

July 15th – Does Hell Know Your Name?

“And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’”
(Acts 19:15)

Have you ever seen the movie “The Exorcist?” If you did there’s a good chance it gave you some bad dreams. Why? It’s the story of a young girl that was incredibly vexed by demons, and those who sought to help her were often tortured or murdered. Some of the movie’s most iconic moments involve the 360 degree turn of the girl’s head, some weird green stuff spewing from her mouth, and an uncanny levitation above her bed. That’s enough to give anyone bad dreams!

That’s Hollywood, but the fact is that demon possession is a real part of the human experience. Most people have never truly been demon-possessed, but all of us are demon-influenced at times. And yet Jesus exorcised scores of demons during His earthly ministry. In the days of Paul, there were some demon-possessed individuals in Ephesus where he was ministering. The Bible says some “itinerant Jewish exorcists” attempted to handle the problem by using the name of Jesus as an incantation.

On one occasion, an evil spirit answered the exorcists and said something that is best understood in the original Greek. He said, “Jesus I know (*ginosko*), and Paul I know (*epistomai*), but you – who are you?” *Ginosko* denotes intimate knowledge, while *epistomai* means general knowledge. In essence the demon was saying, “We know Jesus really well, and we’re getting to know Paul too, but who are you clowns?” I wonder – does hell know your name because you’re living sold out to Jesus?