

RECEIVING DELIVERANCE FROM PROBLEMS CAUSED BY EVIL SPIRITS

By Dale W. Leander | <http://www.wordsoflife.org>

1) The Devil is alive and active on the earth.

* Eph. 6:12, * 1st Peter 5:8

- A) People have been under massive assault.
- 20,000,000 Americans are mentally ill.
 - Half of all hospital beds have mentally ill patients.
 - 35,000,000 Americans admitted depression in a recent year.
 - 200,000 Americans attempt suicide each year.
 - Psychiatrists commit suicide at a rate four times higher than the national average.
 - 40,000,000 Americans now living may die of cancer.
 - 2,000,000 Americans are victims of epilepsy.
 - An American is murdered every 20 to 24 minutes.
 - Stomach ulcers kill an American every 18 minutes.
 - An American is killed by abortion every 16 seconds.

(Above statistics: How to Cope, by Lester Sumrall)

- 100,000 teenagers commit suicide every year.
- Americans consume \$500 billion dollars' worth of illegal drugs annually.
- Violence against women has increased 50% in the last 15 years -- every 6 minutes a woman is raped; every 18 seconds a woman is beaten.
- An estimated 90% of all high schools in America have an organized satanic group.

(Statistics: a national ministry newsletter)

- B) Not all, but many problems people have are caused by the influence of evil spirits.
(See list titled: "Examples of Problems Evil Spirits Can Cause")

- Two ways to know if a problem is caused by an evil spirit:

1. Fruit (analysis of symptoms) - recurring, compulsive problems which persist despite attempts to control or stop them. (The flesh can be crucified.)

2. Revelation from God - the Holy Spirit may reveal to you that a problem is being caused by an evil spirit.

2) What evil spirits are and what they do:

- A) The devil is Satan, once called Lucifer, who is a created being (one of three archangels) who rebelled against God and persuaded one-third of the angels to follow him. (These are the fallen angels, now known as evil spirits.) *Isa. 14:12-17, *Ezek. 28:12-19, *Rev. 12:3-4, 7-9
- The word satan means "adversary" in Hebrew.
 - The word devil means "slanderer or accuser" in Greek (*diabolos*). It is a singular noun and is most correctly used only as a title or name for Satan (Lucifer). The term "devils" (plural) is actually an incorrect usage for proper grammar.

B) Satan's followers are (evil) spirits who seek to influence and inhabit human beings.

- The fallen angels are the evil spirits on the earth.

(They can inhabit humans and animals: see *Luke 22:3, *Mark 5:12-13.)

- Evil spirit = demon = foul spirit = unclean spirit

(compare *Matt. 15:22 with *Mark 7:25,

*Mark 5:2 with *Luke 8:27, and

*Rev. 16:13 with *Rev. 16:14)

- Evil spirits have two primary objectives:

1. Keep lost people from becoming saved.
2. Keep saved people from serving Jesus effectively.

- Evil spirits work against people in a number of ways:

1. Tempt - *Matt. 4:1
2. Deceive - *Rev. 12:9
3. Enslave - *Rom. 8:15
4. Torment - *1st Tim. 1:7 & *1st John 4:18
5. Drive/Compel - *Luke 8:29
6. Defile - *Mark 5:2

C) Evil spirits seek to manifest, rule, or dominate people's lives in progressive steps, levels, or degrees:

- First, they seek to influence people occasionally.
- Second, they seek to oppress people often.
- Last, they seek to totally dominate continually.

- Evil spirits can work against people from both outside the person or inside the person.

1. The exact location of an evil spirit is relatively unimportant to deliverance. Debates over the location of evil spirits usually lead only to arguments rather than people being set free.

2. Spirits can pass through solid walls, so it is of no surprise that many times they were inside a person when cast out by Jesus.

- The phrase "demon-possessed" has caused much unnecessary controversy. It has been interpreted as more than intended. The term "demon-possessed" is translated from the Greek word *daimonizomai*. This Greek word is simply the verb form of the Greek noun for demon (*daimon*). An English parallel would be the verb "bugged," made from the noun "bug." Therefore, the word "demon-possessed" should be correctly translated "demonized." There are countless millions of people all over the world that are being "demonized" in various degrees.

3) Christians can be influenced and oppressed by evil spirits in many areas of their lives.

- Christians are naturally a higher priority target for evil spirits than are non-Christians.
- Christians cannot be totally "possessed" in the same way non-Christians can because our human spirits are "owned and possessed" by God and sealed and protected. (See *Eph. 1:13-14, *1st Cor. 6:19-20.)
- Christians can have an evil spirit operating against them on the inside of their body just as Christians can have a disease operating against them on the inside. In fact, some forms of sickness, disease, and affliction are actually caused by evil spirits. (*Luke 13:11-17.)
- Jesus often cast out evil spirits from people "in the synagogue." (See *Mark 1:39.) Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, but Jesus had to cleanse the temple during His earthly ministry. (See *Matt. 21:12-13.) If a person "gives place to the devil" (*Eph. 4:27), then evil spirits can enter his or her body or soul (but not the born-again human spirit).
- If evil spirits could not oppress Christians, then the apostles in the book of Acts would only have needed to get people born-again rather than delivered. However, the apostles in Acts frequently cast out evil spirits. (See *Acts 5:16, 8:7, 16:18, 19:12.)

A) There are several ways evil spirits can come against Christians, but our response is basically the same. Whether an evil spirit is influencing you from outside or inside your body, you resist it (*James 4:7), speak out God's Word (*Matt. 4:1-11), and command it to leave you (*Mark 1:39, 6:12-13; *Acts 10:38). The flesh causes problems too, and it must be "crucified." But spirits must be made to leave. They do not "crucify."

B) Various forms of sin give evil spirits an open door to the lives of Christians.

1. Repeatedly yielding to any particular sin can give an evil spirit a stronghold in a Christian's life. (*Eph. 4:27, *Prov. 25:38.)
2. Unforgiveness is a particularly common way evil spirits get access to torment Christians. (*Matt. 18:21-35.)
3. Sins such as fear (*Rom. 14:23, *2nd Tim. 1:7), strife (James 3:16), and idols (*1st John 5:21) [Webster def. of idol: "any object of excessive or ardent devotion"]. These are subtle techniques the devil uses to gain access to a Christian's life.
4. Engaging in any occult or witchcraft practice, whether done in fun or seriously, can open up a Christian to oppression from evil spirits. (*Rom. 6:16, *Deut. 18:9-14, *Acts 19:16-19.) Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. (*1st Sam. 14:23.)
5. Parents can pass strongholds of sin on to their offspring down 3 or 4 generations. (*Ex. 34:7.) Illegitimate conception is a common way strongholds of sexual sin and rejection are passed down as far as 10 generations. (*Deut. 23:2.) But the person who is born-again can be free from these curses passed down family lines, because the born-again believer belongs to a new family with a new Father who is sinless.
6. Immoral sexual intercourse can transfer evil spirits from one person's body to another's because, during the act, the two become "one flesh." (1st Cor. 6:16.)
7. Remember, it is not a sin to be tempted. It is a sin to yield to temptation.

4) GOOD NEWS! Christians can achieve total deliverance from every work of the devil & walk in victory!

- Jesus defeated all of Satan's works.

(*1st John 3:8, *Col. 1:13-14, 2:14-15, *Eph. 1:18-19, *Luke 4:32-37, *Gal. 3:13-14.)

- God has given you the authority and power you need. (*Luke 10:19, *Mark 16:15-18, *2nd Cor. 10:3-5, *Prov. 28:1, *1st John 4:4, *Zech. 4:6, *Joel 2:32.)

- God wants you to have a blessed, protected, and abundant life. (*John 10:10, *3rd John 1:2, *Luke 12:32, *Heb. 8:6, *Psa. 35:27, plus chapters 1 & 91.)

5) Four necessary keys before deliverance usually happens:

- #1) Christians must receive the necessary knowledge to receive deliverance.
- A. Christians need the knowledge that many of their problems have been caused by the operation of evil spirits. Without this knowledge, a Christian would never know to pray against an evil spirit. (See *Hosea 4:6, *Prov. 11:9, *2nd Cor. 2:11.)
 - B. Christians need the knowledge beyond all doubt that they have the authority necessary to achieve total victory over every evil spirit all of their lives. (*Mark 16:17-18, *Matt. 28:18-20.)
- #2) Christians must set their will against each evil spirit and want to be delivered from its influence and oppression. (See *Matt. 15:28, 20:32-34, *Mark 5:17, *Matt. 22:3, 23:37.)
- #3) Christians need to have faith in God and His Word to be set free. Faith is how we receive all the benefits that Jesus purchased for us by His blood. (See *Eph. 2:8-9, *Mark 9:23, *Matt. 21:21-22, *1st John 5:4.)
- #4) Christians should confess and turn from any area of sin so that it would not be an obstacle or hindrance to their deliverance. (*Eph. 4:27, *John 5:14, *Matt. 18:34-35, *1st John 1:9, Prov. 28:13.)
- 6) To achieve deliverance from an evil spirit, Christians need to use their authority and release their faith through prayer utilizing the power of God to set them free. (Faith is released through words and actions.)
- A) Below are examples of steps of prayer that a Christian can use to achieve deliverance.
1. Confess all sins since becoming born-again. (*1st John 1:9, *Prov. 28:13.)
 2. Renounce all involvement with occult or witchcraft practices. (*2nd Cor. 4:1-2, *Acts 19:18-19.)
(Review list titled: "Examples of Occult and Witchcraft Practices.")
 3. Forgive others (and yourself) of any sins. (*Matt. 18:21-35.) [Bitterness, resentment, and anger are symptoms of unforgiveness.]
 4. With prayer using the name of Jesus, bind each spirit by name that you believe is operating against you and command it to leave you. (*Matt. 18:18, *Phil. 2:9, *Rev. 12:11.) Be aggressive and assertive in prayer. [Raising your voice is not necessary.] (*Matt. 11:12, *Luke 16:16, *Rom. 14:17.)
 5. Believe by faith that you receive deliverance when you pray. Do not let the devil try to get you to depend on external, sense-realm evidence of deliverance. We do not need to "feel" a spirit leave. Our power is in the spirit-realm; we don't walk by sight. Don't let the devil trick you into fighting him in the natural realm. Never carry on conversations with demons during deliverance (which can be a "seance"). Never try to make people have any type of "manifestation" to get deliverance to occur. Have faith in God. The deliverance may be instant, it may occur shortly, or even in a few days. Just continue to praise and thank God for the victory. If the problem continues, review areas for hindrances. (Also see "Fasting" below.)
 6. Praise and worship God. Rather than spending long periods of time repeating commands for the evil spirit to leave you or someone else, praising God for the victory and deliverance is much more effective and efficient. (*Psalm 8:2 in light of *Matt. 21:16.) Praise and worship can often be a method of releasing your faith and authority as a Christian. (*2nd Chron. 20:21-22, *1st Sam. 16:23.)
 7. Fasting can often help release more power and anointing whenever needed to bring results if they seem delayed. (*Matt. 17:21, *Isa. 58:6.)
- B) Practice self-control & self-discipline to keep deliverance and prevent problems. (*John 5:14, *James 4:7.)
- C) Live a life of close fellowship with God including daily Bible reading & prayer, regular fasting, praise & worship, witnessing, church attendance, and fellowship with other Christians. (*Matt. 12:43-45, *Acts 2:42-43, 46.)

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Address: Words of Life, P.O. Box 701045, Tulsa, OK 74170. Phone: (800) GET-WORD Web:

www.WordsOfLife.org

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Addendum A: Examples of Problems Evil Spirits Can Cause

(especially when experienced in persistent, uncontrollable, or excessive amounts) (* = common occurrences)

bitterness*, hate*, resentment*, unforgiveness*, violence*, anger*, murder*, rebellion*, stubbornness, disobedience, strife*, arguing, fighting*, cruelty*, judging, criticism*, rejection*, fear of rejection, self-rejection, insecurity*, inferiority*, self-pity*, loneliness, shyness, ineptness, possessiveness, suspicion, jealousy/envy*, anorexia, bulimia, selfishness, pouting, daydreaming, sleepiness, insomnia, listlessness, lethargy, apathy, depression*, discouragement*, hopelessness, suicide, heaviness, gloom, worry*, anxiety, fear (all types)*, sickness (many types), disease (many types), infirmity*, nervousness, tension, restlessness*, insanity, schizophrenia, paranoia, confusion*, frustration, forgetfulness, doubt, unbelief, indecision, procrastination*, deception*, lying*, pride*, haughtiness, arrogance, sophistication, stealing*, poverty*, hoarding, greed*, competitiveness*, perfectionism*, irritability, impatience*, extended grief, deep sorrow, excessive crying, unexplainable fatigue, laziness, cursing*, coarse jesting, gossiping, guilt, condemnation*, shame, embarrassment, unworthiness, addictions 1.nicotine, 2.alcohol, 3.drugs, 4.caffeine, 5.food, religious spirits 1.some spasms, jerking, disruptions, etc., during religious services, 2.legalism & formalism, 3.self-righteousness, 4.licentiousness, 5.various false doctrines, sexual sins & disfunction 1.lust, 2.pornography, 3.fantasies, 4.masturbation, 5.fornication, 6.adultery, 7.homosexuality, 8.lesbianism, 9.incest, 10.bestiality, 11.rape, 12.frigidity, 13.prostitution, false religion 1.Mormonism, 2.Jehovah's Witness, 3.Christian Science, 4.Unitarianism, 5.Buddhism, 6.Hinduism, 7.Islam, 8.Occult practices, 9.Witchcraft

Addendum B: Examples of Occult and Witchcraft Practices

(* = common occurrences)

seances*, contact with familiar spirits, Ouija boards*, occult games*, fortune telling*, palm reading*, tea-leaf reading, crystal balls, tarot cards*, other guidance from cards, astrology*, reading horoscopes*, other forms of unscriptural guidance, automatic writing* & drawing, metaphysics, astral projection, mental telepathy, hypnosis, magic (not sleight-of-hand tricks), water witching*, levitation, mind reading, mind control, ESP (extrasensory perception), channeling*, other "new age" practices, TM (transcendental meditation)*, yoga (a Hindu practice)*, some Eastern martial arts*, various unscriptural religious practices (example: making up prophecy to manipulate someone), superstitions, illegal drug use*, prescription drug abuse*, other consciousness altering, curses spoken against persons (hexes, spells, jinxes, vexes), charms (including those worn for "good luck")*, some oaths and vows, some initiations & rites of brotherhoods, lodges, fraternities, & sororities*, participating in false religions*, occult objects including some jewelry, statues, emblems, pictures, etc., showing homage (reverence or honor) by visiting pagan or non-Christian temples, shrines, mosques, etc.