

# HOW TO CAST OUT DEMONS

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***NOT WITHSTANDING IN THIS REJOICE NOT, THAT THE SPIRITS ARE SUBJECT UNTO YOU; BUT RATHER REJOICE, BECAUSE YOUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN.***

—Luke 10:20

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## INTRODUCTION

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Satan's continual effort, as stated in John 10:10, is *to steal, to kill, and to destroy*. However, Satan is not omnipresent; so how is he able to cause so much havoc throughout the world? Is he able to create all of this chaos by himself, or does he have assistance? If he has workers, where did they come from, and what are their names? This lesson will answer all of these questions and more. It will reveal the make-up of the underworld, its functions, and our God-given authority over it.

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## LESSON

**Possession:** domination by an evil spirit; a psychological state in which an individual's normal personality is replaced by another

**Demons:** 1. An evil spirit; a source or agent of evil, harm, distress, or ruin 2. An attendant power or spirit: Genius 3. A supernatural being of Greek mythology intermediate between gods and men 4. One that has exceptional enthusiasm, drive, or effectiveness.

**Warfare:** Military operations between enemies: hostilities, war; also: an activity undertaken by a political unit (as a nation) between competing entities: conflict.

**Cast Out:** banish, eject, exile, expel, ostracize, oust (cast out evil spirit: exorcise)

## COMMON BARRIERS TO ENGAGING IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. **No faith**
2. **No power**
3. **Fear.**
4. **Pride**
5. **Religious Spirits and Traditions**
6. **Self Righteousness**

## LUKE 10:19-20

### DISSECTING AND RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

**PURPOSE:** God's Purpose is not to simply deliver believers from their sins and bring them out of bondage, but to teach them how to properly engage in spiritual warfare.

The power given to the believer is under the direction and control of God. Let's shed some light on the believer's authority in spiritual warfare.

Because God is omnipotent (all-powerful, almighty), He alone has the ability to stop every demonic attack before it happens. When Jesus instructed the seventy, He told them that they needed to become familiar with using that which had been given unto them.

? ***Behold, I give unto you power...***

**Power is** the delegated authority, which is given to the believer at the time of salvation.

Satan has always attempted to hinder God's work but delegated power, given to the believer through Jesus Christ, is far more powerful than the class of Satan's demons.

? ***To tread on serpents...***

**Represents** God's ability to protect us from the poisonous temptations or deceptions that Satan uses to injure his victims. God's promise is to protect us from danger if we use His spoken Word at the time of Satan's attack.

Matthew 4:4...When Jesus was tempted of Satan in the wilderness, He responded quickly by answering with the words: *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

And in Hebrews 4:12...The swiftness of God's Word is emphasized.

*For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.*

? ***And scorpions...***

**Represents** the ability, which God has given to protect those who are His from the deception of Satan. A scorpion has the ability to roll up, and because his body is white, it appears to be an egg. In Luke 11:12, Jesus presents a clear description of the appearance of the scorpion: *If a son shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

? ***The enemy...***

Satan, is powerful, but he is not omnipotent—all-powerful. God, in His Divine power, has the ability to preserve believers from the power of Satan. He has control over Satan and his demons.

1 John 3:8: *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

When Jesus cast out demons, it was always by the Spirit of God. Matthew 12:28: *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

The Spirit of God represents the power of God. In order to exert power over the enemy, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

Serpents and scorpions are a prophetic representation of Satan and his demonic host. It was the serpent who tempted Adam and Eve in Genesis Chapter Three, and Jesus, in His teaching, makes the symbolism complete. Both the serpent and scorpion represent the most dangerous forces of spiritual evil.

## A STORY OF POSSESSION

1.

<sup>14</sup>*And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.*

<sup>15</sup>*And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him.*

<sup>16</sup>*And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?*

—Mark 9:14-16

Notice that although the "crowd" seems to be very excited about seeing Jesus, and are even awed by Him, Jesus still remains very focused. Some of us will never be able to war against demons all because of one word: PRIDE! Pride comes before the fall (see Proverbs 16:18)); it's another one of Satan's tactics for keeping you bound and keeping your attention on yourself and away from the Father. But Jesus gets right to the point, "Why are you scribes questioning the disciples?"

2.

<sup>17</sup>*And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;*

<sup>18</sup>*And wheresoever he taketh he him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.*

—Mark 9:17,18

The crowd assumed that because the disciples traveled with Jesus, that they would, of course, have the same power that Jesus possessed. In other words, if Jesus has the power to cast out demons, then surely His disciples – His students – have the power as well. This is where disappointment and unbelief of the multitude began and their reason for questioning the disciples. Had Jesus not shown up, this would have been the perfect opportunity for the scribes to discredit the ministry of Jesus and sow discord in the hearts of the multitude. So Jesus rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith. Surely it would have been the disciples, those who have traveled with Him and personally witnessed His ministry in action, who could have at least possessed enough authority and faith to cast this demon out. This, however, was not the case.

**3.**

*<sup>19</sup>He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.*

Jesus does not begin addressing the disciples yet, but essentially the message of the text is relayed to the father of the possessed young man; and the message is simply this:

"You could cure your son if only you had enough faith to do so; and stop leaning on the arms of other intercessors, building your life and leaning on the arms of others, but instead begin to partner with God."

**4.**

*<sup>20</sup>And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.*

—Mark 9:19,20

**Demons recognize the power of God!**

**5.**

*<sup>21</sup>And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.*

*<sup>22</sup>And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.*

—Mark 9:21,22

This gives us the history of this demon. He had resided within the young man for quite some time, and was in no way ready to just give up his comfortable abode, especially to a group of individuals who were not operating in faith.

**6.**

*<sup>23</sup>Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*

*<sup>24</sup>And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

—Mark 9:23,24

Although the father is praying to God to help his unbelief as it relates to the healing and deliverance of his son, he already has faith in God to increase his faith. Normally, you only ask from those whom you have faith in to deliver your request.

7.

*<sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that the people came running together...*

Notice, Jesus did not rebuke the spirit until the crowd gathered.

*...he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.*

—Mark 9:25

Again, Jesus wastes no time, but exercises His power and authority by simply commanding the spirit to **come out. He rebukes the spirit.** This was an oppressive spirit, and oppressive spirits must be rebuked. The word "rebuke" is often a word taken out of context, which many mistakenly translate as having a person rolling around on the floor, laying hands on them, and making a scene. On the contrary, however, "rebuke" means simply to reprimand sharply, to correct. So Jesus took authority over the spirit and it departed from him.

8.

*<sup>26</sup>And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.*

—Mark 9:26

Notice that upon exiting the young man's body, the spirit "rent" him. The spirit knew at the spoken Word of Jesus that he had to come out. But his purpose was to kill the man's son in the process. This is why timing is always important when casting out demons. You should never endanger the life of an individual by playing spiritual games, or doing things outside of the will and timing of God. If done within God's will and timing, however, no matter how hard the demonic force fights to remain inside the body, he has to come out, and the hand of God will protect the individual's life during the process of this demonic exodus.

9.

*<sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.*

*<sup>28</sup>And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?*

*<sup>29</sup>And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.*

—Mark 9:27-29

Essentially what Jesus was saying to the disciples was, "Had you been praying and fasting as you should have, you would have had enough **faith** and power to cast this demon out." The disciples should have been living a lifestyle of prayer and fasting, submitting themselves to the perfect will of God.

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus reminds the disciples that you don't need a whole lot of faith to deal with oppressive demons. Likewise, we're to be mindful of this very important fact:

*...If ye have faith as a grain of a mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

—Matthew 17:20b

Jesus does not even demand that we have faith as an entire mustard seed, but simply a "grain" of mustard seed. Mustard seeds come in clusters. When you pull back the leaves, there are several grains, each about the size of a grain of salt. And if you have just that amount of faith, that's all it takes to impel even the demonic mountains of oppression.

Leaders oftentimes make the mistake of waiting until they're confronted with issues before they pray or fast, thus yielding no results. If one is to take on the task of casting out demons, or engaging in spiritual warfare, he or she must live a lifestyle submitted to God, have a relationship established with God, and have a name that's known in the principalities of darkness.

We all remember the popular story of the seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-18). "Paul I know, Jesus I know, but who are you?" (Acts 19:15). If we're not careful, this too will become our testimony if we attempt to come against Satan's kingdom through fleshly means.

### **SPEAK THE WORD ONLY!**

Another trick of the enemy is to hinder us through religious and traditional doctrines to the point that constant exposure to the Word of God has little or no effect. Consequently, we wander in circles, wrestling with demons, screaming, making a scene, because we no longer have enough faith in the simplicity of the Word of God. We begin to feel that God somehow needs our help in fighting evil forces, thus acquiescing to the subtle deception and temptation of Lucifer to fight him through man-made tactics. Lucifer knows the Word. He also knows that he can only be defeated by the Word. His strategy, then, becomes to dissuade us from following Jesus' example—speaking the Word.

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## **Conclusion**

The kingdom of darkness will try to hinder us through religious and traditional doctrines. Pride comes before a fall, and keeps you focused on yourself, rather than on the Father. Demons recognize the power of God. Demons will not exit a body if those praying for the victim have no faith. All we need to do is to have faith the size of a mustard seed, and even demonic "mountains" will have to move. Jesus did not go through an entire ritual; instead, He simply commanded the demon to come out and it was done. Upon exiting a body, demons will try to kill the victim. This is why the timing of God is imperative; for the hand of God will protect the individual in the midst of this process. We must live a lifestyle dedicated to fasting and prayer so that we will be ready in season and out of season for the Master's work. At the word of Jesus, the spirit came out of the young man. We can also command demons to flee in our own lives, and in the lives of others by using the name of Jesus. If we have faith in His Word, even the size of a grain of a mustard seed, the power of that faith in Jesus' name gives demons no choice but to flee!

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