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Train & Multiply™

Project WorldReach (T&M™ ministry operation)

Dr. George Patterson (Originating Author)

SEAN International



Contact: **Project WorldReach PWR™**

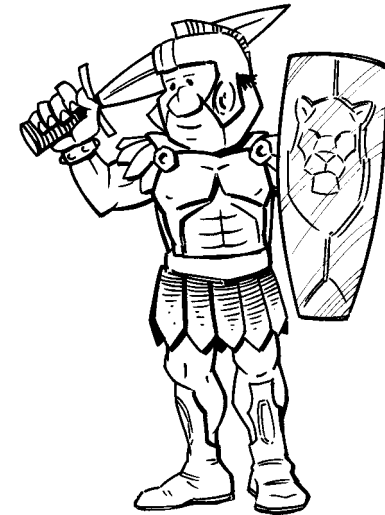
474 - 800 - 15355 - 24th Ave
Surrey BC, Canada
V4A 2H9

E-mail: pwr@trainandmultiply.com

Website: <http://www.trainandmultiply.com>

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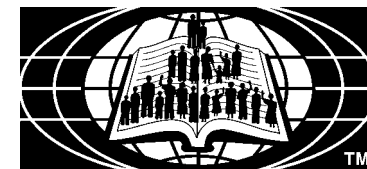
Overcoming the Darkness



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

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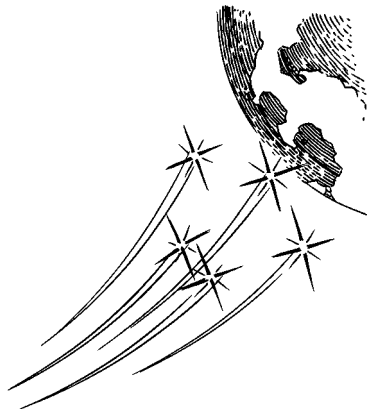
THE TWO KINGDOMS

God's Word reveals two mutually opposed spiritual kingdoms, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. Every human being belongs to one or the other. (Matthew 12:30)

God is the Creator of everything; all was perfect in the beginning. He has always been Sovereign, and always will be (Jeremiah 10:7), but the Scriptures reveal that one of God's principal angels became proud of his own beauty (Ezekiel 28:14-17) and said:

*"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will make myself like
the Most High."*

(Isaiah 14:13-14)



From that moment, Lucifer ("*he who shines*" Isaiah 14:12), became Satan ("*the adversary*") and was cast out of heaven, together with many angels who fell with him.

- Deal with whatever let the demons enter, so they cannot return. It is often necessary for the person to renounce specific sins, and forgive those who have sinned against them (such as violent parents, etc.)
- The person who has been delivered by God needs counsel and help in living the Christian life, and to be integrated into the church, to receive teaching, fellowship, encouragement and acceptance.
- After having helped those oppressed by demons, we must not get carried away by the victory. Our Lord Jesus Christ says, "*Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*" (Luke 10:20)

PRACTICAL WORK

- Pray and plan now to bring freedom to anyone whom you know for sure to be oppressed by Satan.
- Teach these guidelines to mature believers who will help with this ministry.
- Pray for your community, asking the Lord to destroy all satanic powers that are influencing it.

Remember that the demons tremble. (James 2:19) When a demon leaves a person it may do so suddenly. It may leave violently or quietly. Experience and spiritual discernment will tell you when demons have left a person.

4. **Restore the ex-victim.** The task has not ended when the demons leave. The person must be restored completely and believe firmly in Christ, so that they cannot return. (Matthew 12:43-45, Mark 9:25)

- Only Jesus can fill the empty space left after the casting out of the evil spirits, and we must help them to receive Christ into their life.
- Help the people to confess their sins, renouncing demonism and occultism, and every kind of contact with spiritism.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit fill the person completely, giving special emphasis to areas where the demon caused problems. For example, when it was a spirit of fear, we can ask especially that they have faith, and put all their trust in Christ.
- The person as an act of rejection, must destroy any object or book which is connected with occultism or spiritism.

So, after God created His perfect and marvelous universe, it was Satan who tempted our first ancestors to disobey God (Genesis 3:4, Ephesians 2:2, 1 John 3:8) and since then, every human being is born under the power of the kingdom of Satan. Lucifer committed the first sin in the spiritual world.

What was it? _____

Faced with this situation, God acted, and:

- Sent His son into the world, to destroy Satan's kingdom and his wicked works (John 12:31, 1 John 3:8), and to establish God's Kingdom. (Matthew 12:28)
- On the cross, Jesus Christ received the punishment for our sins, and delivered us from the kingdom of the devil. (Colossians 1:13-14, Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14-15)
At His resurrection, Jesus was declared "*with power Son of God...*" with "*All authority in heaven and on earth.*" (Romans 1:4, Matthew 28:18)
- Now, when we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ, we leave Satan's kingdom and enter the Kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

- In this way, God's Kingdom advances, destroying Satan's kingdom through the ministry of the Church. (Matthew 10:1-8, Ephesians 3:10, 1 John 3:8)
- When the Lord Jesus comes again, the Kingdom of God will come with Divine power, and Satan and his kingdom will be eternally destroyed. (Matthew 13:36-43, Revelation 20:7-10)

Of these two conflicting kingdoms, which is the victor?

THE KINGDOM OF SATAN

As a kingdom, demons have different levels of authority and power:



Seek the Lord's help to minister effectively to those afflicted by Satan, and to take Christ's victory to the world. (Ephesians 6:12)

To confront evil spirits in Jesus' name, we must believe in the absolute authority of the King of Kings and be absolutely convinced that Jesus conquers Satan.

To deliver someone controlled by evil spirits, people experienced in this ministry normally do the following:

1. **Ask the victim to confess the sins** that may have let the demons enter into his life. Point him to the risen Christ's sacrifice and victory on the cross (Isaiah 53:4-6, Colossians 2:13-15). Remove any supposed legal basis demons may have to oppress the person (Ephesians 4:27, John 14:30).
2. **Ask the victim to renounce** the sins he has confessed and to ask the Lord to set him free from all demonic oppression. In the Old Testament the Israelites were freed from enemy oppression when they called on the Lord (Judges 4:1-3).
3. **Cast out the demons.** When a demon manifests its presence, address it directly, using the authority conferred on you by Jesus. If it is evident that a demon is speaking through the victim, command it to be quiet. (Mark 1:25) It is pointless to hold conversations with demons because they are liars by nature (John 8:44, 1 Timothy 4:1).

There may be no visible manifestation of the demons leaving them, but this is explained to the victims, who by faith must firmly believe in their deliverance, and reject any attempt on behalf of Satan to sow doubt in their life.

Deliverance of persons enslaved by demons

To bring freedom from demons requires faith and affirmation of our authority in Christ. If you lack experience, do not deal with it alone.

To bring freedom from demons may take hours or several sessions. Never give demons unnecessary attention. Some people enjoy being the victim. Their demons welcome our attention, even though in rebuke. Don't play their game! Order them to depart in Jesus' name, then ignore them, or we cause greater harm.

The authority of the Christian over Satan does not lie in rites or formulas, but rather in our position in Christ; we are sons of the living God. We act in the name of Jesus, not because it contains magic, but because Satan will acknowledge defeat only to Him.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

(Ephesians 6:12)

- Satan is the prince of the hosts of wickedness that fight against God. (Ephesians 2:2) He is *“the god of this age.”* (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Under Satan are the rulers, authorities, and powers of darkness.(Ephesians 6:12) They seem to spread throughout the world to dominate it, and to organize all demonic activity.
- Under them are the demons that influence people most directly, causing: illness, oppression, temptation, conflict and false teaching. (Ephesians 6:12, 1 Timothy 4:1)

WHAT ARE DEMONS LIKE?

According to the New Testament, demons:

- are spirits (have no body; Matthew 12:43, Luke 24:39).

- are evil (murderers and liars; Matthew 12: 43-45, Acts 8:7, Revelation 16:13-14).
- have supernatural strength and powers (Mark 5:4, Luke 8:29, Acts 19:13-16).
- are intelligent (Acts 16, Acts 19:15-16).

But, although powerful, God limits their power. Sometimes it is mistakenly thought that Satan is God's equal, though evil. THIS IS NOT SO, because demons:

- are created beings (fallen angels), and so are not almighty, neither can they be everywhere at once, nor do they know everything as God does.
- must submit to the Name of Jesus. (Mark 3:11-12, Mark 5:7, Luke 4:36, Luke 10:17-20)
- can do nothing without permission.
- know their destination: eternal fire. (Matthew 8:29, Matthew 25:41, James 2:19)
- will flee from us if we resist them in the Lord. (James 4:7)

Sometimes, the persons themselves can break the satanic bonds, through the power given by the Lord Jesus Christ.

You can guide the person to take the following steps:

1. In faith, to give their life to Christ, committing every area of their being to the lordship of Christ.
2. To confess and renounce the area of sin and temptation with which they have difficulty.
3. To take the authority and power that belong to them, for being Christ's, and command any spirit which has manifest itself, to depart. This can be done with a simple prayer, such as, "In the Name of Jesus Christ, I command you, spirit of (fear, homosexuality, etc.) to leave me and stay away from my life."
4. To destroy any object associated with the sin against which they are fighting, especially occult objects or books.
5. Command any evident spirit to leave, in the name of Jesus Christ. Ask the victim to pray for freedom also. Then pray that the person will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and so be able to resist any later attempt by the demon to oppress them again.

- g. Trust that we are saved through faith in Jesus.
- h. Resist temptation through God's Word.
- i. Pray constantly.
- j. Give the church clear regulations.

Answer: a, c, d, e, g, h, i, are correct.

VICTORY IN CHRIST

To help people find freedom in Christ, help them discover the cause of their trouble. Ask frankly about their past life, and especially about involvement with false religions or exclusive brotherhoods with secret rituals, the occult, including sexual relations with people practicing the occult.

A victim must want to be delivered, and believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has the power to do this.



If someone does not admit and turn away from a sin, they cannot be delivered. Also, many attitudes, such as resentments and refusal to forgive others are impediments to deliverance.

Mark the following as True or False:

Demons are:

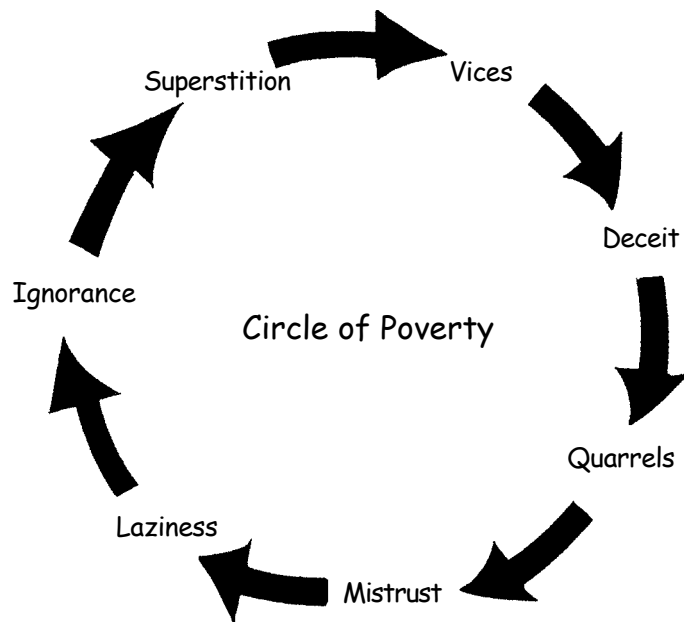
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|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. The souls of the dead. | T | F |
| 2. Fallen angels. | T | F |
| 3. Spirits of animals. | T | F |
| 4. All-powerful. | T | F |
| 5. Something naughty but nice. | T | F |
| 6. Invincible. | T | F |

Answers: 1=F; 2=T; 3=F; 4=F; 5=F; 6=F

HOW DO SATAN AND HIS DEMONS AFFECT US?

Human society is one of Satan's first victims. He influences nations to cause war (Revelation 20:7-8). The doctrines of demons include hatred, injustice, such as abortion, legalized homosexuality, racial and

social prejudices, etc. (1 Chronicles 21:1) The majority of mankind's problems, apart from the guilt of human sin, have their roots in demon-inspired ideas. For example, poverty could be eliminated, but Satan prevents this, causing a vicious circle of poverty:



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

The sword is a weapon for both attack and defense. So is the Word of God. With it, we can defend ourselves against false concepts and also attack evil with the truth, as our Lord Jesus did so effectively, when He defeated Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).



PRAYER

We need continuous prayer for ourselves, for the church, and for the extension of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Underline seven activities that correspond to the armor of God (three may be good but are not part of the armor!):

- a. Always speak the truth.
- b. Get a university education.
- c. Live a righteous and just life.
- d. Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with another person.
- e. Have faith in the Lord, when faced by adversity.
- f. Have a beautiful building for the services.

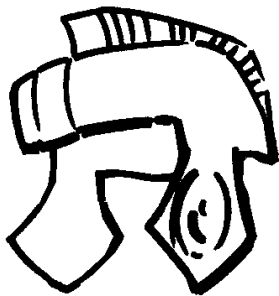
THE SHIELD OF FAITH

The shield is portable and protects the whole body; it is covered with leather that resists flaming arrows. Thus, by faith, we are protected against the burning spiritual arrows sent against us by Satan. By faith we defend ourselves and all that is ours; church, spouse, children, business, etc.

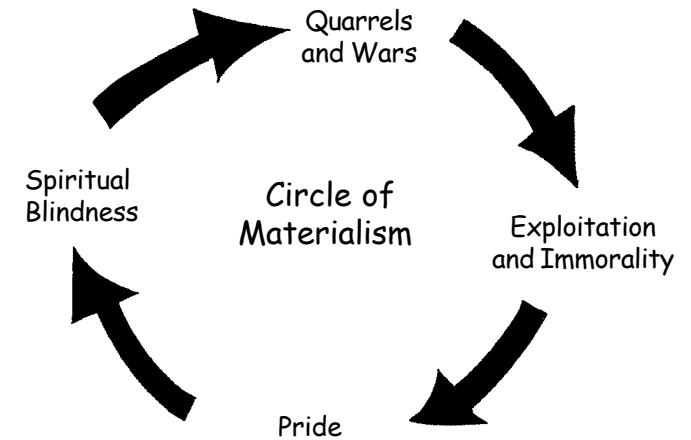
THE HELMET OF SALVATION

The helmet protects the head. Thus when Satan bombards us with thoughts of fear, hatred, suspicion, depression and lack of confidence, etc., our protection is our salvation.

In Christ we have complete forgiveness for our past sins, and strength to overcome future temptation. Also, since Christ's victory on the cross, the devil, our "accuser," can no longer successfully accuse us before God. (Luke 10:18)



At the same time, Satan also keeps the rich trapped in the vicious circle of materialism:



Demons attack the Lord's work to harm all He has created. *"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."* (1 Peter 5:8)

For example, demons can:

- cause accidents, supernatural manifestations, illness, scandals.
- sidetrack people with occult manifestations. (Acts 16:16-18)
- influence people to resist the Gospel or believe false doctrine. (Romans 1:21-22, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 1 Timothy 4:1, John 8:44)

- provoke persecution and trials, so that Christians would be tempted to forsake their faith. (Matthew 24:12-13, Revelation 12:17)
- resist angels sent from God, such as the one sent to aid Daniel. (Daniel 10:1-15)
- produce physical afflictions such as dumbness, blindness (Matthew 9:32, Matthew 12:22); epilepsy (Mark 9:14-29); curvature of the spine (Luke 13:10-17), etc. Not all illness comes from demons. They can, however, cause deterioration of personality. (1 Samuel 16:14-23)

The Devil is also called “the tempter”:

(Matthew 4:3), and sometimes disguises himself as an “*angel of light*” in order to:

- tempt us to sin (Ephesians 2:1-3), working on our sinful human nature. (Acts 5:3, 1 Chronicles 21:1) The more people sin, the more susceptible they are to demonic temptation. (John 8:34)
- sow doubt and unbelief in God’s children. (Genesis 3:1-5, Revelation 12:10-12)

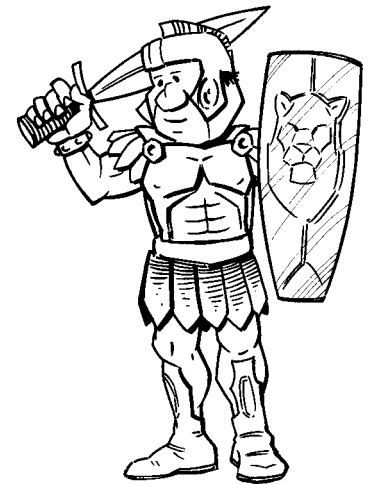
This means being sincere and honest about our faith, leaving aside all lying and hypocrisy in our lives, because lies open the door to the devil, who is the father of lies.

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The breastplate protects vital organs. Likewise, as believers, we must protect our hearts with “righteousness,” that is to say, with integrity and right conduct. The church must lead the attack against the injustice of this world. (James 2:1-9, James 5:1-11, Amos 2:6-8, Amos 3:9-10, Amos 4:1-5, Amos 5:6-15)

FEET FITTED WITH READINESS

Feet fitted with readiness to go and share the Gospel of peace; to every place and at any time. This will bring peace and take away anger and violence. It also means maintaining peace and unity between Christians. (Matthew 5:9, Ephesians 4:1-6)



- Reaffirm the authority given him by the Lord to “drive out demons.” (Mark 3:13-15, Luke 10:17-20)
- Humble himself before God, relying only on His power.
- Recognize that Jesus has defeated Satan and his demons. (Colossians 2:15)
- Pray for the Lord’s protection and use the armor He provides.

OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR

God has provided spiritual protection for His children, for their spiritual battle. On facing Satan and his hosts, we must be strengthened in the power of the Lord, not rely on our own abilities, and put on all the armor with which He provides us. Read Ephesians 6:10-20.

THE BELT OF TRUTH

The belt keeps clothes and armor in place. As children of God, we must gird ourselves with the truth, and follow Him who said: “*I am the truth...*”

- sow quarrels, confusion and anger among believers to try to hinder God’s plans. (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
- produce counterfeit spiritual gifts to confuse believers. (Matthew 24:24, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- promote occultism in its various forms.

The most pathetic way in which demons oppress people is what Scripture refers to as being demonized. Persons are influenced, tormented, or controlled by demons.

There are different degrees of demonization, from evil thoughts that persistently bother a person up to complete control by a demon. Some call this “demon possession.”

The original biblical Greek never uses the term “demon-possession,” but rather the phrases “have demons” or “be demonized.”

A frequent type of demonization is “demonic influence.” For example, some moral weaknesses, or sins that persist despite sincere repentance, may mean demonic influence, and we need to release them.

HOW DO DEMONS ENTER PEOPLE?

Various situations allow satanic influences to enter. These include contact directly or indirectly with occultism or spiritism.

(Exodus 20:3-5, Leviticus 19:31, Leviticus 20:6-8, Deuteronomy 18:9-14)

Examples:

- Astrology and horoscopes.
- Black or white magic.
- Palm-reading.
- Ouija boards.
- Tarot (cards that predict the future).
- Mental suggestion (playing with people's minds).
- Fetishism and witchcraft.
- Clairvoyance and fortune telling.
- Non-Christian spiritual healings.

prayer and fasting, must break through, and proclaim Christ's victory and the devil's defeat. (Revelation 2:13) We should also pray for governments, for peace, justice and openings for the Gospel.

(1 Timothy 2:1-7)

Freeing or "delivering" people from demonic influence is part of the action of the Kingdom of God in its victory over Satan. The Kingdom, the power and the glory belong to God and not to us; so this ministry is God's, not ours.

Every Christian, through the power given by Christ to His servants, must be ready to help people tormented by Satan. But this is not a ministry to be entered lightly, and in the more severe cases it is advisable to request the help of mature Christians who have already helped people become free from demonic oppression.

In any case, before taking on this spiritual warfare, every Christian worker must:

- Confess and put aside every sin.
- Pray and if he knows ahead of time what he will face, fast, if possible together with other Christians. (Mark 9:29)

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The greatest damage we can inflict on Satan's Kingdom comes through the proclaiming the Gospel to the world. We are in constant battle with satanic forces. To be victorious we pray without ceasing, fast if necessary, obey God's Word and proclaim freedom in Christ from sin and Satan.

We do battle in our own lives, serving as a living sacrifice to the Lord, and cleansing our minds from evil thoughts.

We also do battle in our homes as we shepherd our loved ones, praying with them daily as well as reading and discussing the Word of God.

We likewise do battle in church which is a prime target of Satan (Revelation 12:12-17), by helping God's people use the armor He has provided (Ephesians 6:10-18).

We do battle in the community, especially in areas where sin abounds and there is resistance to the Gospel. This is where the Church, in

- Voodoo and satanic cults.
- Trying to make contact with or speaking to ghosts or "spirits of the dead."
- Trances.
- Yoga (exercises and philosophy).
- Unnatural practices such as levitation, hypnosis and telepathy (moving objects using mental power).
- Abuse and aberrations during childhood such as incest, alcoholism or other forms of child abuse by parents or others, frequently causes an uncontrollable rage, self-hatred, and hatred of others. This is fertile ground for satanic influence.
- Indulgence in morbid or suicidal thoughts, sexual greed, pornography, sexual perversions (fornication, adultery, transvestism, homosexuality, bestiality etc.), gluttony, alcoholism and drug addiction, etc.
- Extreme or persistent emotions: such as fear, depression, anxiety and anger.
- Satan worship or where honor is paid to Satan.

- Family influence. Exodus 20:5 says: “...*I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.*” A high percentage of the children of alcoholics become alcoholics themselves. It could well be that demonic influence contributes to their problem.
- Having suffered a curse by relatives, teachers, neighbors, or through any kind of witchcraft.



Since we are living in enemy territory, we should not be surprised by his influence in the world.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A DEMON-OPPRESSED PERSON

Some Christians see demons just about everywhere or at times confuse physical and mental illness with demonic activity. For example, cerebral arteriosclerosis, senile dementia or some chemical imbalances can severely affect personality, with symptoms similar to

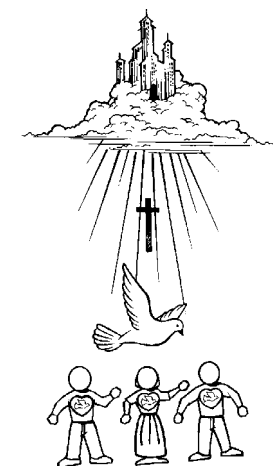
However, we can say with certainty that a Christian, filled with the Holy Spirit:

- ☐ can be totally owned and controlled by Satan.
- ☐ can be afflicted by Satan, but not “possessed”.

Answer: A true child of God can be afflicted by demons, but never possessed.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Despite all the horrors we have mentioned, we must not lose sight of the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ defeated Satan on the cross, and released his captives. (Luke 4:18-20, Ephesians 1:20-22, Colossians 2:13-15, Hebrews 2:14-15)



When the risen Christ ascended on high, “*He led a host of captives.*” (Ephesians 4:8) Sharing His victory, we can go forward, extending Christ’s triumph.

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE TOTALLY “POSSESSED” BY A DEMON?

God owns and keep His children, and will allow Satan to inflict them only to a certain point, as in the case of Job. Demons attack Christians and no one is free of their temptations; not even Jesus, when He was on earth! But we belong to another Kingdom, and are children of God. We are a new creation, temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 5:17) and a demon cannot totally control and own a person in whom the Holy Spirit is living.

Nevertheless, if a Christian continues in a serious sin and refuses to confess it, he may be afflicted and led seriously astray from the Lord's ways, through demonic influence. Demons may even gain a foothold in part of a Christian's personality, though they will not be able to force the Holy Spirit to leave in order to own and control him completely. We have been rescued from demonic power, but can still be affected by it if we neglect God's armor. (Ephesians 6:13-18)

Saul, the King of Israel, was anointed by the Holy Spirit and prophesied. (1 Samuel 10:1, 9-13) But after disobeying God in 1 Samuel 15, he was tormented by an evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:14) and showed several signs of being demonized: attacks of anger, a murderous attitude, and exaggerated fears.

those of someone under satanic oppression. So we must be careful to discern the real root of the problem. We may need to seek medical advice, in some cases.

Read Luke 8:26-39. The affected person may show some of the following behavior:

- One can retain some control over his life. A demonized man went to see Jesus, perhaps in hope of receiving healing. (verse 27)
- The affliction is sporadic. Sometimes they prevent the person from speaking or hearing. (Mark 9:25, Luke 11:14) On other occasions they cause convulsions similar to an epileptic fit, with: falling down, rigidity, crying out, foaming at the mouth. For example, verse 28 says that the man: *“cried out and fell at his feet, shouting...”*
- Sometimes people harm themselves. For example according to Mark 5:5, the demonized man cut himself with stones. These attacks may last a few minutes or several days, and occur especially when the presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested, such as church meetings. (Mark 1:21-24)

- One might have extra-ordinary strength; for example, Luke 8:29 says that the Gadarene man broke his chains.
- A demon might speak through the person and oppose Jesus. In Luke 8:28 the demon says: *“What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!”*
- People might speak in voices or languages other than their own. For example a man could speak with a woman’s voice, or make animal noises. In verse 28, the man was *“shouting at the top of his voice”*; not a normal way of speaking.
- One might have knowledge or powers that a normal person does not have. For example, the man knew immediately who Jesus was even though he had not met him before.
- One might become morally depraved or have some kind of sexual sin. The Gadarene, for example, had no modesty at all, and *“for a long time had not worn clothes.”* (verse 27)
- A person may be affected by several demons. When the Lord asked the Gadarene man, *“What is your name?”* the demon replied, *“Legion, because they were many.”* (verse 30) (A Roman legion was made up of six thousand soldiers.)

- Extreme expressions of self-hatred, not accepting forgiveness, bitterness, resentment and contempt.
- Some chronic illnesses, especially those which have been in the family for several generations, without medical explanation.
- An exaggerated rejection of or reaction to the Name or Person of Jesus Christ.

CAUTION! We don't assume that demons are present every time someone has a problem! All have sinned and we cannot attribute every sin to devils. If unsure, we simply pray for deliverance from the suffering and ask for help from believers with experience in such healing.

Demonized people cling irrationally to some destructive lie. This lie underlies both their irrationality and their destructive behavior. Often they become unreasonably agitated when faced with the truth about Christ.

We harm people if we tell them they have a demon when they do not. It gives them an excuse for their bad behavior and, especially for children, can create such despair that they give up. Also, giving unnecessary attention to evil spirits can attract them and bring more grief. Jesus warned His disciples against excessive interest in demons in Luke 10:20.

