

## 7 PART STUDY ON “SPIRITUAL WARFARE”

### SESSION 3 (part 2) – DEMONOLOGY.

#### Introduction:

When entering into the spiritual world it is often the darker side that human beings are drawn to; it seems to be our curiosity which gets the better of us and often our curiosity has very little scriptural backing or confirmation to it. Now, as children of God, we are NOT called to be “fascinated” by the dark forces in this world instead we are called to be “fascinated” by our Lord and saviour and focus as much attention on his goodness and love. However, we are indeed called to at least be aware of the darker side of spirituality and not be naïve to its workings and dealings. And so, we allow a certain time in our growth to study these areas which are so neglected by mainstream churches, not for the sake of pure curiosity but instead so that we may be better equipped for our journey through this world as spiritual beings.

Demonology for a long time has been a subject area surrounded with mystery and fear, an almost bogeymen like mentality, in the sense that if we talk about it in any depth, we are in fact attracting these dark forces to us. Which is completely false and could be classed as superstition but in the truth of the bible we know that this kind of fear inducing understanding has no place among us. Maybe in the pagan beliefs they give over to that sort of intimidation and fear; however, as Christian soldiers we are not called to fear but instead to courage, not to lies but to truth. A demon’s greatest weapon is making itself unapproachable whether through fear, intimidation, subtleness or complete invisibility to the modern world.

Now in this study we are going to approach this subject in a slightly different way than usual. We will approach this study as if we were entering into a demon case study...I have picked out 7 different sections of scripture and in these 7 pieces of scripture are different descriptions of demonic activity in the lives of people both in a community setting and individual. The purpose of these case studies and of this document in general is for us to understand the motives, dealings and inner workings of demons in the life of humanity today. It would be impossible for us to do that if we didn’t have the light of scripture to help take us behind the spiritual curtain.

As always, I would ask you to WEIGH AND TEST for yourselves what the scriptures say and not to simply take my word for it. I would also like to remind all of us that while there is a time for this type of study, I would warn against spending too much time focusing on these things aside from simply educating yourself. Some are called to a ministry of deliverance and for those people it may be necessary to understand these aspects of spiritual warfare to a deeper level; however, even with those select people, all of us are commanded by scripture to focus first and foremost on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Because ultimately our victory is in and through him! Amen!

## **BEFORE WE START...FALLEN ANGELS & DEMONS?**

Very quickly I would like to address that the reason for there being two parts to session 3 is that I do believe that fallen angels and demons / unclean spirits are actually two different groups of beings. I do not believe that fallen angels and demons are the same. For several reasons:

- **A desire to inhabit a body.**

As we are about to study, demons have an insatiable desire to indwell a person; however, from what I read in scripture, fallen angels seem to already have their own bodies with which they fell from heaven ([Job 1:2](#) / [Revelation 12: 9](#)). They don't seem to need to inhabit anything and we never hear of any of these fallen angels possessing anyone. The only time which could be mentioned is when Satan entered Judas but aside from that we see no other times ([Luke 22:3](#)).

- **A different mission.**

As we saw in [Daniel 10](#) in session 3 part 1 there were angelic forces which led whole entire empires. However, whenever I see demons or unclean spirits mentioned in the bible, I see a much more "individual" mission. What I mean by this is whereas in [Daniel 10](#) whole entire nations are involved when dealing with demons it seems they are more active in the smaller sphere of the spiritual warfare in terms of possession of people, leading groups astray with false teaching and idol worship.

- **A different power.**

Once again referencing [Daniel 10](#) we see a situation where an angelic messenger sent by God is held up by the "prince of Persia" which we know as a powerful dark being (fallen angel) and even the Archangel Michael has to come and assist the angel in order for the message to get through. Now, although this may be speculation and I accept it as that, I don't see that sort of power in the demonic forces cast out by the apostles of Jesus Christ for example. I can't see any of the demons indwelt inside of the people in the Gospels for example being able to put up a fight against the archangel Michael. For fallen angles to be demons that means an exorcist would have to accept that they are in fact casting out fallen angels from inside of people and when I look at the examples and power of angels vs the power of demons it doesn't seem to weigh up.

- **Always mentioned separately in scripture.**

In scripture, even in the New Testament, these groups are always addressed separately. For example, in the [Gospels](#) a spirit inside of someone is mentioned as a DEMON however in [Revelation 12](#) when referencing a battle in heaven it says, "Satan and his ANGELS". Also, in the [book of Jude](#) and [2<sup>nd</sup> Peter](#) they are called angels. If the angels became demons, why

would it continue to call them “angels” in the New Testament rather than now their new existence as demons? And so, I see scripture itself making a distinction between the two.

### HOWEVER...

I may be wrong. Maybe fallen angels are in fact demons now and that is how it works. To be perfectly clear, it actually matters very little. This is a personal conjecture but one I understand has a limited dependability within scripture and one which is only explicitly mentioned in Jewish texts that are not in the canon of the Bible. And so, with that being said I would advise you to come to your own conclusion on the matter!

## THE CASE STUDY BEGINS

Each section of scripture we see below has been chosen to show a particular characteristic and behaviour of demonic forces. I hope that it is through these scriptures that we will get a clear idea and understanding as to the dealings of these beings in our world today. So with that being said, let’s start!

### 1. A DESIRE TO INHABIT A PERSON.

#### Matthew 12: 43-45

“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, “I will return to my house from which I came” and when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits eviller than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of the person is worse than the first. So also, will it be with this evil generation.”

Here we are given an insight from none other than our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ himself. Jesus here gives us an incredible insight into not only what happens after deliverance but also the danger of what can happen when the individual does not come to faith. But perhaps even more astounding is the insight we get into the inner thought process of a demon itself. Where better to start than right here with our Lord leading us in the study through his words in Matthew 12.

## “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person”

We can safely presume that in this case a demon has been cast out of this person – we can draw this conclusion because as we see a bit later in the verses the demon desires to return and go back to whence it came. And so here we see what is now known in modern day terms as an “exorcism”.

Exorcism simply means a purification / putting out / ejection / expulsion.

In this case it is the ejection or expulsion of an unclean spirit. Notice how we are dealing with an individual spirit here and also an individual person. This is one unclean spirit leaving one person but as we will see in a moment the numbers of the demons change; however, it still remains the same person. Spirits are not limited in the number they can gather in when it comes to possessing one individual.

## “...it passes through waterless places seeking rest but finds none ...”

**Waterless places:** I believe it is a safe assumption to say that this is the “spiritual realm”, a dimension beyond our own that exists alongside ours. It’s not less real than our dimension and exists in and yet invisible to ours. This is an insight into the journey a spirit takes when being cast out of a person – it’s not something that is going to be visible; we don’t SEE the demons leave although there are signs of a demon’s expulsion being successful that we will take a look at later. However, we do see a journey take place in these “[waterless places](#).”

**Seeking rest:** This is a very revealing and important part of our understanding - if the demon is “[seeking rest](#)” then I would say it is safe to assume that when the demon is NOT inside of a person they are NOT AT REST. Meaning that when inhabiting a person, it is the preferred place for a demon to be. They desire to indwell someone not only to destroy their lives but also because it is “[rest](#)” to them. This is so important to understand as it speaks into not only their motivation but also their condition. It seems to me that demons NEED to be inside of something in order to find that evil comfort in a way, its no wonder in the bible we see so many examples of demons begging NOT to be cast out – because they know they are about to be moved from their place of “[rest](#)”.

**But find none:** This only confirms my previous statements; the demons when not inside of a body, passing over waterless places, simply cannot find any rest. They seem to be in a constant state of restlessness desiring that state of rest back. They find none in the waterless places and so being in that place is the last thing a demon wants. Hence why a demon will hang on to its host as long as it possibly can and, in this case, actually return to the host as well.

**“Then it says, “I will return to my house from which I came...”**

**Then it says:**

Here we get a keen insight into the very inner thought processes of a demonic spirit. The very inner monologue which goes on when in these “waterless places”. Like any inner thoughts they are always revealing to motives and character.

**“I will return to MY HOUSE from which I came”**

This is quite an insight – the demons refer to the person they have just left as “MY HOUSE”. Now to fully understand this I would like you to take into consideration the following questions:

- 1. If you “own” a house what rights do you feel you have over it?**
- 2. If I was to meet you and get to know you, would your house reflect you?**
- 3. Are you protective of your house? Do you lock your doors? Keep it safe from others?**
- 4. Is anyone able to tell you what to do in your house? Who makes the rules?**

My point in asking these questions is so that we can better understand the depth of what is being shown to us here. The demon does not see the human as a victim or as a prey for his torturing. The demon actually views the person as “its house”! This implies ownership, this implies authority over that person, this implies that the demon’s view of the person is one of belonging. Notice the demon does not simply go into any other person or look for another victim, the demon DESIRES to return to “ITS HOUSE”. That means out of millions of people it could choose it wants the person it made its “home” in.

This is such a key understanding as it truly helps us now see the scriptures describing spirit beings cast out in a whole different way, a way which helps understand not only the demon’s reaction but also the importance of taking away that “house” from that spirit. In a way, men and women called to spiritual warfare could be seen as SPIRITUAL BAILIFFS. We are indeed ejecting an unwanted spirit from what it thinks is its house.

Now we see the desire but we also have to understand the nature. The nature of demons is evil from top to bottom, there is no light in them and no good, they are pure evil and there is no expectation of salvation for them, only the eternal fire of hell into which the Lord Jesus Christ will throw them. Amen. But it is because of this evil nature that when they do move into a “house” they end up destroying it, twisting, and manipulating and out from their evil nature oozes forth all sorts of spiritual conditions for the person who is indwelt by them, some very obvious and some incredibly subtle.

**“...and when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order.”**

### It finds the house:

### Empty:

The person referred to here as the “house” has had this unclean spirit cast out, they have been delivered. However, something crucial has not taken place. The “house” now needs to be dwelt by the HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit is described as also making a home with us. Now it is the complete polar opposite of that of demons; however, the Holy Spirit does indeed indwell believers and make us the “house of God” or “temple of God”. For example, see the below scriptures:

#### Ephesians 3:17-19

“Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.”

#### 1 Corinthians 6:19 ESV

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”

#### Romans 8:9

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”

And so, we see how in a Holy way we as believers are indwelt and made a “temple” of God through his sealing. So, when it refers to the EMPTY HOUSE what it is referring to is that the Holy spirit has not entered that person.

They have been delivered but have not come to faith. This is once again such an important bit of knowledge to know for our own journeys with the Lord because the casting out of demons is not to be valued above the evangelising of someone’s soul. If we cast out demons but leave the person without Christ indwelling inside of them we leave them no better off, as we will find out in the later verses.

### Swept:

The house has been tidied, swept up. An easy analogy to this is that of a human one; a messy person is asked to leave your house you are renting to them and when they leave, they not only take their mess with them but also their messy nature. Therefore, leaving the house clean not only in belongings but also in no more danger of becoming messy, at that time. And so, we see the same in the spiritual, when the demon is cast out the evil that resides in and with that demon is cast out with it. The effects of the demon living inside of the person leave with the demon.

### And put in order:

Our God desires order, in our lives, in his church, in marriage, in raising children. God commands order in so many different areas, from the Old Testament in the way they are to do the ceremonies and feasts to the New Testament in who should be an elder and who should be a deacon. God is all about order and not just any order, HIS ORDER. It is only when we as creation go against HIS ORDER that we then fall into harm and disarray. The order is not there for us to become enslaved but instead so we may walk free and safe in this world - when the order is ignored, even by Christians, we end up reaping what we sow.

So, if God is about order what can we say about demons? Well from the effect we see that they have on the people they indwell it can only be likened to chaos. Now there is some pre-thought to their actions and so you could say it's 'organised chaos' but regardless it is the complete opposite of God's order. A demon will often lead a person to live in a way that is contrary to God's order at all times, whether that be in character, action and deed or thoughts and desires. Whatever it is, a demon will never lead a person into God's order of doing things, they will instead do the complete opposite.

And so, when a demon is cast out, the order of that person is put right – it may not be that they are living completely under God's order or even that they acknowledge God but the order has been restored in terms of them no longer following the chaos of a demonic entity inside of them.

**“Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits eviller than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of the person is worse than the first.”**

### Then it goes:

Notice it comes back to the person but does not indwell them straight away, instead it leaves again to bring with it seven other spirits. The reason for doing this is not specified but we can speculate. Vengeance against having been cast out? A strength in numbers? A desire to destroy the person all the more?

### brings with it seven other spirits eviller than itself:

This verse suggests that there are indeed LEVELS OF EVIL which are different between different demons; in the same way that there is a hierarchy of power among angels there also must then be among demons and fallen angels. Our Lord Jesus Christ said nothing just for the sake of it, all his words he spoke he was told to speak by the Father ([John 12: 49](#)).

And so we see here that the dark side of the spirit realm does also have different levels of power and influence. These demons which are bought into the house are eviller than the original and as we have already suggested there could be various different reasons for the spirit to do this. I would argue mainly that it is in response to having been cast out in the first place, as if to make the person pay for having been freed. Either way what is 100% clear is that instead of there being 1 spirit altogether there are now 8 spirits inside of this place.

It does also suggest that those other spirits didn't have "houses" of their own meaning they too were cast out and could not return and that the spirit found them in the "waterless place".

### and they enter and dwell there:

This person (house) has now got 8 evil spirits in total living inside of them. Once again, going back to our human analogy, you kick out a messy person and all their mess. The messy person comes back, moves in with 7 others messier than them, what is your house going to look like? What extreme change will happen to that house in a very short space of time?

### and the last state of the person is worse than the first:

In the strangest way, this person was better off with only one spirit living inside of them. It sounds like a crazy statement to make but the emphasis here is undeniable, they are worse off than they were at the beginning when they only had the one. Now, this is once again a crucial point for us in our evangelism; it is of little use to cast out a demon from a person but NOT follow through with evangelism and a leading to the Lord.

If we leave the house empty it WILL be filled again - this process explained by the Lord is not a one off, I actually do believe that every demon that has ever been cast out of anyone returns to their "HOUSE". It's all based off whether when they return, they find it filled with a far greater power (the Holy spirit) with which they could never even begin to contest or whether they find the house empty. Have you ever prayed for people to be released from demonic possession, ever cast out a spirit? Have you then told the Gospel? Led them to the Lord?

Another point to make here is that our Lord Jesus Christ doesn't suggest that casting out demons is always a sure sign of salvation. Instead, he seems to actually separate the two. Now, although many of the time casting out demons does lead to salvation, there is a separation here. Casting out demons is a ministry within itself and a calling most definitely, but we do see Jesus say about those who believe in him in the below statement:

#### Mark 16:17-18

<sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The point I'm trying to make is that while God may use us to do this, we also need to recognise that the immediate need may be the casting out of an evil spirit, however, the greater and more far-reaching need, is their salvation. Casting out demons without the person believing in the Lord and being filled with the Holy Spirit leaves the person worse than before, as Jesus tells us. And so, we should never leave the job unfinished, immediately after expulsion we need to share the gospel with that person and offer the gift of salvation. Now if that person refuses as the bible says, "their blood is not on our hands" ([Ezekiel 3: 18-21](#)) however, it should be a priority in our minds.

### **So also, will it be with this evil generation:**

For that current generation Jesus came to bring the kingdom of God on earth, he came to set free the captives, to tell them the truth and offer a way back to God. He came in a way to bring the "houses" back to "tidiness, swept clean and in order" but however that generation rejected him and going further even murdered him. And so, the current generation in which Jesus is talking to at that time, after having been in the presence of Jesus Christ but never fully accepting him, end up 7 times worse than they were before.

### **Conclusion of case study 1:**

A demon has a desire to be "at rest" and to be at rest for a demon is to be in their chosen "houses" which represent human individuals who are their hosts. When in those houses the overflowing of evil spills out into the life of that person. When cast out the spirit finds no rest and desires to be back in their original house. If the person set free is not now indwelt by the spirit of God, then the demon is able to enter back in with more spirits worse than itself and therefore bring that person's life into deeper and darker destruction. THE GOSPEL IS KEY. Beyond just casting out spirits it is the GOSPEL that truly brings freedom!

## 2. Demons know who the Lord Jesus Christ is.

All things were made for the Lord Jesus Christ and through him ([John 1:3](#)). All of creation knows who Jesus Christ is, it is only human beings that have been lulled to sleep in their understanding and acknowledgement of God. This includes those in the spiritual realm, even Satan has to acknowledge God is who is he and we see that several times in scripture, especially in the book of Job when God gives Satan clear borders that he cannot cross in his torture of Job ([Job 1](#)). Below we will see a great example of this is an incident in the book of Mark:

### Mark 1:21-26

<sup>21</sup> And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.

**“And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.”**

### Entered the synagogue:

Let us first acknowledge where this takes place, in the place of worship, teaching and prayer. This was a place at the time that was revered for its holiness and anointing from God and yet, from what we are about to see, evidently not everyone in that place was from God. This is an important point to make - we often feel because we are in a church where we pray and worship and have teaching that those demons cannot enter. But remember, the kingdom of God lives within us, the church IS the people, not the building. And so while a demon cannot enter a person with the Holy spirit, a demon can enter a person without and bring that person into a building made with bricks and mortar where the children of God worship together. Sometimes not just for weeks or month but years. A strange thought yes but a reality none the less.

**“And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit.”**

**Immediately:**

When it says immediately, it is referring to the manifestation of that spirit in that place. The spirit was already in the room in the person in the synagogue. But the presence of Christ and then Christ teaching in its presence caused a manifestation of the spirit in the person.

**their synagogue:**

I love here how there is a separation of this man possessed at the place. Almost as if to emphasise that the demon didn't belong there, it was trespassing, it didn't belong. It was in "their" synagogue. In the same way that if a demon decides to visit any church or is in a church building it is indeed trespassing. A demon should not be in "our" churches but for one reason or another, due to a lack of teaching or lack of faith or a lack of courage, demons are allowed on a daily basis to be among all sorts of Christian practises unchallenged and unseen, sowing deception, division and trouble wherever they go.

**“And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God.”**

**And he cried out:**

This is not just a simple acknowledgement of Jesus. This is a crying out, it seems that the very presence of Christ and the teaching of Christ invokes a reaction from this demon in a way that suggests the demon being in some considerable pain, torment or discomfort. Either way this demon CRIES out almost in an involuntary way, it had no choice but to acknowledge Christ.

**What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?**

**US** – Notice the plural, not me or I but instead US. And yet later, when Jesus casts him out of the man, it speaks of the casting out in the singular. And so the demon is not referring to other demons inside of the man, instead he is talking OVERALL. The demon is talking about all of its kind throughout the land. Not just itself but speaking on behalf of all unclean and evil spirits.

### Have you come to destroy us?

The demon is feeling the one emotion that he fills his victims with – FEAR. There is a dread of Jesus Christ among the evil spirits of this world because whereas Jesus for us means life, freedom, and salvation to the demons of this world he means judgment, justice and damnation. The demons understand that not only does he have authority and power over them but also that he has come to “destroy the works of the devil” (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8).

The demon also recognises that Jesus Christ IS the only one with the capability to destroy them completely, not just cast them out, not just expel them but Jesus has the power if he wills it to actually destroy them from existence. Something he will do one day in the near future. The point here though is the FEAR and DREAD demons have of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ and I would even say a similar set of emotions for those Jesus Christ uses to do HIS will.

### I know who you are—the Holy One of God:

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. What a powerful exclamation of our Lord’s power and dominion, the demon doesn’t mean to give him praise but he HAS to. It’s not a choice, it’s not an option, the demon is not able to insult him or rebel against him. Jesus IS KING and no being, visible or invisible, can ever challenge him. The demon MUST acknowledge who Jesus is, there is way around it.

The HOLY ONE OF GOD – once again a confirmation that demons do understand who our Lord is. This also has huge implications for us in our understanding of demons because we know we have the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ living inside of us. Demons recognise Jesus Christ within believers even when we don’t recognise demons inside of unbelievers.

**25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”**

### Rebuked him:

The word “rebuke” in the bible has two different connotations to it and is not always a negative. For example, in the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, it talks of a rebuke as a positive thing to do to someone in error that they may be returned to the Lord (1 Timothy 5:20). Again, in Proverbs it says, “an open rebuke is better than hidden love” (Proverbs 27:5-6).

However, the use of the word here means TO CONTEND WITH. The idea being that unlike the positive use of the word this is rebuke is more of a combative action. A combative purpose behind the rebuke to contend against something.

### Be silent and come out of him:

Here we see the authority of our Lord at its finest; no argument, no convincing, not asking or trying to persuade. A command given that must be followed as it has been given by God

himself. Jesus at this point was not making himself fully known while going out through the land knowing that the more of him they knew the more the pharisees and leaders would want to kill him, a desire we do see grow throughout Jesus' journey. And so first he silences the demon, upon silencing him he orders him out.

Something to bear in mind here, we see Jesus communicating with the demon but what would this have looked like in the synagogue? What would everyone else have seen? Well, the demon is not visible in the same way that the person is, and so Jesus would have been addressing the demon but to all others he still would have been directing it at the man. Jesus is talking to the demon in the man. Regardless of the man being there and seeming to be the point of focus of Jesus, our Lord was looking past the man and seeing what was inside now showing itself.

**“And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.”**

### **Convulsing him:**

The scriptures here make a point of showing us the clear separation between the person with the demon and the demon itself. The demon leaving the man causes a sort of convulsing to take place. Is this the demon trying to hang on? I don't think so, there is no chance of that being possible after Jesus Christ commands him to leave. However, as we will see later, it is a common theme among demons leaving, a physical reaction. We have to remember that while this is spiritual, the spiritual always has had huge implication for the physical and so when something big like this type of spiritual shift happens in a person's life it shouldn't surprise us that there would be a sign physically as well.

### **crying out with a loud voice:**

Demons have their own voices. Now Hollywood may have created all sorts of extreme scenarios where demons speak and sound like monsters. However, there is some truth to it in the fact that demons do have the ability to speak through their hosts. Mostly using the voice of their hosts; however, at times when coming into contact with a demon possessed person, the voice can indeed change and be quite different from the voice of the person, not always but it is possible. However, for now we must assume that the voice being heard was indeed the voice of the man, simply being used by this unclean spirit.

Once again this implies that this is not a pleasant experience for the unclean spirit - the crying out and the convulsions are all suggestive of the demon being ripped out of its house rather than leaving calmly. Forced to leave, chucked out the front door against its will.

Based on what we saw in our first case study that demon is now going to wander waterless places and will try and return to the original person. However, we can only hope that the man followed Christ afterwards as it doesn't say.

### 3. Only by the authority of Christ

Demons do not listen to just anyone and not just anyone is able to cast them out or give them command. In our 3<sup>rd</sup> case study, we will see a clear example of this and how it is only by the authority of Jesus Christ that demons can be cast out.

#### Acts 19: 13-16

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. <sup>15</sup> But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup> And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all<sup>[a]</sup> of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

In context this particular story follows after a quick look into the powerful works that the apostle Paul was doing at this time, works that included healing, casting out of demons and even a handkerchief that was his being passed to people and them being healed. Paul was being used by God in a powerful way and it seems that in contrast to this we see this story show up and although the lesson in context is a comparison between a man God was using and men who God wasn't, there is also a lesson to be learnt about spirits of this world and how they operate - that is what we will be looking at today.

**"Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits"**

#### **Itinerant Jewish exorcists:**

**Itinerant meaning:** A person who travels from place to place.

These Jewish exorcists were in the profession of going from place to place and almost certainly charging money for people to be delivered from spirits, most of the time proving unfruitful in their endeavours. They would cast out spirits through incantations, repetition of phrases and uses ceremonies to try and invoke a spiritual reaction.

#### **invoke the name of the Lord Jesus:**

Like much of their practises, they relied on sayings and phrases which seemed to fit the situation, some from scripture or some passed down by other professional exorcists. It seems that the fame of the apostles (and in particular in this chapter the fame of Paul spreading and

God using him to cast out demons and unclean spirits) had led these so called exorcists to try and use the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the same manner in which they used their other incantations and phrases, hoping that it would work. However, as we are about to see, the opposite effect took place.

## “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.”

### I adjure you:

**Adjure meaning:** To urge or request something be done.

The bible purposefully uses the word adjure here; they were “urging” or “requesting” the demon to leave. However, when we see the apostles or Christ himself cast out spirits there is no request, it is a command and a command which has to be followed. These Jewish men evidently not only lacked a complete faith in Jesus Christ but also lacked an understanding themselves of spiritual matters, thinking they were able to persuade a demon to leave simply by using the name of Jesus.

### by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims:

Here we come across really the biggest problem and the key to understanding this whole passage. These men were hoping to bandwagon off Paul’s faith in this moment, hoping that because Paul believes and it worked for him, that if they simply mentioned Paul and Jesus, it would also work for them. However, this is an important point; it doesn’t!

We are called to have an individual faith in Jesus Christ, demons do not listen to human beings in any way, shape or form. What I mean by this is, purely in our own strength, we have no power or authority to overcome any spirit. They are stronger, more powerful and more knowing than we are when we don’t know Christ. The only way a Christian is even able to cast out a spirit is because once a person has given their lives to Christ two very important things happen. Firstly, they are filled with the very same spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, the Holy spirit ([Luke 11:13](#)). It is through that spirit that Christians are able to do miracles, work in the gifts of the spirit, teach the word of God, understand the word of God, commune with God and walk the Christian life and also in context to this; cast out evil spirits.

The second very important aspect is this: we are called to be ambassadors of Christ. We are Christ’s representatives here on earth; he not only walks with us and lives in us but he also calls us to do his will and be his vessels on earth, being used by him. And with any ambassador of any nation, they are given a certain amount of authority to do their job and within that authority Christ bestows upon those who believe in him the power to cast out demons according to the faith he gives us at that time. And so, in conclusion, these men lacked the one vital part they needed, a living and personal faith in the risen son of God Jesus Christ. Without which they were trying to tackle spiritual matters with nothing but physical ability – that battle they lose 10 times out of 10.

**“Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.”**

**Jewish high priest named Sceva:**

Now it may be that these 7 sons of Sceva got some of their self confidence from the fact that they were related to a high priest. At this time the high priest was seen to possess the ultimate spiritual authority in the land and was unchallenged in terms of his position and honour. I personally don't think it is a coincidence that this is mentioned halfway through the story as if to point to the fact that not only did them being related to the high priest not help them in any way shape or form but even the high priest himself would have been in the same situation if trying to do the same thing, without a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. A modern-day example would be the pope; he is no more able to cast out demons than a muslim or a hindu. Demons don't care about human position or authority, only the authority of Christ is what makes them tremble, shake and move when commanded to.

**“But the evil spirit answered them.....”**

The spirit was able to hear them and understand them and also answer them but once again, let us remember that it would have spoken to them out of the man's mouth, it may have even sounded like the man but it was indeed the spirit. The spirit doesn't ignore them but instead begins to mock them in what we see next.

**“Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?”**

**JESUS I KNOW:**

Going back to what we talked about in our earlier case studies, we see here another example of demons not just knowing *about* Jesus but instead confirming the fact that they KNOW him. They KNOW him as King of Kings, God, Son of God the Father. They know him in his might and power. No one need tell a demon who Jesus Christ is.

**and Paul I recognize:**

This is quite a remarkable statement, one which has interested me for a long time. It was very clear to me that Jesus has dominion over all creation and yet what seemed quite amazing is that the demon actually states that he “recognizes” Paul. A good question to ask is:

**What does the demon recognize?**

Well, my first answer is that the demon recognizes that Paul is indeed one of Christ's, a child of God, born again by the spirit and a fellow worker and servant to Jesus Christ himself. Secondly, it seems that Paul's works for God had made an impact in the spiritual realm also, with news of him and his works travelling to demons and unclean spirits around the area. This would also explain why in some cases demons would suddenly burst out around Paul with

some sort of admission or statement ([Acts 16:16](#)). It wasn't Paul in his natural flesh but instead the spirit of God residing in Paul that the demons sense - Paul like us after all is a new creation and born of God ([1 John 5](#)). Demons know who belongs to God and who doesn't.

However, my previous point stands. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century demons may know who we are but we fail continually to discern the demons in our modern world of science and technology. We have grown blind to the spiritual and in turn have become useless at tackling it. We may not be making the same mistake as the sons of Sceva, however we are just as ineffective with our current day perspectives on the spiritual world. Are there any less demons today? Was it a work only for the apostles? Are we not given that gift? Are you recognized or to the spirits of this world are you amongst the lukewarm, those who offer no threat or challenge? Hard and blunt questions but questions that need an answer all the same.

## “but who are you?”

The real full stop at the end of the sentence.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT CAN YOU DO? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

This question is a provocative question and yet it is said by a spirit with no fear whatsoever of a challenge or of being cast out. This spirit knows they have no power other than human power and as we have already discussed this will never be enough. Who are you? We can only begin to imagine how defeating it must be to hear a demon say it to you when you have gone there as a son of a high priest to cast it out. Who are you? A humbling moment for the sons of Sceva but a terrible moment for that man who is still imprisoned within his own body by an evil spirit.

**“And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”**

### **the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them:**

This is an insight into just how much control a spirit is able to have inside of another person. For example, we have seen several ways in which a spirit is able to control someone:

- Speech – the spirit is able to use the host person's voice to speak through them with the person being the microphone and the demon being the speaker. Also able in some circumstances to be able to sound different from the person's voice.
- Able to take full control of the person's functions, in a sense controlling their muscles, ligaments, tendons, brain functions – able to use them as if they were a puppet.
- Able to throw them into fits of convulsions and seizures at will as we saw earlier when Jesus cast one out from the man in the synagogue - later we will see other examples.
- Able to give the human in question an “unhuman like strength” – somehow the joining of demon and man means the demon is able to harness its own power through the

person. Creating in some cases superhuman strength as we are about to see here and see again later on in our studies.

### **Mastered all of them and overpowered them:**

I don't want to bring myself into the equation too much in terms of personal experience, but I do believe that I can help us understand the significance of this a little better. I have trained in boxing for 10 years and I've been a heavyweight for over half of that time, I have trained for 4 years in Brazilian ju jitsu which is all wrestling and submissions and even done a little judo and kickboxing. Why am I telling you this? Well, it's not to gloat over my experience, rather it is to highlight how impossible this would be for anyone, even someone trained in various combat situations.

With all my experience and if I was at my fittest, I would not be able to overcome 7 men, wound them and leave them running naked. I don't actually think I could overcome 3 by myself if they were all average size and weight. A 2 on 1 fight is very hard to win in its own right. Now these men were brothers, being brothers, I imagine they had a love and fight for each other that is specific to siblings, they would want to naturally protect each other. However, the demon, using this man, was able to overcome all of them, MASTER THEM which means dominantly beat them and overpower them despite there being 7 against 1.

Why am I emphasising so much on this point? Because if there is one thing I would love for us to take from this study it would be this: we are powerless without Jesus Christ. Completely and utterly powerless when facing any and all spiritual threats. Bullets? Swords? Nuclear bombs? None have any affect on spiritual beings, maybe on their hosts, but not on them. This is why it is written:

#### **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

### **So that they fled out of that house naked and wounded:**

It doesn't go into details about how wounded they were or what sort of wounds; however, we know one thing for sure, we are also not told how it is they became naked, it seems to me with the clothing of that day consisting of tunics and flowing garment that in the struggle they were ripped off.

These sons of a high priest, embarrassed, beaten, naked and wounded because they tried to approach a demonic force without a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They were NOT Christ's ambassadors on earth and therefore were NOT qualified to use his power.

#### 4. A particular demon which brings a particular challenge.

We have already seen in our study that demons come in different degrees of power and also different degrees of evil. Now we will see in our 4<sup>th</sup> case study a demon with a particular set of conditions which it brings with it but also a particular method of expulsion.

##### Mark 9:14-29

<sup>16</sup> And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup> And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” <sup>19</sup> And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out<sup>[a]</sup> and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup> And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup> And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.”

### “And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?”

Jesus enters into the situation where a crowd of people are arguing amongst themselves and with that same crowd are Jesus’ disciples.

### “And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid.”

So here we have a young child who is possessed with an evil spirit and there are several physical conditions that are being caused by the spirit within him. They are:

- Mute – he cannot speak in any way shape or form.
- Seizures – this child has seizures and fits.
- The spirit throws him down – collapses. Another sign of a seizure.
- Foams and grinds his teeth – physical conditions of a seizure.
- Becomes rigid – unable to move and all the muscles having spasms.

So, we see here that what in our modern world could be diagnosed with all sorts of different titles, here it is attributed to a spirit. Now when we read this and understand it this is so far from our understanding because of the way our minds have been conditioned to view the world, but we have to understand exactly that, our minds have been conditioned to no longer see the spiritual. Even some of the most “spiritual” Christians I know still struggle in a big way to face the fact of demonic and spiritual possession. Because it’s so “anti-culture” we would rather pretend and ignore than face the reality of these things.

**“So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”<sup>19</sup> And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.”<sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to him.”**

Jesus here shows his frustration, not for the boy who has the spirit, but instead the frustration is aimed towards the crowd and I would also suggest the disciples. Jesus urges people to believe knowing that he is fully capable to meet their needs. However, despite seeing the power of Christ in person, that current generation fell short so many times of taking Jesus at his word and having faith in him.

**“And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.”**

**And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy:**

**SAW HIM:** The spirit not only speaks out of the mouth of the person it is in, uses their body as it wills but also can see through the person’s eyes, it sees what the person sees. In this case it saw Jesus Christ.

Some people think the demon’s reaction upon seeing Jesus is one of fight or a show of force from the spirit, however I do not agree. I believe this is a reaction of fear. The demon knows Jesus Christ, understands his power, and understands his mission and knows what is about to happen and so the spiritual reaction causes the physical. We see here a repeat of the same symptoms described by the father; this is what he has been dealing with for years of his child’s life. We can only imagine the pain the father must go through to see this week after week.

**And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.”**

### **How long has this been happening to him?**

Now we can assume safely that Jesus Christ already knew the answer to that question and so the question arises as to why he asked it. Well, I would say it was for our benefit that the question was asked; Jesus knew that years later we would be doing this very study and learning from his example, as have generations of people since the cross. And so, if it is then for our benefit, we should pay close attention.

There is an importance here in understanding the hold the spirit has on this young person. This tells us several things; the spirit has been in the child for many years, the whole childhood in fact. Also, it gives an idea of just how impactful this particular spirit has been in this child but also the toll it has had on the family - this has been years of struggling and suffering for both child and parents. We can also assume that the demon's attachment to its “house” is going to be a deep one - think of it in a human way, the longer you live in a house the more like a home it becomes. Well why should it be any different for a spirit? And for this spirit the attachment has been growing for years, since the young person was only a child.

**“And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him.”**

### **it has often cast him:**

This recognition by the father is so important, the first step in any sort of deliverance in believing and knowing that there is something that needs to be delivered. Uncertainty is a weapon of the enemy and proves effective against all sorts of aspects of ministry, even our prayer life. The same is said for deliverance. There must be a conviction and a recognition of what is there. This father does a great job in undoubtably knowing that IT is the one throwing his son into the fire and water and not just some strange reaction from the son himself. The father is showing an understanding in the spiritual even just from this.

### **into fire and into water, to destroy him:**

The demon has attempted to destroy this boy several times, it wants to kill him. Now this may seem like a contradiction to our earlier statements about demons wanting a home, however it is not, there are many people in a human way that destroy the houses they live in despite it being their home. Even though it is where they reside, they do not care for it, they trash it, break it, mess it up and ultimately destroy it, despite it being their house. The same can be said for demons, the demon does want its own house but also desires to destroy it at the same time, whether consciously or subconsciously.

**“But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can’t! All things are possible for one who believes.”**

**if you can do anything:**

The father, despite having the courage and understanding to come forward, shows here his own weakness in understanding Christ. In the next verse we will see him admit his unbelief and belief at the same time; however, here we see that his faith seems to have a limit. This comes from not truly comprehending the person he is talking to, if the father truly knew the power of Jesus he would never say IF. However, his understanding is limited and so he asks to the limit of his own faith. We should not be too quick to judge the man for it...how many of us in our prayers say IF when asking for things? I’m not talking about asking IF according to God’s will but instead making requests to God and saying IF you can do it.

The father also doesn’t explicitly ask for deliverance “if you can do ANYTHING”. This resounds for me as a father truly at the end of his strength. He doesn’t even know what to ask for and yet asks for help in any way possible. It does also play once again into the man’s faith; he was safer in asking for anything which has a wide and broad application to it rather than asking specifically for what he really wanted just in case it wasn’t in the realm of possibility.

My goodness how much we do this in prayer ourselves, it is a safety net to say the words IF and ask for ANYTHING that God may do instead of asking specifically for what we know is impossible for us but possible for God. This is a request made with faith and doubting at the same time as we will see soon.

**And Jesus said to him, “If you can’t! All things are possible for one who believes:**

Jesus responds not by condemning the man or putting him down but instead actually encouraging him. Jesus encourages his faith. Imagine if Jesus has simply prayed afterward or hadn’t mentioned it, the man would have gone on thinking his example of a faithful prayer is to be double minded and unsure, but the bible teaches us in contrary to that when we pray in such a manner, we shouldn’t hope to receive anything ([James 1:8](#)).

And so, what I see here from Jesus is actually an encouragement, BELIEVE!!! He challenges the statement of “IF” and instead says “ALL things are possible...” It’s not an ‘if’ or ‘maybe’, for the one who believes it’s a certainty. The only IF in prayer is “IF IT’S ACCORDING TO YOUR WILL” but we are still able to pray in complete conviction and faith and submit ourselves before the sovereign will of God.

There is an important point here which we will cover at a later stage in our series but the point of uncertainty when approaching deliverance. To put it simply, we cannot be uncertain, we cannot afford to be, the enemy does a great job in creating doubt in our hearts and minds

which then directly affects our prayers and power. God calls us to live a life of faith but the devil leads us to live a life of doubt. When facing the deliverance of someone we need to remember the words of Jesus Christ **“ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THE ONE WHO BELIEVES.”**

**Immediately the father of the child cried out<sup>[a]</sup> and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!**

A response that has more depth to it than I think this document can communicate, it is this cry that had echoed in my prayer life more times than I care to mention and a cry which brings me great comfort In knowing that God desires for us to be genuine and honest and not to try and put on a show or pretend to be what we are not. There is a time to say “God I believe but at the same time I don’t. Please help my unbelief.” What this man is saying to the Lord Jesus Christ in summary is this: PLEASE GIVE ME FAITH. That is the outcry here, he believes and yet his belief is tampered by unbelief and so he is asking Jesus for what he needs – FAITH.

The beautiful thing about this statement is even by crying it out the father is actually showing faith, he now understands that Jesus Christ IS the only one who can help and beyond that is also the only one who can help his lack of faith. In crying out for more faith he shows faith because of the one he is crying out to. Quite an amazing moment for sure.

**“And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”**

### **You mute and deaf spirit:**

Jesus calls the spirit out by name and shows us here a keen insight into the different KINDS of spirits. Here he talks to a singular spirit and the spirit has two qualities that define its kind. MUTE AND DEAF. Now that isn’t to say that the spirit itself is mute or deaf, instead this is the physical condition that is evident in the person. From a human standpoint we may say that a “sickness bug” causes people to be sick, it’s not referring to the bug itself but rather the consequence of having one. The same with demonic forces. The type of spirit a person has will then cause a particular symptom physically. The dealings of the spiritual realm nearly always impact the physical in some way, shape or form whether for good or for bad.

### **I command you**

Jesus does not ask politely, nor does he try and reason with this spirit, rather it is a command, a command that has to be followed regardless of the spirit’s desires. A non-negotiable command. Often in Hollywood or in some charismatic circles of the church we see these scenes in which people are almost arguing with demonic spirits and having long conversations

with them in order to try and get them to leave. However, there is NO biblical example of something like that taking place. We see both from our Lord and from his apostles in Acts that commands are given and demons have to listen. Only in this case with this particular spirit is another remedy needed, as we will find out in a few verses, but even within what Jesus tells us to do nowhere does it say we are to have lengthy discussions and conversations with evil spirits in an attempt to see them gone.

**come out of him and never enter him again.**

Here we see a very specific command, remember earlier we discussed in our case studies how these demonic spirits always return to the house they previously left. Here we see further proof of this as Jesus adds to his command “never enter him again”. Jesus understood that these spirits will try to return and so Jesus makes sure that this one is not able to, something I am sure the spirit would have hated. Whether Jesus did this because of the age of the person or just in this case made it so is unknown; however, what we do know is without a doubt that spirit never returned.

**“And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.<sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”<sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.”**

**And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”**

Once again, we see a reaction here from the demonic spirit which some would suggest is a sort of fighting back; however, I would be more inclined to believe it is a standard reaction which we see more than once in similar episodes. It seems to be one of pain and anguish for the spirit which comes across in the physical the way it does. It’s not so much that the spirit is fighting back but more that it is in turmoil that it is being cast out of its “home”.

It is one thing reading this description but quite another to be witnessing it and in our modern-day world we have to understand that our reaction to this sort of thing would most probably be more medically minded than spiritual. We have to be careful that we are not ignorant of Satan’s devices and that when we see these things occur, we do not try and reason them with a human way of thinking but rather understand the spiritual implications behind them.

The boy became like a corpse, maybe made unconscious due to the magnitude of what was taking place. We have to remember that this spirit has indwelt this young child for a long time, for the child individually what is happening is a HUGE change, spiritually and physically. It is

no wonder that this child would fall unconscious due to the massive impact of having something leave his body which has been there for most of his life.

**But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.**

It's a beautiful moment – it was Jesus who saved him from the spirit, and it is Jesus who lifts him up from the ground. A moment of true care and love from our Lord toward this boy as he lifts him from old to new...whether the boy went on to believe in Jesus Christ is not specified, I hope he did. However, what is shown here is the grace and love of Christ toward the boy and a picture of his love and grace for us also. Jesus doesn't just clean us and then move on; he takes the time to pick us up from where we were and stand us on our feet.

**And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”<sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.**

For those wanting to understand spiritual warfare it is instances like this, and lessons taught by the Lord, that we are able to learn so much from. The disciples, having been told that all spirits are under subjection to them, want to know why this one didn't listen. A serious blow to most probably their confidence and faith in the matter of casting out spirits. But what Jesus' response tells us is well worth paying attention to.

**This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.**

THIS KIND: First of all, Jesus answers the question for us of “are there different kinds of spirits” and the answer from what we see in Jesus' reply is YES. This kind refers to the deaf and mute spirit that dwelt inside of this young boy. Jesus having perfect discernment of spiritual matters was able to identify the type and kind straight away knowing why they were not able to. Now from what we see in the scriptures there are no other instances where we see a separation in procedure of casting spirits out, from what I can see this is the only example we are given of a special kind of practise needed in order to see this demon cast out.

### **prayer and fasting**

First of all, I would like to point out the difference between casting out demons and prayer. They are NOT the same and are often confused. Sometimes in prayer Christians mid prayer begin to talk directly to demons themselves but this is a terrible mistake. Prayer is solely used for our communication with our Father in heaven. Now we can pray to our Father regarding spiritual matters and talk to him about them but to make a practice of mid-prayer directly talking to evil forces is a misuse of prayer plus also quite insulting to our God. How are we able to use the same holy channel to speak to the almighty God and then use that same channel to direct our “prayers” towards demons? Prayer and casting out of spirits are TWO different things.

Here we are given the instruction for this particular spirit – PRAY AND FAST.

Now prayer is us making our supplication and requests before God and so we can safely assume that the instruction here is for us to make supplication and request before God for the deliverance of the individual. Fasting is the strengthening of our spiritual state and our faith, it is the decreasing of our physical state for the growth of our spiritual state. Fasting is used to draw us closer to God, as the Bible teaches us, as we draw close to God, he draws closer to us! Fasting is exactly that.

As we see in the story Jesus neither prays nor fasts when dealing with the spirit, he simply commands it to go, and it does. This is simply because Jesus Christ is the Lord of all. All is possible for him and nothing is impossible. What is interesting to me is how prayer and fasting is aimed toward God, we know that Jesus is God. And so, it seems to me that this kind is only able to leave through Jesus directly intervening as we see in this story. Now whenever we cast out spirits it is always by the power of Jesus and yet there is an element where Christ has given and ordained a power for all believers that these spirits are subject to them as ambassadors of Christ. But this particular spirit can only be cast out by direct intervention from the Lord himself and not through any human ambassador.

So, it makes sense then that Jesus' instruction for us is to what? Pray and fast. Why? Because it is us directing our attention and efforts toward Christ that he may intervene in the life of this person with this kind of spirit. Prayer and fasting require diligence and sacrifice, time and effort and so when entering into this type of prayer and fasting a conviction and solid faith must be the foundation of the fast as we are entering into nothing less than a drawn-out spiritual battle. As always, faith is essential to our work as Christians and a doubting Christian is an ineffective one when facing these types of battles - the bible teaches that if we doubt when praying we should not expect to receive anything ([James 1:6](#)). How much more so when facing this kind of spirit should we be fully convinced in our practise.

## 5. A legion of demons.

### Mark 5:1-13

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasene's. <sup>2</sup>And when Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. <sup>3</sup>He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, <sup>4</sup>for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup>Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup>And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. <sup>7</sup>And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." <sup>8</sup>For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup>And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." <sup>10</sup>And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup>Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, <sup>12</sup>and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." <sup>13</sup>So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

**“They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasene’s. <sup>2</sup> And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.**

**Immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.**

Jesus had literally just stepped from the boat onto land when this man approaches him, now why this happens is revealed slightly later in the verses; however, what we do see here is an instant recognition once again of the Lord Jesus and his power on earth. What people failed to see from the physical seen perspective the demons and unclean spirits see clearly that Jesus Christ is God in flesh.

**“He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, <sup>4</sup> for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.”**

**He lived among the tombs.**

From what we see here and from what we gather later, this man was clearly an outcast of society. Due to his spiritual imprisonment he has been abandoned to the tombs where no one else would be. Although maybe digging too deep into it but I do see here a picture of death, of a lost soul being among the graves with no hope and no future. Only when the author of life himself comes to where he is at is he lifted from those graves and tombs and bought into life.

**And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, <sup>4</sup> for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces.**

We talked earlier about the spiritual presence causing physical conditions, well the first condition we come across in this man is his strength. It seems that similar to the spirit which beat and wounded the 7 exorcists which we looked at earlier, the demons are able to use this man’s physical body in a way he wouldn’t be able to use it without them and able to use their

conjoined spiritual strength through his physical muscles. We do have to remember that demons are strong spiritual beings, it is only through the spiritual strength of the Holy spirit and anointing of Christ that we are able to stand against them.

Here it talks about the man being able to break chains and shackles. To put this into perspective if I was to ask you to get a shoelace and hold one end in your left hand and the other end in the right hand and then pull it apart would you be able to simply pull that shoelace into two? You would most probably need something sharp to do so, it would be hard enough just to pull a shoelace apart using our bare hands. Now with that in mind consider how much more strength would be needed to pull apart chains? My aim in painting that picture is not to glorify the strength of these spirits but rather to show the extreme nature of this particular possession.

### **No one had the strength to subdue him.**

Evidently some had tried and failed, their response understandably was to deal with the physical element before them in hoping to restrain this person who was a danger to himself and to others. However, no one was able. It shows us once again not just the power within this man but also the absolute power of Jesus Christ in this moment, he not only frees him but has no fear or worry concerning the danger this man may be. Jesus sees past the physical element into the spiritual and understands that he is stronger than both man and spirit.

### **Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.**

Here we see yet another physical symptom of the spiritual problem. The man was crying out and self-harming. Now when it says he was crying out I take that to actually be the man himself, many people who are possessed have a limited understanding that something else is tormenting them other than themselves. They have a desire to be freed from whatever it is even if their understanding of what it is can be vague. This man, although most probably not fully aware of the exact situation he was in, cried out in anguish.

These spirits also led him to self-harm. We have to remember that God says that we have been made in his likeness, we are his creation and the devil and his army love nothing more than to pervert and harm God's creation. Whether it be through modern day attacks on gender or sexuality or other very obvious attacks such as abortion or countless others. All of these are an attack on God's creation and so these spirits lead this man to mutilate his own flesh. In many pagan worships and cults self-harming is at the epicentre of it all with members cutting themselves and each other to bring about some sense of euphoria or practise some sort of ritual. In this instance it seems to be to torment the spirit's victim.

An important note to make here is to understand that those who are possessed are VICTIMS of spiritual bondage. There are a few exceptions such as those who desire for these things e.g. satanists. However even they do not fully comprehend what it is they are enticing or bringing about. This man was in pain, agony, rejected and hurt beyond belief all because he had no one to deliver him from these hostage takers. He had no power in himself to help and from what we see neither did any of the other people who had attempted. Only one person

is able to help anyone in this position – Jesus Christ. We have the privilege as his people to take part in the work, but it is after all a work made possible by our Lord.

## **And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him.**

Now the “HE” here is important. Although the bible doesn’t say specifically, I believe it is safe to assume from what we will read in a few verses that when it says “he” from this point on it is referring to the spirit and not to the man.

What is interesting here is the spirit sees Jesus from afar and runs to him and falls down before him. Now from what we have read in our case studies we would assume the response would be the opposite, to run away and not toward. However, what we are gaining here is once again an insight into the power of Christ over these spirits. Notice the action – the spirit **FELL DOWN BEFORE HIM**. Regardless, the demons HAD to come and acknowledge Jesus Christ, it is an automatic response by any spiritual creature that when Christ is there it has to acknowledge him and his authority. So much so the spirit came running toward him to do just that, fall down at the feet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.”<sup>8</sup> For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”**

### **For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”**

Now starting with verse 8 we see that the reaction of the demon was actually in response to Jesus commanding it to leave the man. Now this could be confused with the demon putting up some sort of fight or managing to stay off God’s command, he couldn’t. Instead, knowing that he couldn’t, he begins to beg Jesus for an alternative. This for me doesn’t show power but instead shows an acknowledgment from the spirit that what Jesus chooses is inevitably going to happen. It begs and cries hoping for a different outcome.

### **And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the most high God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.”**

The demon here states the true title of Christ, a title that no human being had become aware of at this moment, which is a keen insight once again into the understanding of the spirit beings of who Christ is. There is no doubt among them who the Lord is of this world or of his power and reputation.

### I adjure:

We saw this in one of our earlier case studies with the 7 Jewish exorcists who couldn't cast the spirit out - they didn't command or order, instead they "adjured" it – meaning they requested or asked. The demon here is not ordering Christ to do anything – he is pleading, asking, begging.

### do not torment me:

An ironic statement from a demon who has spent all its time tormenting the man it is living inside. This is, however, an insight into the fact that demons too can feel, they can feel anguish, fear and pain. And from what we have seen so far in our case studies and from what we are seeing here, a casting out of a demon apparently brings it a severe amount of discomfort and anguish. Even the Lord commanding it to do so was bringing about a level of tormenting for this spirit, to be confronted and exposed was an unpleasant experience for it. Not that I can say I feel any sympathy in the slightest.

## And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

It has long been taught that finding out the name of the spirit in question is very important to exorcism and crucial to seeing a person set free. Much of this is drawn from this very question, I do not disagree with that statement, and I do see a biblical backing to it. However, my only point is there were many occasions where Jesus simply said "unclean spirit" – it seems to me that a name was given in some circumstances where the spiritual possession was stronger than that of others. Whether because of multiple spirits or the length of time the spirit had been in the person.

A name in the bible has great meaning and the meaning of names can often be reflective in the person's life. The name of demons is the same, it reveals their nature and often their names are reflective of the condition they bring with them for example a "spirit of fear" is identified by the fear it brings upon a person. Or "spirit of divination" is identified as the person it is inhabiting is given abilities in divination. So, when identifying spirits, we are able to look at the symptoms and then discern the spirit.

## He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many."

**LEGION** – In Roman times a legion could be as little as 1500 men but was more commonly known to have a number around 3000 to 6000 men in it.

What this spirit reveals about his identity is shocking, as we will see in a few verses it becomes apparent that AT LEAST 2000 demons were inside of this one man and it could have actually been more. This then opens up for us a whole new realm of possession that goes far beyond what is usually imagined or thought about. Earlier in our study we looked at a man in whom one demon brought with him 7 others and so we saw an example where a person had 8 spirits inside of him. However, the description was that each spirit was more evil than the first. If

that is the case what can be said for this man? 2000 spirits in which different levels of evil and different levels of power are all coexisting inside of one human being.

Now the major speculation and question in our minds is how on earth did this man end up in this state. It is not an answer we are given. You will notice that the bible does not focus heavily on HOW they became demon possessed but instead focusses heavily on FREEING them from it. We often base a lot of our spiritual warfare in HOW these things first happened and we make that the priority but the priority is deliverance; the how, when and where can be worked out in the counselling and discipleship that happens afterwards.

Notice how the demon says, “MY name is legion for WE are many.” He goes from a singular to a plural description. It is interesting that these spirits when inside of a body seem to morph together as one, they are separate and address the Lord as ME or I and yet that demon speaks for the whole entire group of spirits. The thought has come up that “legion” is himself a single demon and his particular evil symptom is the bringing of thousands of others. However, the first understanding seems to be more in line with the scriptures.

This, I also believe, is a big part of just how tormented this gentleman was. I do believe that the MORE demons a person has the worse the condition becomes. Don't get me wrong, having even one demon is a terrible thing; however, like I mentioned earlier in one of our case studies, the fact that there are different levels of evil among demons tells me that the more there are, the worse it is. Evil upon evil upon evil. So I do not believe it is a coincidence that this man from all of the case studies so far seems to be in the most detrimental position, outcast by society, unable to communicate, crying out continually, cutting himself all night, unable to be restrained which implies unable to be amongst people, able to break chains and bonds. All of this due to the fact that he has a legion of evil spirits within him.

**And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup> Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, <sup>12</sup> and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.”**

**And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country:**

Now for this we have to contrast with the same recollection of this story in the book of Luke chapter 8.

**Luke 8:31**

And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

The above verse is from the same exact situation but simply from a different perspective, I would advise for your research reading the entire story in Luke 8 as well as Mark 5.

The point here is that these demons evidently are in fear of where they could be sent by God, the abyss. Or in Mark it is referred to as “being sent out of the country”. Now for me this seems to suggest that these demons weren’t just referring to being cast back out into the spiritual realm but instead they didn’t want to be sent to a particular destination that was outside of the country and was known as the abyss. Now some have speculated as to whether these demons are referring to hell or a similar spiritual prison that some of the fallen angels are being kept in. However, it is unclear. What is clear is that the demons would rather anything than go to that place. As to what that place is I will leave you to work that one out.

**Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, <sup>12</sup> and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them:**

These demons would rather enter any living thing than have to go to the abyss where it seems there is a finality to it, as if they would not be able to come back. And so, they would rather take the pigs than that. To wreak their destruction upon just one of God’s creation even if it isn’t the desired subject, which is the person they are currently in.

**Send us to the pigs; let us enter them**

This is an interesting verse as it opens up the possibility of spirits being able to inhabit animals which we see them clearly do here. However, I would suggest that this is a unique and separate incident which is a direct consequence of Jesus allowing them to. Notice they have to ASK PERMISSION or BEG. They were not able to enter the pigs just because they felt like it, it was something that had to be permitted first in the place of the human they were in.

Regardless it is interesting how this is a possibility - this is the only time in the bible we see this hence why I think its more of an isolated event, a demon desires most of all to be inside of a human, that’s a fact. It does not desire to be in an animal but simply took this choice as it was better than the “abyss” that they seemed to fear so much.

**“So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.”**

**So, he gave them permission:**

How almighty our God is.

You will notice a lot of the time in this study I like to bring us back to the absolute dominion and sovereignty of Jesus Christ over all creation, including all spirits. The reason for this is because, like all parts of our faith, our first and foremost focus should be on the Lord Jesus

Christ. These demons BEGGED Jesus, didn't ask or order but BEGGED him for what they desired. And Jesus gives them PERMISSION. There is no fight, no ability to fight, no chance of fight, no thought of fight. They stand in the presence of the almighty God, the one true saviour, the Christ, the son of the Father. They can do nothing but beg.

**And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea:**

Here we get an idea to the number which was in this poor man, 2000 at least can be confirmed by the number of pigs although there could be the possibility of more than 1 spirit per pig and so it could be more.

Notice however the response when in the pigs; they lead the pigs straight into the sea where they all drown. Why? What was their reasoning? Well, it's actually quite simple, a demon does not desire to be in a pig, it does not classify a pig as its "house". A demon wants to be inside of human beings. And so, by drowning the pigs do the demons drown? NO. The demons are then released back into "waterless places" where they are able to search for a new host or in their terms "house". This once again confirms to me that the "abyss" mentioned in Luke and the term "out of the country" in Mark cannot be referring to the "waterless places" we saw earlier in our case studies. Their desire is not to be in waterless places; however, they would rather be there and searching for someone new than be cast into the abyss where it seems there is a finality to their dwelling. The daunting thought here is that the 2 thousand demons were then released back into that place to try and find new victims.

Now the question can be asked. Why did Jesus allow this? Why no send them to the abyss? Why not cast them into hell? Why does Jesus even give them permission to go into the pigs knowing that they will be released to continue wreaking havoc?

Well firstly we know that Jesus did not come to cast demons into hell nor to cast Satan into hell, he came to die for the sins of his people and bring them into fellowship with the Father. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time Jesus returns is when he comes to judge, that is when he will bring judgement upon the earth to both humans and demons. So at this time of Jesus' ministry, it was not a time for judgment but rather for salvation, judgement is yet to come. That is one reason. The next is God's perfect will - demons are under the subjection of God's will like all creation is. Now while they, like us, have a free will it is a free will which is subject to God's will overall. And so, we can trust that for whatever reason these demons were given permission as they too play a part in the overall plan of God in the lives of people he wants to see set free and maybe on a more difficult note the lives of people whom are "vessels of destruction". A topic which needs a 7-part series just by itself.

## 6) A Spirit of divination.

### Acts 16:16-18

<sup>16</sup>As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup>And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

We come across this story when Paul is on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey and is currently at Macedonia - while in Macedonia Paul is met with this slave girl. After this particular event it leads to Paul’s imprisonment and the salvation of his jailor. Now for this document we will be looking specifically at the attributes and details surrounding the possession but it is worth mentioning that behind all of these things is a grander purpose and we can see that purpose fulfilled when we read Acts. I would advise reading the entire context of the chapter to see God’s will working out through this event.

**“As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.”**

### As we:

Acts is widely believed to have been written by Luke who accompanied Paul on many of his journeys and was with him on this particular missionary journey. So the WE here is referring to Paul and also those with him which included Luke and Silas.

### going to the place of prayer:

Just a note to make that these men were going about the business of God, it was on their way to prayer that this took place. Now I am not suggesting that because of this they had any more power; however, what I am saying is that to be spiritually minded is to also be spiritually focussed in our day to day. Paul’s life was all about doing the will of his Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

### we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination:

**Divination:** the art or practice that seeks to foresee or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usually by the interpretation of omens or by the aid of supernatural powers. FORTUNE TELLING / PALM READING / SECOND SIGHT.

Now there are many different forms of “fake divination” which have no demonic backing and also contain no real aspect to them. This may be someone conning the public using palm reading or someone who just speaks things over people that have no implications whatsoever. Now it is still dangerous to practise all of the above and you are still partaking in sin if you do so. However, what is described here has a more sinister tone to it, there is a divination which does involve the dark things of Satan and there are people under the demonic influences of these spirits who can have very successful (according to the world) careers in this sort of field because of these spirits.

Like we have seen so far, the spirit is named after its attribute and not a standard name like we are given. One of the differences I also see between fallen angels and demons is the fact that angels have names, but demons seem to only be known by what it is they bring with them. It's like calling a cold “a cough” because that is what it brings with it. The demon is the cold but the name it's known by is the symptom it brings.

### brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling:

Here we have a very interesting dynamic. Other people are actually gaining from the demonic activity within another human being. Now this girl was already a slave meaning she had no free will of her own to disobey her masters but she was a slave on two levels, a physical and spiritual level. In the same way she was a slave to her owner she was also a slave to the spirit and so it shouldn't surprise us that we see the same manipulation and treatment from the human master as we do from the demonic master.

Now the question may be asked, what is the negative effect on the girl aside from fortune telling? Well, it's simple, she has no will of her own. The slavery that is more restrictive is not the physical but the spiritual because in the physical they cannot control your thought, tongue or your body in the same way that a demon can. This girl was nothing more than a puppet being used by both man and demon to spill out evil in the world. The impact on the girl would also have been torment, she would have been suffering in herself from having this parasite inside of her and believe me a demon is nothing less than a parasite sucking of the life of a person while destroying them from within. For this girl all the time the demon was there she would have been in a constant state of suffering.

How could the demon tell the future? Well firstly divination does not always explicitly mean telling the future, fortune telling is exactly that, telling of fortunes or misfortunes for the person. Now while a demon is not all knowing they have been alive for a long time, since the days of the Nephilim in Genesis 6. They have lived inside of human beings ever since, learning, observing, destroying and leading people for generations. It is not too far fetched to believe that this particular demon may have a limited ability to predict the future of people based off

what they have learnt. Another theory is that this particular spirit does just purely have an ability, a limited ability, to know the future. This power will be very restricted but may very well be possible. However, it does not know the future for the good of those it shares it with but instead for their destruction, because the second someone seeks to learn from a demon, they open the door of the house and let them in. They may learn something about the future but that is nothing compared to the evil they have encountered in doing so.

**She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.**

The spirit here is doing two things. One it is professing what it must profess in the presence of ambassadors of God. But it is actually also practising the very attribute it brings – divination.

### **These men are servants of the Most High God:**

If you remember earlier, we came across a spirit who made the exclamation:

“Jesus I know and Paul I recognise but who are you?”

Here we see that recognition in reality. This demon knows who Paul and his men are. How does it know? Two ways: firstly, what is spiritual can also see spiritually, that means a demon not only has access to seeing the physical world but also has access to the spiritual world around it as well. It can see both. That then implies that the demon can also see the very Holy spirit of God indwelling in someone. Remember a demon wants a house to live in (a human) but cannot under any circumstances move into a house where the Holy spirit lives. This means the demon must be able to know which house is empty and which one has the spirit. So, it would not be too far fetched to simply recognise that demons know we are children of God, they see Christ in us.....and they tremble and shake. Not at us, at Christ in us.

The second I believe is also plausible, the demon knows of Paul’s work. Remember ultimately demons are a part of the kingdom of darkness and they are under the limited rule of Satan. They know when someone is advancing the kingdom of God because it is on their kingdom that it advances, it is their land Paul is taking and the lives of people they desire he is freeing, all in the power of Jesus Christ. So then, they recognise Paul not just because he is a follower of Christ, that is the foremost reason, but also because Paul is advancing the kingdom of God; he is not lukewarm, he is active and walking in the spirit. Does a demon have to be concerned about a Christian who is all but blind to them? Or a lukewarm believer who has no interest in seeing the kingdom advance? They may recognise them as Christian but they are no threat to their kingdom of darkness.

It is also a testimony to us. We are no longer identified by our jobs, careers, likes or dislikes, we are identified in the spiritual realm as servants of God. Do you see yourself as an ambassador for Christ? On this earth to represent him and his kingdom. Are you kingdom minded? Spiritually minded?

### who proclaim to you the way of salvation:

This is where the divination aspect plays a part. This demon is testifying to the work that Paul and his brothers had to do there - Paul knew that's what he was here for but so did this demon. Now out of all of the things we have seen demons say out of the mouths of their hostages this by far is one of the most shocking and interesting.

This demon shows knowledge of salvation but beyond that actually proclaims it, reinforces it. We would think that a demon would lie, you can't be saved or Jesus didn't do anything and I'm sure they do through idolatry however when in the presence of the spirit of God the demon MUST testify to the truth. That Jesus is the Christ and that he has indeed bought salvation for mankind. This sounds very similar to some of the outbursts of demons around Jesus when he would silence them after they would proclaim his Godship among people.

Demons know about the cross and they also know about the saving power of Jesus Christ. They know about salvation, and I am sure they hate it. But despite their hate for it they can do nothing in denying it. They can lie to people and try and hide it behind lies but when confronted with the truth, when confronted with Christ, there is no lie they can tell.

**“And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.”**

### And this she kept doing for many days:

The spirit followed the group for days repeating this same statement, most probably every time she saw them. Why? Maybe to disrupt them? Frustrate them? Hinder the work they had to do? It must have been difficult to try and communicate with people, work out logistics of missionary work in that area, even evangelise with these spirits harassing them each day.

Now you might say “but the spirit is proclaiming who they are in God”. To Paul and to any Christian, any word that comes out of a demon's mouth, even when proclaiming something that is true, is despicable. The fact a demon is even able to say the name of God should be nothing less than blasphemous to the believers. Paul would have taken no solace in hearing these words from an unclean spirit, instead it would have filled him with a righteous anger to know that the girl is trapped under the subjection of this spirit regardless of what it was saying.

### having become greatly annoyed:

Paul has had enough, after days of this happening Paul responds. Why did Paul not respond sooner? Maybe he was preoccupied having just arrived in the city, wanting to build bridges and find out where the nearest place for evangelism is etc, remember he is working all the

time for the kingdom. Maybe it was to further evaluate the condition of the girl and discern what was going on with her. Either way Paul waited and when it had grown too tiresome for him to bear, he acted. I am sure that Paul and his companions had been praying out this, potentially even fasting but at this particular moment the spirit of God led Paul to make the move. Paul didn't trust in his desires nor in his understanding instead he trusted in the prompting of the holy spirit to act.

**turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."**

A key element here – Paul does not "adjure" the spirit nor does he ask kindly or request anything. Just like his Lord had taught him through the spirit and others it is a COMMAND. We are not to address demons as though they have a choice - that shows two things, a lack of faith and a lack of understanding of the power of Christ. We are to COMMAND these spiritual forces, understanding that when faced with the indwelt power of Jesus Christ himself, they must obey.

### **name of Jesus Christ**

This is an important part needed for our understanding. To help explain why I would like to use a human example. Ambassadors of kingdoms would go to other countries and other foreign lands IN THE NAME OF THEIR KING.

This had some serious implications – they carried with them a certain amount of authority of their king, they themselves were not the king and nor did they share in his complete power; however, they were given within their role a set amount of power and responsibility as the KING'S AMBASSADORS. They were able to make requests on behalf of the king, able to make decisions on behalf of the king (within their realm of responsibility), they were to be treated by those who recognised the king's authority as one would almost treat the king himself. It was a powerful position to be in and one which came with authority in the king's name.

This is the EXACT same for us. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you become an ambassador of Christ which means within yourself you have been allotted by the king a certain amount of power and responsibility. That power is not because of you, nor does it come from you, it comes from who your king is and what he has ordained. For example, look at the scripture below:

#### **Mark 16:17**

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

We represent the king on earth, and it is through that representation that we are able to use his name. However, if someone tries to use the name of the king but does not belong to the kingdom they are not able to access that power nor protection. They do not have the right

nor authority to use the name of a king they do not belong to. So, the first step, middle step, last step of spiritual warfare is having a individual relationship with Jesus Christ the king of kings.

### **And it came out that very hour.**

This is the same term used as if someone was saying “it came out immediately”. It is simply a different way of communicating it. The demon left immediately.

## **7) Demonic Idolatry.**

### **Deuteronomy 32:15-17**

But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked, you grew fat, stout and sleek, then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. They stirred him to Jealousy with strange gods, with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

### **1 Timothy 4: 1-3**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup>through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup>who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

In our last case study, we will take a look at a different side of demonology which is often neglected. We focus a lot on the possession and oppression but miss out the other missions and aims of these unclean spirits. In these two scriptures we will take a look at how demons operate among the church in terms of spreading false teaching and taking part in demonic led ministries. Although sometimes quite evident and at other times subtle this is an area where the human puppet is usually the centre of attention for blame, now although the individual does need to take responsibility, we do also need to recognise that behind every false teacher, every false prophet and every false pastor / leader is demonic activity.

**Let's start with Deuteronomy 32**

**“But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked, you grew fat, stout and sleek, then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.”**

**Jeshurun:** means “the upright one” – a poetic name for Israel.

Here in this part of Deuteronomy we see Moses address the assembly before they enter the promised land with Joshua. Moses here is reminding Israel of their chief sin against God – IDOLATRY. It is the main sin in which Israel has angered God throughout their time since in the Old Testament.

**“They stirred him to Jealousy with strange gods, with abominations they provoked him to anger.”**

**stirred him to Jealousy with strange gods:**

We see an example of this with Israel and the golden calf - Moses is up on the mountain and while he is there Israel pressure Aaron to collect all their gold and create a golden calf that they may worship it, which they do. There are many more examples through the Old Testament of Israel leaving the safety of God’s confines to engage in the heinous sin of Idolatry.

**with abominations they provoked him to anger:**

Now God finds all of these things an abomination, however, I would also like to point out in context to why we are studying this that God sees everything for what it actually is. As we are about to find out in the following verses, idol worship is quite literally demon worship most of the time, especially when it comes to false gods. So we have to understand for God he is seeing his beloved people leave the safety of his arms and reject him for false gods who have done nothing for them. In addition he is also witnessing them offer sacrifice and offer lives up to demons, the filthiest and most vile of spiritual beings and God has to endure watching these demons receive praise which is only meant for him.

That alone should help reshape not only how we read much of the Old Testament stories but also shine light on idol worship today. How much of idol worship do we recognise as the work of demons in the lives of those worshipping?

**“They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.”**

**They sacrificed to demons that were no gods:**

This is a revealing verse. What this tells us is that when these Israelites were making their sacrifices to a golden calf or to the ashram or Baal’s they were in fact sacrificing to demons. It was demons leading them in worship, demons leading them in prayers, demons leading them in commitments and demons receiving from them all that was offered. Now it’s not to say that the demon actually took the food or needed the lives but instead what the demons

receive is the satisfaction of knowing that firstly, they are taking the praise from God and secondly, they are leading these people into destruction.

These demons seem to be a more evil type of demons and spirits that specialise in idolatry, specialise in leading people astray in false worship and teaching. We should not underestimate their evil as some of these demons are still being worshipped to this day as gods throughout the world and have been for a long time, unchallenged and unfazed, leading millions upon millions astray every day.

**to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded:**

The lure of something new is always a dangerous temptation to come across; our world today is obsessed with new ideas and this includes new beliefs. The newest “religion” we see forming in the world today is that of the “law of attraction” – a belief system which is a counterfeit of true faith for a belief that gives you whatever your heart desires. The Israelites were bought over by these new gods who enticed them in different ways, whether through inter marriage, whether through hardship they were facing and promise of a better outcome or sometimes just simply playing on their fleshly desire to sin against God through sexual rituals and practises included in pagan worship. All of these being orchestrated by demonic forces.

#### **I THOUGHT DEMONS WANTED TO BE IN PEOPLE? WHY IDOL WORSHIP?**

1. Demons can create idolatry through men – it is sometimes through men that demons are able to create entire religions and practises. If we were to think of the major religions across the world and even those which are the smaller more subtle ones, most have started from either an individual or a group of people. The same can be said for so called “Christian” groups who have abandoned the Gospel and followed the way of the world. Who are they following? Who led them to do so? Who created the ideologies and religions? Demons are the root cause, the people with their sinful desires for power and idolatry are taken advantage of by these spirits. Which means if we fall into the worship of false Gods, we in turn worship the creations of demons and in turn worship the demons themselves.

2. In the same way there are spirits of fear and spirits of divination it should not surprise us to know there are spirits of idolatry, demons specifically determined to lead people astray from God. These are also, in my opinion, the “eviller” type as instead of destroying one person’s life, which is bad enough, they lead millions astray. Their reach is wide and whole communities come under their idolatry.

**Now let’s go to Timothy chapter 4:**

**“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,<sup>2</sup> through the insincerity**

**of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup> who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”**

**Now the Spirit expressly says:**

This is not a prediction of man or speculation, instead this is what the Holy spirit tells us and it doesn't just tell us it as standard information, it "expressly" tells us. This is information we need and have to be aware of, without it we will be unaware and therefore not able to properly defend ourselves.

**later times:**

It is without a doubt that we are indeed in those "later times", the closer we draw to end the more prevalent these things will be. And each day which goes by is a day closer, in other words we have never been closer to the end than we are right now.

**some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons:**

How do they depart from the faith? Through demons leading them astray, like Israel in the Old Testament, they too will fall into the trap of going after demons despite most probably believing them to be God or even scriptural in their teaching. These people are led astray by new and strange teaching which cannot be lined up with the bible nor backed up by it. These teachings come in such a varied form that I would be wasting your time to try and list them all but we don't have to look far even within the so called churches across the world to see a serious diversion from scripture and a serious compromise among even the most conservative of churches. It is true that the true church of Christ is indeed a remnant even among those who supposedly follow Christ but in turn follow the "deceitful spirits and teaching of demons".

Now it doesn't say that these people went after other religions or believed in different Gods, instead I believe this is suggesting that people within the church are led away by these teachings. Whether it be progressive Christianity or the prosperity Gospel, both of which are teaching of demons, these people will think that they are following the truth but their lack of understanding of scripture and the absence of spiritual discernment will leave them defenceless in the face of both subtle and not so subtle heresies.

**through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup> who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.**

And who orchestrates this? Demons.

How? Inside of men and women.

Has anyone ever seen a demon standing at a pulpit? Has anyone ever been falsely evangelised by a demon in its own form in the streets? Has anyone been standing next to a demon by itself?

NO. Of course not, if we saw a demon for what it truly looked like I doubt anyone would want to follow. However, people are taught by demons, are falsely evangelised by demons and are standing next to demons every day, through the people they indwell. These particular spirits are amongst some of the hardest to cast out, mainly because they hide behind a layer of “false righteousness”, they have congregations, they have successful ministries, they have power, some have fame.

We must not forget that so much of this can be seen in the example of the antichrist...this man will rise to power in a way no one has ever done before and he will be loved by the world for a time. He will have power to do miracles, power to do signs to convince the world, we should not be surprised that some of these demonic teaching these days are lapped up by people so easily and yet the true Gospel is so rejected. The devil’s many fake Gospels is an easy one, an attractive one, a worldly one with lots of worldly reward. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is hard, a stumbling block, it promises suffering, promises being persecuted, does not promise any sort of worldly reward but a reward we will receive only when we die to go to him. But it is our Gospel that defeats these demons in every way, our knowledge of scripture is a sword in our hands against these demons. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is hard to hear and even harder to share due to the opposition, however, we must remember.....

#### **Matthew 7:13-14**

**<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy<sup>[a]</sup> that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.**

### CONCLUSION OF SESSION 3 (PART 2) – DEMONOLOGY

If you would allow me, I will speak boldly. I have NO mercy, NO compassion, NO empathy and NO sympathy for the demonic forces of this world and from what I can see the bible does not teach us to have any either.

These spirits are responsible for the destruction of countless lives across our world and across history. They have robbed childhoods, torn apart individual lives, broken families, destroyed communities, led countries astray and filthened this world to an extent where in the end God has to destroy it with fire.

These unclean spirits ARE our enemies as we ARE called as soldiers of our king, ambassadors of Jesus Christ to see them defeated, cast out and silenced. Not in our own strength and not by our own authority but by the authority of Jesus Christ. In all these things we must pray for spiritual discernment, for courage, for faith, for love for those trapped and a righteous anger for those spirits trapping them.

Lastly, do you think there are any less demons nowadays as there were in Jesus' time? Have they left? I don't believe so. Now, if Jesus encountered them everywhere he went, if Paul did the same along with the apostles, then in our current day how unchallenged, how unfazed, how unworried must they be? Some even have the audacity to attend Sunday services. If you think that's a bold statement, how about this...some teach the Sunday services. I do not desire for you to be spiritually paranoid, nor do I desire an immature approach to demonology, trying to cast spirits out of everything. Maturity is needed, God's direction is needed and faith is needed.

However, I do desire for you to be more aware, more engaged, more active and more focused on who the true enemies of our faith are and how they work. The secret to all of this, to be spiritually minded, does not start with trying to search for demons. No, it started first and foremost and continues with keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ. If we focus on him and him alone then these things will be shown to us, every example of men and women who tackled the spiritual battle in the bible were men and women who were following the Lord Jesus Christ with all their hearts, souls, and strength. If you desire to be used in this army, I suggest you do the same. After all, look at what Jesus said below:

### LUKE 10:20

**“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”**