

Demons and Deliverance Ministries

November 26, 1994

- **Ephesians 6:10-18**

In general, people have a fascination with things of the spirit world and are often blown about by new stories and discoveries. However, as Christians, our thinking should be shaped by what God has revealed in His Word, not by the theology of the world.

- **What do demons do?**

It is very important that we learn from Scripture what the effect is of demons on humans. If we have an understanding of what they do and don't do we will be better able to identify truth and falsehood.

Matthew 9:32 Capable of taking away ability to speak.

Matthew 17:14-18 Capable of causing destructive epilepsy.

Mark 7:24-25 An unclean spirit can cause someone to live in filth and squalor.

Mark 16:9 Multiple demons can possess someone simultaneously.

Luke 4:40-41 Demons are orthodox. (cf. James 2:19)

Luke 8:26-33 Demons can give extraordinary strength.

Acts 16:16-17 Some are able to give divine knowledge.

1 Corinthians 10:19-22 Demons are at work behind idolatry.

1 Timothy 4:1-5 Demons teach hypocrisy through asceticism. (cf. Colossians 2:20-23)

Revelation 16:14 Able to perform miraculous signs.

- **Do demons operate the same way today as they did in Jesus' day?**

It should be noted that the vast majority of examples of demon possession occur in the Gospels. It is not absent from the other parts of the Bible, but nowhere is it more prevalent than in the Gospels. Clearly, the time of Christ is the most significant spiritual time in the history of mankind; it is not surprising to see the greatest demonic influences happening at this time. Christ also gives us a hint about this:

Matthew 12:43-45

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 "Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation." (NKJV)

We also know that whatever the governmental structure was within the kingdom of darkness before the time of Christ, it certainly was different after His resurrection. That is not to say that the demonic forces are non-existent but at a minimum, their purposes have been thwarted.

Colossians 2:15

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (NKJV)

- **How do you know if deliverance ministries are valid?**

We are surrounded by those who call themselves Christians and who claim to occupy an important office in the church of exorcists. Our purpose today is to understand some of the Biblical principles which should shape our evaluations as to the validity of any particular deliverance ministry.

1) Do they improperly magnify themselves and their ministry?

Luke 10:17-20

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (NKJV)

2) Do they confuse exorcism with true spirituality?

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (NKJV)

3) Do they understand the source of sin?

Mark 7:20-23

20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 "All these evil things come from within and defile a man." (NKJV)

4) Are they consistent in their understanding of Spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (NKJV)

5) Do they understand what a Christian is?

Matthew 12:43-45

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 "Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation." (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 1:21-24

21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. 23 Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. 24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. (NKJV)

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (NKJV)

Romans 8:28-39

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)