligent personalities of the spirit world. They attack men in the areas of feelings and thoughts (soul), as well as the body. They carry out the accusative program of Satan. They ridicule, defame, distract, divide, and depress. Satan is not, again, omnipresent but through these powers, he is represented in every area of this world.
3. **Rulers of the Darkness of the World:** In Eph. 1:21, the third level of Satan’s power mentioned is might. These are lesser spirits that operate within the context of a system of authority within Satan’s organization such as:
 - a. Fortune telling
 - b. Witchcraft
 - c. Superstition
 - d. False religion
4. **Spiritual Wickedness in High Places:** These work to establish evil in every home, city, and country. These wicked spirits affect even the elements.

Satan’s army has a plan of attack”

- Accuse
- Torment
- Attack
- Destroy

Our Defense? –

Submit ourselves totally to God, resist, have faith, know our enemy, and fight! Go on the offense!

II. DELIVERANCE

A. **SATAN’S DEFEAT**– Every credential of authority which Satan possessed was stripped from him by the Son of God. Satan’s past defeat assures Christ’s present domination over him. His is vanquished but not vanished, present but not prevailing, active but not able to overcome. It is important to know Satan’s future – it is in three stages:

1. He and his angels will be barred from further access to Heaven (Rev. 12:7-9);
2. The great angel (Michael) will bind Satan in chains and cast him into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.
3. Finally, following 1,000 years, Satan will be loosed for a season to face the host of the Lord at the Battles of Armageddon and total defeat. Then Satan and his host will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Rev.20:10).

B. **THE CALVARY PRINCIPLE** – In the deliverance ministry, we must enforce Calvary’s victory.

1. The principle or spiritual truth of Calvary is eternal. It is a principle of life out of death and life

through death. Examples: Abraham won the victory through the principle of Calvary by death to self and life to God. The same principle applied to the Apostle Paul. WE must apply the Calvary Principle for deliverance.

2. Exert your authority (Luke 4:18). All authority is given to us to exercise over the enemy. There are four principles of authority:
 - a. Demand – the demand for authority lies in the condition of the world. Satan is the god of this world. Spiritual authority is needed to call the devil to attention.
 - b. Delegation – the delegation of authority comes from the Spirit of the Lord being upon us. These are our credentials and are all that we need to face the foe.
 - c. Dynamics – the dynamics of the authority come from:
 - i. preaching the Word
 - ii. encouraging the broken hearted
 - iii. proclaiming deliverance
 - iv. recovering sight
 - v. liberating from circumstances
 - d. Domain – The domain of that authority covers all areas of need and everyone in need. It includes:
 - i. the brokenhearted
 - ii. the oppressed captives
 - iii. the blind
 - iv. the circumstantially bruised

Poverty, disappointment, despair, blindness and bruisedness are but strongholds built by Satan to incarcerate the millions of this world. As we exert our authority, the oppressed go free!

C. **TOOLS TO OVERTHROW SATAN** – When Satan is finally overthrown in Revelation 12:11, the ultimate tools to overthrow him will be:

1. **The blood of Jesus** represents all that Jesus did. It is the symbol of the love of God fashioned at Calvary. It is the symbol of the finished work which finished Satan. Life is in the blood (1 John 1:7).
 - It is by the blood, we have been bought;
 - It is by the blood, we stand protected;
 - It is by the blood, we have access into the Holy of Holies.
2. **The name of Jesus** gives us the legal right to present all that Jesus IS (John 14:13, John 16:24). The power of the resurrection is in this Name, and it brings instant fear and submission to the enemy.
3. **The word of testimony** – “They overcame him by the word of their testimony.” Is a two-fold tool:
 - a. Written testimony – the word of God;
 - b. Experienced testimony – our personal testimony supported by the Word.
4. **Fearlessness unto death** – This is one of the greatest weapons against Satan. Here is total commitment. If we love our lives, we will fear death and that fear will be used by Satan to intimidate us into submission. Hebrews 2:14-15 states that Jesus rendered “powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,” so that Jesus “might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” Yet, if we have been crucified with Christ, and we are dead to the world and the love of life, we can overwhelmingly conquer Satan and the fear of death! (See Romans 8:31-39)

D. CONDITIONS THAT SUGGEST DEMONIC INFLUENCE

1. **Continued Compulsions** – Example: overeating, smoking, overworking, excessive spending, etc.
2. **Chronic fears** – Fear is the powerful weapon of the enemy. These include all kinds of phobias, and any kind of fear that is unreasonable.
3. **Unnatural Sexual Desires** – These are some of the strongest demons that there are and they are the most dangerous, because the only creative power that God gave to man was to reproduce his own kind. If Satan can distort this most powerful gift, he will lead that person from salvation to a reprobate mind. This demon is one of the most difficult to be delivered from but it should be pursued to victory for it will, at some point, cause its victim to forsake his salvation.
4. **Mental Suffering** – Worry is a habit which may lead to a satanic stronghold. Worry is the exact opposite of faith. Generally, the worrier will progress to the point that he can find no reason that is consistent to worry.
5. **Involuntary Feelings and Actions** – eg: unfounded hate, outbursts of unreasonable temper, helpless self-consciousness, depression, or unexplainable tendencies toward excesses of any kind.
6. **Weird Unbiblical Beliefs** – Seducing spirits as in doctrines of demons.
7. **Destructive dreams** – These dreams are demonically caused and deliverance is the only cure. Only God gives interpretation.
8. **Inordinate Desire For Attention** - eg: striving in inordinate ways to get attention, exhibitionism, rejection, lack of love and exaggeration open the door for this type of demonic activity.
9. **Physical Symptoms Unexplained** – Spirit of infirmity, deaf-dumb spirit, blind spirit, etc.
10. **Alcohol and Drug Addictions** – These demons open the door to others as well, eg: cancer, emphysema, etc.

III. CAN DEMONIC SPIRITS OPERATE CHRISTIANS?

Demonic spirits cannot possess a Christian because their spirits belong to Jesus. But Satan, whose job and objective is to deceive and destroy, uses demonic spirits to defeat and discourage Christians by attacking our bodies and souls. Galatians 5:1 tells us: “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm. And do not be subjected again to a yoke of slavery.”

But demons can and do influence and harass and torment Christians. We can open the doors to their influence and inadvertently invite them in. To “be possessed” is to “be controlled” or “have no will of our own.” This can only be done if the person does not have Jesus and the Holy Spirit residing within.

But as we harbor unforgiveness, bitterness or anger – giving in to temptations or becoming disobedient to the Word – allowing self-pity, etc. to come in – we automatically invite in evil spirits which will hinder our Christian walk.

In the case of demon influence, the person must turn his will against their operation in his life. He must renounce them and be willing to be delivered. According to the Word, their right to remain is cancelled if, by an act of your will, you demand them to leave according to Mark 16:17-20. In many cases, a deliverance team or ministry is preferable because of their knowledge and experience in dealing with these evil spirits. But, most definitely, the demons are empowered to harass and influence Christians live and do so every day.

A. **OPEN DOORS**—The first step of demonic influence is to harass or torment through spirits that enter through doors that we open by:

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|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Temper | 5. Retaliation | 9. Loose tongue |
| 2. Anger | 6. Jealousy | 10. Insecurity |
| 3. Criticism | 7. Competition | 11. Immorality |
| 4. Resentment | 8. Bad habits | 12. Unforgiveness |

These name only a few but gives a general overview of how doors are opened to evil spirits. This is the first of five steps that lead to total demonic control. If countermeasures are not taken at this early stage, the person will allow the influence to enter the next stage.

B. **DEMONIC DEPRESSION** – This second stage is one of giving in to the demonic power rather than resisting. Boredom will set in. Listlessness will soon follow with a complete lack of will to fight against the forces of evil that are penetrating now as doors are opened to them.

C. **DEMONIC OPPRESSION** – This is the third stage and it is here that real danger begins to present itself. The person is now mentally thwarted to the point that reason and wisdom are not present. They have lost the ability (for the most part) to reverse the steps they have allowed Satan to take and will not respond to self-deliverance because of that subsequent weakness. This is where mass deliverance should be avoided and personal ministry strongly advised.

D. **DEMONIC OBSESSION**– This stage is the last stage in which the Christian can fall. Here the person’s will is still involved, but Satan is very strong in mental and spiritual control. This person may require more than one deliverance session. However, the Holy Spirit will dictate. Strong manifestations usually occur in the obsession stages.

E. **TOTAL POSSESSION** – Only non-Christians can be possessed. Possessed means “totally under control of.” The Bible clearly talks of demon possession (Matt. 8:29) and the fact that man can be overcome by evil spirits (Acts 19:13-16). Of course, the non-Christian is an easy target for Satan and his demons for he is ignorant of the Word and has no influence or power to resist by the Holy Spirit. He is, in fact, powerless. These demonic spirits have a mission. It is the same mission as Satan: to kill, to rob, and to destroy (I Peter 5:8). They will use and abuse each individual as long as they have that person’s permission to do so.

Many types of demon possession are attributed to insanity or illness, but insanity is demon possession. Illnesses are a result of demon influence. Only knowledge of God’s Word and acceptance of Him as Lord of their lives can free persons once they become possessed. Many types of healing are only accomplished through deliverance.

When the person had finally become totally possessed, there will be many manifestations in most cases. At this point, the person possessed no longer have the ability to control body functions nor can they complete thought processes. Many times they will use the person’s vocal cords to speak. We do not encourage conversation, except in rare cases of identification of the demonic spirit. Command them to hold their peace. In all cases, when addressing the demon spirits, never do so until you have proclaimed “in the Name of Jesus.” We will deal with demon possession further in the section of Deliverance.

Remember that demonically oppressed, obsessed, and possessed people will almost without exception require personal deliverance ministry. In some cases, we have observed satisfactory results with demonically influenced or depressed people receiving relief from mass deliverance, but the best method for deliverance in the early stage is total immersion in the Word and practicing self-deliverance and turning the will against Satan. First, submit yourself to God, the resist the devil and he will flee. Praise the Lord!