

Casting Out Demons

- I. Introduction
 - A. Neither Jesus nor the apostles ever gave any indication that they feared Satan
 - B. No Christian should fear Satan. James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-11.
 - C. However, we are to respect Satan's evil power (1 Peter 5:8) and schemes (2 Corinthians 2:9-11). We are never to mock or revile Satan. 2 Pet. 2:10-12; Jude 8-10.
 - D. Satan has definite "schemes" or "traps" for Christians as well as a vast store of dark knowledge referred to as "deep things" or "deep secrets" for his followers. Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11; Rev. 2:24.
 - E. Satan is a fallen angel, i.e., a *creature* of God who rebelled against his Creator. He is intelligent, proud and filled with violence (Ezekiel 28:11-19).
- II. Terminology
 - A. "Demon possessed" versus "demonized"
 1. The Greek term that has been traditionally translated as "demon possessed" is more accurately and literally translated as "demonized."
 2. Much of the modern language used to describe demonic activity against humans is not helpful or biblical. For example, to debate whether demons can be "on," "in," "around," etc., their subjects is probably meaningless since we are talking about non-spatial beings in the first place.
 3. I think it is more helpful to think in terms of the amount of influence or control that demons may have over a person's mind or body.
 - B. Christians can be demonized.
 1. First of all, there is no text in the New Testament or Old Testament that says Christians cannot be demonized or have a demon.
 2. Luke 13:10-17 and 1 Cor. 5:1-5.
- III. Specific Demonic Inroads
 - A. Anger and unforgiveness. Eph. 4:26-27; 2 Cor. 2:9-11; Mat. 18:21-35.
 - B. Lust, sexual immorality or perversion. 1 Cor. 5:5; Prov. 5:7-9.

- C. Hatred and violence. Luke 9:54-56 (KJV); John 8:44.
- E. Envy, jealousy and selfish ambition. James 3:13-18; 1 Sam. 18:8-11.
- F. Occult practices. Lev. 19:31; 20:6; Deut. 18:9-13; Acts 16:17-18.
- G. Idolatry. I Cor. 10:20; Rev. 9:20; 1 Tim. 6:9; Col. 3:5.
- H. Blasphemy. 1 Tim. 1:20.
- I. Drugs—I do not know of any direct scriptural support for this point, but there is a good deal of practical experience to support it.

IV. Casting Demons Out

- A. How do we know the demon is there? Through discernment or supernatural phenomena.
- B. A team of 3-5 people pray over the demonized person. One leads, one records, the others pray.
- C. If the demon does not go out quickly, lead the person to repent of the demonic inroad that gives the demon a legal right to be there.
- D. Some demons only go out by prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29, KJV).
- E. Pray over the team afterwards and ask God to cleanse everyone from any evil residue.
- F. Don't stay up all night or do marathon sessions. In most cases, that demon has been there for a long time. Once it's discovered, its days are numbered unless the person wants to keep it. And some do.
- G. Never take a demonized person off somewhere alone and attempt to cast it out by yourself. This is especially true if the person is the opposite sex.
- H. Follow up discipleship is essential or the demon may come back (Mt. 12:43-45). In most cases the demon is not the person's major problem.