

The Spiritual Realm - Lesson 14: Demons

A Balanced Approach - There are two unhealthy extremes:

- Some people see demons behind everything.
- Others deny demonic activity completely.

Demons are spiritual beings that are followers of Satan

Matthew 25:41 *Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'*

Satan and his demons are real and are the power behind spiritual darkness

1 Corinthians 10:19-21 *What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.*

- Christians who are united with Christ spiritually should not unite with the demonic world spiritually through pagan rituals.

There is attack against believers in the spiritual realm

Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

1. We must realize that there is an enemy that doesn't want us to follow God

They are called evil spirits

Luke 7:21 *In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.*

Acts 19:11-20 *And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

Vs. 11: God was doing the miracles through Paul.

Jewish exorcists: this is the only place the word is used and it was not a successful exorcism.

- The Ephesian believers that practiced the occult rituals confessed and turned from their demonic practices.

They are called unclean spirits

Luke 9:37-43 *On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is*

my only child. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. 40 And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” 41 Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” 42 While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. 43 And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

They are called demons

Matthew 8:31 *And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.”*

Many scholars understand these terms to be interchangeable with angel, referring to an evil angel.

Demons have the ability to affect a person’s physical body

Matthew 9:32-33 *As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.”*

- Demon-oppressed or demonized
- Is there such thing as possession where a person has no control over their body and mind?
- Does the person relinquish control over to demons thus believing they have no control and obeying the demons lies?

The demons recognized Jesus and the Messiah

Mark 1:23-27 *And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”*

Demons knew that Jesus was the Son of God

Mark 3:11 *And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”*

2. Not everything spiritual is from God

Feature	The Holy Spirit	Counterfeit/Demonic Spirits
Character	Produces peace, self-control, and humility.	Produces confusion, obsession, or pride.
Focus	Always glorifies Jesus Christ.	Glorifies the "experience," the "self," or the "power."
Method	Convicts of sin to bring healing.	Accuses and shames to bring despair.
Standard	Always aligns 100% with Scripture.	Twists, adds to, or contradicts Scripture.

All occult practices are attempts to gain supernatural access while bypassing God's authority
Deuteronomy 18:9-14 *"When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer 11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, 12 for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the Lord your God, 14 for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do this.*

- Occult practices open a person up to spiritual attack and demon oppression.
- Occult practices seek supernatural knowledge apart from God

Child-sacrifice was common in Canaan for prosperity, fertility and military victory from the gods.
Divination is attempting to discover hidden knowledge through casting lots, reading animal organs, astrology or spirit consultation.
Fortune-telling is connected with reading signs and predicting destiny.
Interpreting omens interpreting signs believed to contain hidden spiritual meaning.
Sorcery is magical manipulation through rituals or spells.
Charmer is one who binds through spells or enchantments. Controlling other people or the outcomes of others.
Medium is one who allows spirits to speak through them.
Necromancer is one who communicates with the dead.

3. We must trust in God's Word as our guide

Questions:

What percentages of sickness and mental illnesses are demon-oppression?

- Satan and his demons use the effects of the fall either directly or indirectly in attacking, oppressing and harassing individuals.
- Satan is the god of this world. When we invite demonic knowledge and beliefs into our lives we open the door for demonic activity.
- Even if a person believed that demons were causing a sickness or infirmity directly to them, they have given themselves over to demonic power. So when they are healed physically they are mentally and spiritually released from the demonic stronghold.

What role does the occult and mind-altering drugs play in Satan and his demons attacking individuals?

- Looking for answers to life and beyond in the occult, black arts, demon worship, astrology, psychics or in dark spiritual forces opens an individual up to being misled by demons.
- Satan and his demons lie and mislead individuals and will prosecute, harass, attack and cause physical ailments when we give them permission to enter our lives.
- Looking to fallen and demonic sources for information give them permission in our lives.
- Drugs can inhibit our minds to not be able to discern truth from fiction and lead us to being deceived.

There seems to be a significant amount of demon possession during Jesus' ministry, does that reflect the times before and after Jesus?

- Perhaps Satan is bringing all his power and demons to concentrate and focus his attack and energy against the Messiah accomplishing His kingdom on earth.

How involved are we to be in casting out demons today?

- Paul, John, Peter and the other writers of Scripture did not command us to cast out demons or give us instructions on how to cast our demons.
- Instructions on spiritual warfare are given and casting out demons is not one of the instructions.
- This does not mean we would never be in a position to cast out a demon. You will know if God has you identify and cast out a demon.