

A Few Things Everyone Needs to Know about Demons

By C. L. Chapman

If someone hears that someone is “demon possessed,” most people catch their breath and gasp, with eyes wide and mouth open, they visualize someone foaming at the mouth, making senseless sounds and moving uncontrollably with no sense or sensibility about them.

The emotional reactions people generally have regarding demons are mostly due to all the misinformation about them. The fear, respect, dread, awe and other emotions are not unusual, but they are uncalled for. As surely as the symptoms of demon possession, obsession or oppression are over-blown in peoples’ minds, so are all these emotions.

The misinformation runs rampant. People think the person possessed, obsessed or oppressed has done something terrible and has sworn allegiance to Satan or has been cursed by a witchdoctor, like Dr. Faustus or Jekyll and Hyde. Although something extreme could have happened, it is unlikely that it did—with very few and seldom-seen exceptions.

Most demons have gone unnoticed and unchallenged in, on, by or around their host for years without being recognized as anything other than a personality trait, sometimes never being identified or called out. They are so pervasive that only Jesus was not influenced by them. Everyone else has been possessed, obsessed, oppressed, deceived or otherwise influenced by them—mostly in the form of some sort of robbery. The robbery could be in health, psychological and personality quirks, fears or phobias, finance, relationships or anything else personal. Most likely the robbery manifests itself by personality flaws. They are virtually everywhere and have used many hosts—human and animal alike.

Most of them are disguised as phobias, diseases of the mind, vices, imagination, hunger, thirst, longings, dreams, habits, reactions (both over and under), personality traits, and various other camouflages, including mere eccentric behavior, outrageous character flaws or obvious shortcomings.

Some are so well hidden that no one knows they are there at all, but they can cause many symptoms. The host may have attitudes or fears that they do not recognize as demonic; they may move the host do and say things that may merely cause a reaction or make a response that range from the mild raised-eyebrow to literal wars between nations. Some have caused illnesses; they may cause their hosts to injure themselves by having them be “accident-prone,” while others may cause their host to make mistakes, some of which are merely embarrassing and some personally, financially or materially costly. Gluttony and alcoholism are two demon families that have ensnared millions of people. When you see ruined lives by conduct of “choice,” you can know demons have done their work!

A demon may merely cause a disturbing dream that robs someone of their rest or it may give a delusion of being a god or godlike, destined to attack a nation—like the 9/11 attacks; or it may cause a nation to attack another—like the attack at Pearl Harbor! While one may make someone lose some sleep, the other causes all the havoc of participating in a world-wide war. The other parts of the wars were caused by other demons persuading their hosts that they, too, are special people and deserve to rule the world.

Do you suppose that the Muslims who made the attack on 9/11 would have been satisfied with the outcome of that attack and would have left the U. S. alone had not our leaders brought about a plan of their own? The history of the repeated attacks elsewhere has answered that question.

Do you suppose that if Japan and Germany had won the war that the war would have ended with the destruction of the U. S.? No way! The war would have continued until one despot or the other (either Hitler and the Germans or Hiro Hito and the Japanese) would have been wiped out. All because demons did their work and went unchallenged, unchecked—un-resisted in those hosts at that time. WWII and the Muslim attacks on the U. S. were not the only wars so directed by diabolic forces—all of them were!

Was there co-ordination between these demon forces in those wars? Absolutely! Do these demon forces exist and operate today? Absolutely! Why do you think that other wars have happened both before and since that time? Why do they continue to this day with no end of them in sight (until the Lord returns)? Those bad dreams, accidents, illnesses, character flaws, habits and “mistakes” have continued and will continue until either the Lord comes and puts an eternal end to Satan and his legions or we believers learn to deal with demons ourselves—which the Lord has both told us to do and empowered us to do it!

Demons and Human Relations

Jesus did not put up with demons. Satan himself tried to seduce Jesus but failed. After that Jesus was not only Son of God and known to be their Master, but He manifested His authority when He told the demons what to do and when to do it. He always told them to leave the host—regardless of the condition of the host or who the host happened to be.

If you will read the four Gospels and Acts, you will see how Jesus and His followers dealt with demons. You will also see how the various hosts responded to the demons before, during and after their abuse by the demon. You will also see where He authorized believers and empowered them to do as He had done with those diabolical forces.

But notice what is not in those Gospels: At no time did any host express any embarrassment or dread when the demon was exposed. None ever pressed the panic button and went screaming in torment away from Him who came to deliver them. There was no reason to feel any emotion at all at being told that a demon was harassing the host, regardless of the extent or level of the harassment. Most of the hosts were decent upright people who had been harassed at random, having done nothing to consciously invite the demon in, on, by or around them, nor having done anything to deserve the curse of having the demon in, on, by or around them.

Today, there is still no need of embarrassment or dread when a demon is found in someone's life. A child doesn't get embarrassed because he or she has “*caught*” a cold. The term *caught* implies that someone goes out to run down and capture the illness. In fact, the cold rather caught the host. That is the same way demons act. The very atmosphere is charged with them and they, like a bacterium, invade their host at whatever level they are allowed to.

The condition is universal and there is no need for any emotion whatsoever regarding their presence, neither fear nor embarrassment. The object is to be rid of them and their influence.

Some demons have been inadvertently invited by remarks or attitudes, but most of them simply move from host to host unawares until it manifests itself in some unseemly way or another. Children and animals are the most available targets for demons on any level, but especially oppression and obsession.

An Experience: A tourist went to Ecuador and returned with several gifts for family members. After the gifts were dispersed, demon influences began to be manifested. It was discovered that those items that were brought back from Ecuador had demon spirits on them and they began to function in the homes of the people who received the gifts.

The demons, once revealed, were bound up and disposed of through the believers' authority in the name of Jesus.

This was a reverse action of the experiences of Paul when his aprons and/or handkerchiefs were sent to various ones who were delivered of demons through them (Acts 19: 11 and 12). The believers who had experienced these things further reversed the deliverance by delivering the people in Ecuador who had made those various gifts. !

The Levels of Demon Activity

The differences between possession, obsession and oppression are spiritual. The differences between demon possession and demon oppression cannot be observed by natural means. The Holy Spirit is the only source of really determining if one is obsessed or possessed by a demon. There are no outward signs manifesting any differences. The difference is spiritual. It matters only whether the demon is influencing the mind only or the spirit and mind. Obsession is demonic presence in the mind and Possession is demon control in the host's spirit.

The difference between someone who misbehaves due to demon activity in either the spirit or mind and someone who is being tormented by a demon is fairly obvious. But when two people act or react under the influence of a demon, it is not possible to determine if one person is demon possessed and the other is demon obsessed without insight from the Lord. That is why the Lord gave people the gift of Discerning of Spirits by the Holy Spirit.

Demon Possession

Starting at the top, look at demon possession. It seems to be a popular topic in the world of literature and Hollywood. People have written books about demons and their having possessed someone, and Hollywood has produced several films that depict the person who is demon possessed. The imagination has dictated an incurable and impossible condition with which someone has to deal. They have given the character a role in which mental and physical conditions are worse than death, with bouts of violence, hate, rage depression, mental agony, and the commission of heinous crimes against everyone, and those are the better things in the character's life!

These pictures are out of touch with reality. In actual life, no one who gets into these conditions survives. The demoniac of Gadera was an exception. Read about it in Mark 5: 1-20. We'll look at just the description of the man's condition at this time.

- 1 ¶ And they came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes.
- 2 And when He was come out of the boat, straightway there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,
- 3 who had his dwelling in the tombs: and no man could any more bind him, no, not with a chain;
- 4 because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been rent asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: and no man had strength to tame him.
- 5 And always, night and day, in the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out, and cutting himself with stones.

The demon was first identified as “an unclean spirit.” The victim lived in the tombs, among the dead. That let you know the environs of those who are possessed and continue that way, at least in this extreme condition. The people around him were indeed helpless regarding what to do with or about the victim. They could not chain him. They had tried but he had broken the chains. He was untamable! Continually he abused himself and cried. This is demon possession at its worst.

In verse three, in the clause “*who had his dwelling in the tombs,*” what is the antecedent to “*who*”? This *who* could refer to either the demon who lived in the tombs or the victim who lived in the tombs. It doesn't matter which one this particular antecedent refers to because they are the same. The demon possesses this man's spirit—living in the man's spirit realm. The demon and the man were the same spiritually. They were identified together as one.

That is demon possession. It is demon activity in the person's spirit. The spirit is the center of human life as believers know life. The Greek word for spiritual life is *zoe*. Every time Jesus speaks of life, He says *zoe*. *Zoe* is the God-type of life and is often (and should have always been) differentiated by the translators as *eternal* or *everlasting life*.

In the case of this demoniac, his spirit was controlled by a demon. Only this demon was a coven of demons. Also in this particular case, these demons recognized Jesus. How did the demoniac recognize Jesus? Because the spirit that was within him knew his Nemesis!

The demon communicated with Jesus, and their pretentious bowing and begging for mercy did not fool Jesus.

- 6 And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshipped him;
- 7 and crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, You Son of the Most High God? I adjure You by God, torment me not.”

Jesus delivered the victim and demanded to know the demons' name. This response to this demand brought out the fact that there were many demons in this man. Because they were all in unison, when Jesus dealt with one, He dealt with all of them.

The demons identified themselves collectively and made the plea to go into the herd of pigs.

8 For He said to him, "Come forth, you unclean spirit, out of the man."

9 And He asked him, "What is your name?"

And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

10 And he besought Him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

11 Now there was there on the mountain side a great herd of swine feeding.

12 And they besought him, saying, "Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them."

There is no reason given why Jesus complied with this request. It seemed cruel that these pigs should be made victims, too. But then these people were the real targets for Jesus' ministry and they were definitely reached through the pigs and their fate.

13 And He gave them leave. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered into the swine: and the herd rushed down the steep into the sea, *in number* about two thousand; and they were drowned in the sea.

14 And they who fed them fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they came to see what it was that had come to pass.

15 And they come to Jesus, and behold him who was possessed with demons sitting, clothed and in his right mind, *even* him who had the legion: and they were afraid.

16 And they who saw it declared to them how it befell him who was possessed with demons, and concerning the swine.

17 And they began to beseech Him to depart from their borders.

18 And as He was entering into the boat, he that had been possessed with demons besought Him that he might be with Him.

19 And He suffered him not, but said to him, "Go to your house, to your friends, and tell them how great things the Lord has done for you, and *how* He had mercy on you."

20 And he went his way, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men marveled.

The great message of Jesus reached Decapolis by the newly delivered victim of Legion. That more than made up for the pigs and the disappointment of the victim. The story of the demoniac of Gadera ends with his commission to a ministry in his home town.

There is no telling how this man wound up with all of these demons, whether the result a long series of bad choices or whether someone put a curse on him or a combination of both. It isn't important because it doesn't matter how it happened; His healing, deliverance and reinstatement are all that matter.

Demon Obsession

The next level downward is demon obsession. The person who is demon obsessed is one who is controlled by thoughts—on the mental level. The mental processes are in the realm of the soul or mind—the *psyche*. If these thought processes are influenced by demons and controlled by them, the person is demon obsessed. The casual onlooker cannot tell the difference in demon possession and demon obsession—both often have the same symptoms. At times both the possessed host and the obsessed host may seem absolutely normal. The obsession may manifest itself, not only habitually and chronically, but intermittently and unpredictably.

Thomas fell into this category of demon obsession. Thomas was obsessed with the spirit of doubt, a demon that would not allow Thomas to believe. This demonic interference comes on the mental level, usually using reasoning processes of the host. At one point as Jesus was speaking of the recently dead Lazarus, Thomas interjected the idea of dying with Lazarus. John 11: 14-16:

14 Then Jesus therefore said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.

15 “And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent you may believe; nevertheless let us go to him.”

16 Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow-disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Now that is pessimism! One person dies and Thomas wanted all of them to go together! That was the spirit of doubt manifesting itself.

Thomas later expressed what he and others were all feeling—frustration and confusion. Look at John 14: 3-6 and context.

3 [Jesus speaking] “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you to myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

4 ¶ “And where I go, you know the way.”

5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we know not where You are going; how know we the way?”

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by Me.”

So doubt was blinding more than just Thomas at this point. John, as close as he was to Jesus, also had the same negative emotions. John later explained that it wasn't until after Jesus arose from the grave that he himself believed (John 20: 8).

Then the scene that Thomas is most known for occurred. John 20: 24-29:

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

26 ¶ And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace *be* to you.”

27 Then said He to Thomas, “Reach hither your finger, and see My hands; and reach *hither* thy hand, and put it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.”

28 Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God.”

29 Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed: blessed *are* they who have not seen, and *yet* have believed.”

Jesus was not with them when Thomas made the challenge to his belief. But Jesus took advantage of their first encounter after that remark to deliver Thomas of his obsession of disbelief.

First Jesus spoke peace to them, then He got onto the spirit of unbelief that had caused Thomas’ faithlessness. He fulfilled the terms of Thomas’ challenge, then He spoke to the spirit, “Be not faithless.” There was no long lecture to Thomas that was followed up by a referral to a psychiatrist or psychologist.

Jesus treated the flaw by healing Thomas, “but believing.” The spirit of doubt was gone when Jesus spoke to it and the spirit of belief replaced it. Thomas immediately responded, “My Lord and my God.” He was completely compliant and submissive before his Lord and his God. There is no wonder in that!

Peter was also demon obsessed. He was bothered by impetuosity. Repeatedly he said things that he regretted, either then or later. It wasn’t that either Peter or Thomas set out to do or be evil or ignorant. All either of them did to get himself in an embarrassing situation was to get an idea and act before he either thought it through or sought the Lord Jesus about it first.

Peter really loved the Lord. Although the love was limited to only human love in his pre-redemption days (before he was able to accept Christ as Redeemer because Christ had not yet made the redemptive sacrifice), his love never faltered in the Lord. His human love was replaced with Agape love after he was renewed by redemption.

But Peter had a rough time with his willingness to go the extra mile before he was regenerated. He emulated Jesus by walking on the water as Jesus had done—up to a point. He was successful until doubt came and he saw the signs of the tossing waves around him (Matthew 14: 28-31).

It was Peter who offered the suggestion to build three tabernacles (booths) at the site of the transfiguration where Jesus was seen with Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17: 1-5).

After hearing Jesus giving him his future commission to comfort his brothers, Peter swore allegiance to Jesus to follow Him to prison and death if need be. But the Lord knew Peter’s human heart and the weakness of his love and predicted the denial experiences that Peter would have in the near future (Matthew 26: 30-35 and Luke 22: 31-34). Then Peter did exactly as the Lord knew he would and as He predicted: Peter denied the Lord three times (Matthew 26: 69-74).

Immediately after the denials Peter repented in tears for his words (Matthew 26: 75).

It was not long after that when Peter and others decided to go fishing and wound up being served a meal prepared by the resurrected Jesus (John 21: 1-11).

He had to have a vision and a message from the Lord in order to get past his hate for the Gentiles (Acts 10: 9-22).

The Apostle Paul had to censure Peter for his conduct in Antioch where Peter changed his life-style depending on with whom he was fellowshiping (Galatians 2: 11-14).

Peter was not as deep in revelations in the Word of God as was Paul and he acknowledged it (II Peter 3: 15).

Peter was obedient even when he did not fully understand what was going on. He followed the angel when he thought he was dreaming (Acts 12). It was Peter who followed the urging of the Holy Spirit to forsake the observance of the Law regarding circumcision (Acts 15: 6-11).

The pivotal point in Peter's experiences was the intercession Jesus made as recorded in Luke 22: 31 and 32. Jesus is speaking to Simon Peter:

31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat:

32 but I made supplication for you, that your faith fail not; and do you, when once you have turned again, establish your brethren.

The Lord took care of Peter differently than He took care of Thomas. His care for Peter seemed slower and more deliberate than what He did for Thomas, but it was more documented than was Thomas's experience, too. We know more about Peter's life than we do of Thomas' life. One thing is for sure: Jesus took care of both of them as only He could and he will take care of believers today as they yield to Him.

Demon Oppression

The final level of demon relationships with people is demon oppression. This oppression can border on demon obsession, producing like symptoms in the mental areas of the victim. The demon injects itself onto and into the scene by manifesting his ideas and goals as the victim's own ambitions and circumstances. Often they manifest themselves with physical symptoms—headaches, pains, nausea, diarrhea, itches, rashes, dreams, daydreams, visions, inappropriate actions and reactions, so-called accidents, injuries, messages from the demons (sometimes identifying themselves as someone else—often dead people), and many, many other symptoms. The list of demon oppressive symptoms is much longer than what we can put on this list here.

Demonic Limitations

There are also some abilities attributed to demons that they are not capable of doing. No demon—not even a bunch of them—is more powerful than a believer. Some people have taught that demons have omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence like

God does, but they do not even come close to having any of these characteristics. As a matter of fact, most demons are stupid; most of them cannot adapt or improvise. That is why those people who are led by demons are so seldom capable of new ideas or new methods or adapting to new situations.

Sure, there are examples of demonic activity that seems to follow a person and does all types of devilry to hamper, destroy rob or kill that person regardless of what the person tries to do to be rid of the demon. When this is the case, there is more than one demon at work. The host-victim is most likely being double-teamed, triple-teamed or coven teamed!

A spilled cup of water that turns into a raging explosion of temper, foul language, accusations and threats, and finally to violence against someone else is not a single demon!

The family conflict that the spilled water caused may simply erupt first by the wiping up of the spill. But before it is over, there may be several people involved in the conflict. It doesn't matter what person spilled the water; it doesn't matter who cleaned it up; it doesn't matter who said what or who did what to accelerate the issue. First; the base cause will be a demon that somehow managed to have someone bump, drop or otherwise spill the water.

Another demon or more insert more remarks or actions through other people to exacerbate the situation. Other remarks follow and so do actions until a full-fledged war is raging. The demons are delighted! No one else is.

Demonic knowledge is based on what demons have experienced or have been taught by their maker—both of which are also limited. Having no will of their own, they are simply told what to do, when to do it and to whom to do it. In cases of obsession or possession, the host-victim may influence the activities of demons. However, the final goal for the demon is to rob, kill or destroy the host-victim! The demon will use any means available to achieve his goal, often using the host-victim to abuse himself or herself.

Being a single created being, the demon is limited to its own place which is as small or as large as the demon itself. There are no specific limits on their dimensions. The usual notion is that they can assume any shape they may desire. Being a spirit, that assumption is most likely correct. Whatever the limit may be on that demon, it is limited to that and cannot become a universal being. Its only hope to universality is by its communication with its fellow demons.

A demon can only do what it was created to do—a single task. Their specialty is deception. Therefore the most obvious things demons do is to lie. Their father is a liar and they do the exact things he does. They most often subvert people by seduction, fear or accusation—all lies!

Some demons are capable of affecting things materially or physically, such as a poltergeist. The spilled water, the broken item, the moved item—any of these things may have been done by a poltergeist.

Other demons may cause emotions, especially fears of something. The phobias people have are many and varied. Some people are afraid of crowds, heights, failure, water, poverty and so on. Some of the most powerful fears involve the fear of being alone or the fear of being unimportant (irrelevant). Whatever someone is afraid of, consciously or not, that fear is diabolical and the person needs his or her deliverance. If a demon can put fear in you, it can do un-measurable harm. Fear has torment, but perfect love casts out fear (I John 4: 18).

People have been delivered of other traits that are not fear-based. Demons may manifest themselves on people by their habits or life-styles. Some of these are poverty, foolishness, mouthiness, alcoholism, addictions (drug, sex or other), boasting, lying, lust (for anything, sex, money, power, fame, material things, etc.) and many other personality characteristics and disorders.

Some demons cause messages to be unclear. One method is to cause a speaker to inflect the message incorrectly, thus indicating a tone or mood that is not intended. If the speaker catches the mistake, a correction can be made immediately with a new message and an apology.

In the middle of the communication, a demon may twist the order of the words or insert an incorrect tone that was not there when the speaker first spoke.

At the other end of the communication, a demon may cause the hearer to receive an incorrect tone or a twisted word-order.

The aim is to cause a conflict and maybe even a war! Once the incorrect and uncorrected message is transferred from speaker to hearer, anything is possible: More words, emotions and emotionalism—all caused by more demonic activity can come forth and evolve into that all-out war that the demons wanted in the first place.

The lies demons tell are something else. These lies are designed to tempt people. Demons offer things they do not have or cannot give to lead a person astray then destroy them if the person will follow them that far. The prize or favor may be money, power, sex, food, drink or drug or anything else that the individual may find pleasure in—cars, boats, TV, reading matter, music—anything. Once the prize is tasted or partially obtained or attained, the victimization and control is established. Once the control is firm, the person is used and abused, gradually leading the person to his or her doom.

Demons threaten people with unimaginable consequences for something—anything that the demon may scheme up on the person. The threat may come forth as the result of the person's conduct or what the person is—from either doing or not doing what the demon urges, or from being or not being what the demon urges.

The message may be something like these as if the person is speaking to himself or herself (second person): "If you don't do then will happen to you." "Because you said ... instead of to her, she will think and say about you." "You are not the right stuff for this job, for that person or for that situation!"

However, most often the same messages will be like this, a person thinking these thoughts in first person: "If *I* don't do then will happen to *me*." "Because *I* said ... instead of to her, she will think and say about *me*." "*I* am not the right stuff for this job, for that person or for that situation!" Usually the demon prefers to communicate his ideas in first person, as if the thoughts are the host's thoughts—not an outside thought.

An Aside: For those who have forgotten their high-school grammar, first person messages are those about one's self (I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours); second person messages are those about and addressed to "you" (you [singular and plural], your and yours).

The bottom line is that demons use any device at all to plant and cultivate control. One of the worst things it can do is to invite other demons in to help mess up the host-victim. Once the control is established, demons have their control of you, and can at least make you miserable if you do things in spite of them.

Using yourself against you is a strategy that many demons employ. (So do people.) They will tell a person that they have done or been something that is all false in order to make that person condemn him or herself. “You offended that person!” “You’re a rotten scoundrel (or worse, if there is anything worse!)” Not to forget the first-person message: “I offended that person!” “I’m a rotten scoundrel (or worse, if there is anything worse!)”

It would be funny if it were not so deadly. A demon will tempt someone to do something wrong (either an action or a non-action), and the temptation could be in any area. If the person complies and falls for the temptation, the demon will turn around and condemn them for it (first or second person). If the person does not comply and does not fall for the temptation, the demon will ridicule them for it (first or second person). Either way, the demon gets the advantage and either condemns for the action (or lack of it) of the sin or trap, or ridicules the person for not falling into the trap and missing out on all the promised benefits (the benefits that were all probably based on empty promises to begin with!).

This Teaching Needs to be Explained.

The teaching exists that when a demon is cast out of one host, it will go to another one who is nearby. The teaching is founded on the adventures of Sceva and his sons who tried to cast a demon out of a man. They used the name of Jesus as they were supposed to, but none of them had ever accepted Jesus as their own Savior. The end result is that the demon spoke to them and the host then attacked them and overpowered them and ran them off.

The problem was that none of these men knew the Lord, but they were attempting to merely copy what they had seen the Apostle Paul do. They were not qualified to dominate demons.

If a demon is cast out of a host by a believer, that demon cannot merely thrust itself on someone who is standing by unless that person is a non-believer and will allow the demon to come in, on or around them. There must be an invitation or acceptance on some level. Certainly the demon cannot thrust itself into, onto or accompany a believer unless invited.

That random musical host routine is not possible. A demon cannot possess a believer at all; it can only oppress or become an obsession in the realm of the believer’s mind.

When a demon is cast out of a person or bound up from someone, that demon wants to get as far as possible away from the scene where the name of Jesus was used, and do it as fast as possible. Unless someone present expresses to the demon a welcome into them, the demon must leave the area immediately. Usually the one doing the casting out assigns the demon back to the pit from whence it came and thereby limits the demon to where it may go. At any rate, there is no excuse why believers should not exorcise demons anywhere at anytime the demons are discovered. Any notion to the contrary is another demon—a lie!

On the other hand, a demon that manifests itself in a host may replicate itself on or by another host unawares. It is sort of like the “Y’know’s.” Many people say, “Y’know” so often in a sentence that it is annoying to listen to. The fact of the matter is that if the person

listening already knew it, the subject should not be discussed further! Obviously the person doesn't know or the speaker is boring the listener with something already known. Ridiculous! But many people have this habit and if a person visits with the "Y'knower," soon the listener will likely find himself or herself say, "Y'know!"

Demonic traits are the same way. A person may observe quirks in a person and then find themselves doing the same quirks. If these quirks are demonic to begin with, they will be demonic when imitated. Even the Y'knows is demonic in that it sows the irritation that it arouses in listeners, thus interrupting the message as much as they can.

When people have been in contact with those who are influenced by demons do indeed come away with the same quirks that the host manifested, it is a great opportunity to deliver the new host and the old host at the same time. Simply expel the demon from both hosts in the name of Jesus and end the demon's influence altogether.

What to Do?

All this may sound strange and frightening to you, but just think: It is already happening and the only option open is the resistance that we must learn and use against these workers of deceit and sabotage. Psychologists, psychiatrists and political leaders have led to nothing to change things. Doctors, lawyers and Indian Chiefs have added nothing to the mix. Unfortunately, most ministers have also added nothing to the mix—unless it is more bogus information and confusion!

Dealing with Demons

Doctor Faustus made his deal with the Devil and lost for it. Making deals with the enemy, any enemy, always costs more than it is worth—usually more than one can afford to pay. (It would be nice if our U. S. government, especially the State Department, the Pentagon, Congress and the Whitehouse would learn this!)

Dealing with demons falls into the same category as dealing with their master—the Devil himself. You cannot afford to make deals with demons. Their price is too high and they most often do not deliver and if they do, it will be too little too late to benefit the host. It is worse than buying a pig in a poke! (For you city folks, a *poke* is a *sack* or *bag*!) At best you may see the pig move in the poke, and you may know the pig (if it is a pig and not a ringer) is alive. At worst you may be getting a dead pig, if it is a pig at all! Otherwise you may be trading for a sick or mal-nourished something when you make a deal with a demon.

If you have ever tried to reason with a demon, you will find it out of the question. If you think you have never dealt with a demon, you are probably wrong. When someone is upset and throwing things around, swearing, ranting, raving, threatening, breaking things, hurting people, or threatening to hurt people, in all likelihood you are observing a demon at work in his host.

When you walk up to that person and try to calm him or her down, you will most likely be rebuffed in no uncertain terms. That demon (and hence the host) is doing what that demon is programmed to do and your voice is not being heard unless you are speaking in the name of Jesus!

Making deals with demons is not on the ticket—ever. However, demons are all subject to believers who use of the name of Jesus. You, the believer, are the master of demons; you are not their friend; you are their domineering master! You are to dominate them. You should know only one thing to say to demons: “Leave this place and go to the pit where you belong in Jesus’ Name!” (“Please” is out of order, as is the tone of a request!)

A believer using the name of Jesus is the equal to Jesus Himself demanding and commanding the demon to do whatever is spoken. The results in the host should be immediate. Whatever the demon was causing to happen before should not happen again unless there is a different cause.

If a causal action is repeated after the expulsion of the demon, there is definitely another cause. The new cause must be addressed and expelled just like the first demon was.

All this may sound hopeless and look ridiculous, but it works. Life-long problems that have made life embarrassing and / or miserable for the host have been suddenly changed by the expulsion of demonic powers in, on or around their hosts. People in their eighties have been changed as well as children—all because a demon’s presence was terminated.

In closing this section, one more thing should be brought up. When two or more believers have a dispute on any level, a demon or demons are at work. Anyone attempting a resolution to the dispute should be aware of the presence of the demons in and on the situation and they should be expelled immediately!

Just What Are Demons

To define a demon may be easier to start unlearning what others have implied or dreamed, schemed or otherwise imagined they are. First, demons are not fallen angels. The angels that rebelled along with Satan in ages past are bound in chains of darkness until they are to be judged for their rebellion (I Peter 2: 4).

Next, demons are not the spirits of evil dead people just as angels are not the spirits of good dead people. People are people, angels are angels and demons are demons; each has an identity of their own. A human spirit dwells in that human and remains in that human until the human dies. Then that spirit either goes to be with the Lord or judgment before going to be with Satan. It does not become an angel or a demon.

The only thing that humans, angels and demons have in common is that all are spirits. Humans simply have a soul or mind (with a free will component in it) and a body to live in; the angels and demons do not. That may be why a demon wants to live in someone, so the demon can have a body. Due to their nature, the nature of their creator, they then abuse their host, one way or another.

Clues

It is a given that demons are spirits and that they are evil ones at that. Most of everything else suspected about them is incomplete, erroneous and mythical. Because of

their conduct, we can easily assume that they were not created by God, although He has been known to be the creator of all things. Is that not a contradiction?

The Apostle Paul gave hints to the exact ingredients to the composition of demons. The hints have proven to be accurate because when we have dealt with demons, the results have shown that Paul was absolutely correct.

Look at what Paul wrote in I Corinthians 8: 4:

Concerning therefore the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that no idol is *anything* in the world, and that there is no God but one.

So Paul is telling us that in all reality that an idol is nothing. Yet later he said something else. I Corinthians 10: 19, 20:

What I say, then? That the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? But I say, that the things that the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I would not that you should have fellowship with demons.

Paul said two things:

One) An idol is nothing

Two) That if one sacrifices to an idol, that person is fellowshiping with a demon or demons

If sacrificing to an idol, which is nothing, is having fellowship with a demon, is that not saying that a demon, too, is really nothing? If a demon is really nothing, how can it be a reality? Yet almost everyone knows that they are real and potentially powerful or the Scriptures would never mention them or take them seriously. Yet Paul's implication that they are nothing should show what they really are.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOTHING?

If a demon is nothing, while at the same time is something, the only thing it could be is a LIE.

Satan is called the Father of Lies, thus establishing that he is the creator of demons (John 8: 44). Because that's what Satan does best, he has produced those lies—enough lies to charge the very atmosphere with them.

At first a lie is only that—a lie—a group of empty and meaningless words or ideas adrift among us. But if that lie is received and believed, someone gives that lie credibility. When that happens, the lie becomes alive and the lie is suddenly a demon. It can come, afflict, tempt, reason, persuade, seduce and convince a potential host. The more it manipulates the host, the more powerful it becomes and soon the demon may have enough power to do much damage and deception. It may replicate itself by re-enforcing the lie through observation or repetition to or in others. It may then move the replicated demon

from host to host as others come into contact with the original host(s). If something happens to a host (death), the demon will definitely seek another host.

Thus the potential for harm is running rampant from person to person much like a virus spreads itself through society. That is why when a person criticizes another for some action or habit (it doesn't matter what the deed is), the criticizing person often soon repeats the very action that he or she criticized the other person for—usually making an even bigger blunder, whatever it was.

If you can imagine a spiritual and obnoxious toadstool that produces spores to float in the air and remain in the air, drifting around until someone or something inhales it and gives it warmth, moisture and a foothold to live, then you can understand the function and operation of a demon.

Satan produces the lie-spore, it drifts through the air currents until someone receives (inhales or ingests) it, believes (warms and moisturizes) it, repeats it (giving it life), and voila, there is a demon ready for his work!

In all of the discussion in the previous portion of this composition, the working and manifestation of demons revolved around deceptions and deceit, threats and accusations—lies. Regardless of any bits of truth that may be present in one of these devices, the basic concept of the device is false. If the basis is false, so is the originator.

Because of the composition of the demon—a lie—it doesn't really take much to destroy it: Truth, Light, Revelation, Information or anything else that will show a demon for what it is. All of these characteristics and the power and authority to administer expulsion or exorcism are in the name of Jesus.

A demon whose role is limited to one person or only to a few people may not need to be exposed with the use of additional Truth, Light or Revelation, but with a demon who has been working on the governmental or public level involving people who may be unsaved, these devices are essential.

For instance, when a demon's project that is working in Congress like a bill that is evil, the progress of the bill must not only be destroyed (whether by binding and loosing, or by killing the bill spiritually, or some other means), Truth, Light or Revelation must be loosed for the benefit of the un-regenerated members of Congress and their constituents. This is true of any public spiritual battle—local, national or international.

The Expulsion

Jesus said that those who believe in Him would do the same and greater works than He did (John 14: 12). Then He empowered believers to do exactly that by authorizing them to use His name (Mark 16: 15-18; John 14: 13, 14, 21; 15: 7, 8; 16: 23, 24; Acts 1: 8; Ephesians 1: 3-2: 3).

When you accepted Christ, you became part of the crowd Jesus was speaking about when He said these signs will follow or accompany those who believe. Because you are a believer, these signs will accompany you. Mark 16: 16-18:

He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who disbelieves shall be condemned. And these signs shall accompany those who believe: In My Name they shall cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents,

and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Right there Jesus gave you, a believer, authorization to cast out demons. That is the key to your victory over every demon on this planet! Use of the name of Jesus is the one thing that they must obey. Jesus proved it and believers who have obeyed this Word in Mark have been doing ever since Jesus said it.

Now see just exactly how Jesus did His work and that is the model we are to use as we emulate Him as He commissioned us to.

How did Jesus do all the wonderful works that He did? He simply spoke to the problem. Whatever the problem was, He spoke to it!

When Jesus faced the devil in Christ's temptations, He spoke to and commanded Satan (Luke 4).

When He raised the dead, He spoke to them (Mark 5: 41).

When He stilled the storm, He spoke to the wind (Mark 4: 39).

When He delivered the demoniac of Gadera, He spoke to the demons, many of them at once and they obeyed Him to the letter (Luke 8: 26-39)!

When He spoke to the woman who was healed by touching the hem of His garment, He spoke to her producing peace in her (Mark 5: 33, 34).

When He spoke to Jairus in his distress, he spoke faith into him (Mark 5: 36).

When He spoke to Jairus' dead daughter, He spoke Life into her (Mark 5: 41, 42).

When He spoke the curse to the fruitless fig tree, that curse killed the tree (Mark 11: 13-21).

When He promised His disciples that if they have the Faith of God (faith in God), and have no doubt, that when they speak to a mountain, it shall be moved. He did not say for them to speak to God about the mountain; or to seek His face to have Him move the mountain. He said for them to speak to the mountain and it would be moved. He concluded by saying, "He will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask for when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them."

So what happened when Paul spoke to a demon? Read it in Acts 16:

16 ¶ And it came to pass, as we were going to the place of prayer, that a certain maid having a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying.

17 The same following after Paul and us cried out, saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."

18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, being sore troubled, turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

What happened when Peter and John spoke to the cripple at the Beautiful Gate? Look in Acts 3: 3-10.

1 ¶ Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being the ninth hour.*

2 And a certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the door of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of those who entered into the temple;

3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked to receive an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him, with John, said, "Look on us."

5 And he gave heed to them, expecting to receive something from them.

6 But Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but what I have, that give I to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

7 And he took him by the right hand, and raised him up: and immediately his feet and his ankle-bones received strength.

8 And leaping up, he stood, and began to walk; and he entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

10 and they took knowledge of him, that it was he that sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

There is no doubt about it: It works! The instructions then are to address the spirit in which there is an issue. In the last example, it was the man who had the issue and Peter spoke to his spirit, commanding him to receive what Peter gave him.

There may be a problem if someone who is not qualified to dominate demons attempts to command them around. We've touched on this event earlier in this composition. Look at Acts 19: 13-20:

13 ¶ But certain also of the strolling Jews, exorcists, took upon them to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, a chief priest, who did this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?"

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and mastered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, that dwelt at Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

18 Many also of those who had believed came, confessing, and declaring their deeds.

19 And not a few of them that practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So mightily grew the word of the Lord and prevailed.

Jesus said that not everyone who says to Him, “Lord, Lord” would enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7: 21). So it was confirmed with Sceva and his sons. So it is today: Believers can do those things Jesus said they would do, but non-believers cannot do them.

An Aside: The Book of Acts is the only book of the Bible that has no ending. Luke simply quit writing. The Acts of the Apostles (those people sent from God to man with His message) have not ceased; they still continue to this day. Once empowered, you may continue them yourself!

Obviously there is no time in prayer or its answer. Nor is there any dimension regarding what we would consider great or small. A little miracle is as great as a big miracle! A big miracle is as available and easily manifested as a little miracle! To be absolutely profound about it: A miracle is a miracle is a miracle! (That’s heavy—and deep, too!)

So it is in the spiritual world. Because you have been authorized to use the name of Jesus, there are no limits regarding what He expects you and I to do with our authority. As anointed believers, then, let us proceed to the battleground—our lives and the lives of those around us, both near and far.