

8-11-2024, COTR Texarkana

Title: The God Connection, pt-12

Purpose: Provoke people to rely on the Holy Spirit to fight and win the battle against the devil.

Truth for Today: We can rely on the Holy Spirit to fight and win the battle against the devil.

Text: Ephesians 6:10-12, Acts 13: 4-12, Acts 16:16-18

Topic: Holy Spirit, Spiritual Warfare, Devil, Satan, Demons

Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Series Purpose:Provoke people to (1) Develop a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit, (2) Allow Him to work in us, (3) Have faith to let Him work through us supernaturally using spiritual gifts.

## The God Connection, pt-12

### I. Introduction (Send Graupners plant church Naples, committed \$50k, correct way Acts 13, be sent out)

- A. Video Erwin Nesby: He was still alive 10 years later. The Holy Spirit still works in supernatural ways using prayer and spiritual gifts of faith, healing and miracles.
- B. Review series: The God Connection, The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Today is part 12. (the middle of a movie, app) We're studying the Book of Acts as a handbook to teach us how the Holy Spirit gave N.T. believers spiritual gifts and power to accomplish the Great Commission. We want to follow their example.
- C. Today we'll seek to understand how the Holy Spirit can use us when the devil is influencing or controlling a person.

### II. Spirit filled believers can defeat the devil and demons. (2 examples)

- A. [Acts 13:4–12 (NLT)] So Barnabas and Saul...<sup>6</sup>...reached Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer (ESV magician), a false prophet named Bar-Jesus. <sup>7</sup> He had attached himself to the governor...The governor...wanted to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But...the sorcerer...interfered and urged the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He was trying to keep the governor from believing. <sup>9</sup> Saul.../Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. <sup>10</sup> Then he said, “You son of the devil, full of every sort of deceit and fraud, and enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup>...the Lord has laid his hand of punishment upon you, and you will be struck blind...Instantly...darkness came over the man’s eyes, and he began groping around begging for someone to...lead him. <sup>12</sup>...the governor became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.] The ‘teaching about the Lord’ was accompanied by spiritual power to defeat satan’s work.

### B. Observations and Application

1. Satan doesn't always cause people to behave like a crazed lunatic; he sometimes uses people in suits and in positions of influence. [Vs. 7 *He had attached himself to the governor*] E.g., Presidential campaign, (1) Push for a 1 world government, (2) Push to remove God and the Bible from schools and public life, (3) Campaigning for abortion rights, (4) Campaigning for gender transition. People are being influenced to advance satan's agenda and may not even know it.
2. How do people under satan's influence behave? [Vs 10 "*You son of the devil, full of every sort of 1deceit and 2fraud, and 3enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop 4 perverting the true ways of the Lord?*"] E.g., Headlines, "Trumps Popularity approaches historic high", Breitbart; Harris leading Trump by 6 points, Siri/MSNBC. Which is true? Who is a fraud and a deceiver? Do you think the devil has a preferred Presidential candidate to advance his agenda?
3. Satan's goal is to stop the spread of the gospel. [Vs. 8...*the sorcerer...was trying to keep the governor from believing.*] Satan uses legal groups like the Freedom from Religion Foundation. They threatened to sue schools: (1) Ashdown and Prescott to stop prayer before football game; (2) A school lunchroom in Va. had a simple prayer thanking God for food on the wall.
4. Paul had more power than the demon influenced man. [Vs 11...*you will be struck blind.*] Where did he get this power? He got it from the Holy Spirit. [Vs. 9 *Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit*] [Vs. 9 *and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. Then he said...*] \*Why the 'look'? I believe it was for discernment and asking the Lord what to do. Is something like this possible today? Do we have the same Holy Spirit living in us? Ask him what to do if you get in a situation like this.

C. Acts 16:16–18 (ESV)...we (Paul and Luke) were met by a slave girl who had a **spirit of divination** (*def. seeking knowledge of the future by supernatural means*) (NIV by which she predicted the future) and brought her owners much gain by **fortune-telling**.<sup>17</sup> She followed Paul...crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."<sup>18</sup>...Paul, having become greatly annoyed, **turned and said to the spirit (NLT demon), "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."** And it came out that very hour.

1. Observations and Application:
2. [Vs 18 *Paul, having become greatly annoyed*] perhaps it was because he wanted no testimony from a person like this.<sup>1</sup> The English words, [Vs 16 *a spirit by which she predicted the future*], translate two Greek words, "a spirit, a python"

referred to the Greek city of Delphi where the god Apollo was believed to be embodied in a python snake. The original priestess at Delphi was purported to be possessed by Apollo and thereby able to predict the future; therefore anyone possessed by the python spirit could foretell coming events.<sup>2</sup> \*\*There is a danger of mixing truth and error, right and wrong and of associating evil with good in churches, e.g. “woke or progressive” churches perform same sex weddings or have drag queen story hour while talking about Jesus and love. They don’t mix.

3. Satan can give people special abilities to counterfeit the Holy Spirit’s gift of prophecy. We need discernment to avoid deception. App. Psychics and psychic hotlines, fortunetellers, palm readers, horoscopes, new age crystals, good luck charms or any form of divination, should be avoided by Christians.
4. Satan can counterfeit Biblical gifts of the Spirit, [*Vs 16 she predicted the future*] Mt. 24:24 (NLT) For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones.]
5. There’s spiritual power in the name of Jesus, [*Vs 18 I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her*] [Luke 10:17 (NLT) When the 72 disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”] Why? Because His name represents His authority over evil.
6. Christian discipleship and an embrace of the Holy Spirit after deliverance is vital. [Lk 11:24–26 (NLT) “When an evil spirit leaves a person...it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ 25 So it returns and finds that its former home is all swept and in order. 26 Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before.”]

### III. Conclusion:

- A. If you confront someone who is influenced by demons like the magician or fortuneteller, remember [1 John 4:4 (NLT) But you belong to God... You have already won a victory over those people (*false prophets*), because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit (NCV the devil) who lives in the world.]

### IV. Response

- A. Prayer: (1) Give us spiritual discernment to recognize deception, (2) Let us hear the Holy Spirit to know what to do, (3) Holy Spirit give me spiritual power to defeat the power of satan when I’m confronted with it.

B. Souls

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Ac 16:18). Broadman Press.
2. Toussaint, S. D. (1985). *Acts*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 399). Victor Books.

VI. Supplemental Material

- A. Spiritual warfare, [Eph. 6:10–12 (NLT) **Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** <sup>11</sup>...stand firm against all **strategies of the devil.** <sup>12</sup> For **we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.**] The devil and his demonic army act behind the scenes to influence and control people but the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual power to win the battle.
- B. Acts 19:11–20 (NLT) God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. <sup>12</sup> When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled. <sup>13</sup> A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!” <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup> But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” <sup>16</sup> Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. <sup>17</sup> The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. <sup>18</sup> Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. <sup>19</sup> A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. <sup>20</sup> So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

- C. [2 Thes. 2:9 (NLT) This man (*the antichrist*) will come to do the work of Satan with **counterfeit power and signs and miracles.**
- D. Mark 16:17 (ESV) And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons...] Though there is controversy, this verse is in every translation of the Bible I've read.
- E. James 2:19 (NLT) You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.]
- F. James 4:7 (NLT) <sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- G. 1 Peter 5:8–9 (NLT) Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.
- H. 1 Thessalonians 1:4–6 (NLT) We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. <sup>5</sup> For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance (ESV great conviction) that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you. <sup>6</sup> So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.
- I. 1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (ESV)...my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- J. Acts 26:17–18 (NLT) And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'
- K. Acts 10:38 (ESV) God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

L. Acts 17:1–9 (NLT) Paul and Silas...came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup> As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. <sup>3</sup> He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." <sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women. <sup>5</sup> But some of the Jews were jealous, so **they gathered some troublemakers (ESV wicked men, NCV evil men) from the marketplace to form a mob and start a riot.** They attacked the home of Jason, searching for Paul and Silas so they could drag them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup> Not finding them there, they dragged out Jason and some of the other believers instead and took them before the city council. "**Paul and Silas have caused trouble all over the world,**" they shouted, "and now they are here disturbing our city, too. <sup>7</sup> And Jason has welcomed them into his home. They are all guilty of treason against Caesar, for they profess allegiance to another king, named Jesus."