BY CLAYTON COLLINS - POWER TO TREAD MINISTRIES

#### Disclaimer.

I realize that this is one of the most controversial and unsettling topics for the modern western church to discuss.

I do not teach on this subject simply to be controversial, but because I believe it is an important aspect of the Gospel that is largely ignored or misunderstood in the western world! I have spent all of my life as a student of scripture. Reading and studying the Word of God is one my deepest passions and greatest joys! The subject of deliverance and the supernatural became something of great interest to me at a young age. I've spent years of my life studying and researching these topics. I've gleaned much wisdom and information from other trusted Bible teachers. I've also ministered to thousands of people in different nations and from different cultural backgrounds, who believed they had demons. As I confronted those demons and commanded them to leave, I have witnessed many incredible miracles! A great majority of these individuals were born again, spirit-filled believers.

When you first have experiences with the supernatural (the angelic, the demonic, and the realm of the miraculous), you quickly understand that things take place that defy human logic; and, in many cases, you lack human language to accurately describe what you witnessed. ("And I know that this man—whether in the body or away from the body I do not know, God knows—Was caught up into paradise, and he heard utterances beyond the power of man to put into words, which man is not permitted to utter." **2 Corinthians 12:3-4 AMPC**).

However, I want to attempt, as clearly as possible, to state my belief on the subject of Christians needing deliverance, using scripture, common sense, and practical experience, (listed in order of importance).

- 1. There is no chapter and verse text that says explicitly that a Christian can have a demon!
- 2. There is no chapter and verse text that says explicitly that a Christian cannot have a demon!

Because there is no direct statement on the subject, we must look through the scriptures and see what is implied in its teachings. I will begin by defining some of the terminology.

#### What is a Christian?

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This term may mean different things to different people so I want to clearly define what I believe to be the Biblical definition of a Christian.

I believe a Christian is someone who has met the requirements of ("that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" **Romans 10:9-13 NKJV**).

- This person should desire to repent and turn away from all willful, habitual sin and follow Jesus with their life! ("And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age" Matthew 28:20 TPT).
- This person must take Christ's claim in John 14:6 seriously. ("Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" John 14:6 NKJV).

According to scripture you cannot be a Christian and a Muslim, you cannot be a Christian and a Buddhist, you cannot be a Christian and a Hindu, you cannot be a Christian and a follower of new age teachings and philosophies. Many of these religions and spiritual philosophies contain some sound wisdom for living and many of them have similar teachings on some of the subjects found in the Bible. However, the Bible clearly and emphatically teaches that we are reconciled to God through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ! When we are baptized into Christ we must turn away from all other religions and spiritual philosophies and put our faith solely in Christ! (see **John 10:1-10**).

- A person who has met these conditions is saved or as Jesus refers to it, born again (see **John Chapter 3**).
- This person is forgiven of their sin (See 1 John 1:9).
- This person is a child of God (see **John 1:12**).
- This person's name is recorded in heaven and when they die, their spirit has an eternal home in heaven (see Luke 10:20, John 14:1-4, and 2 Corinthians 5:8).

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- The Holy Spirit comes to live inside the spirit of this person (see **1 Corinthians 6:17**).
- The Holy Spirit from the inside of their spirit will guide this person into truth and remind them of the teachings of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will guide them into wisdom, love, and becoming more Christ-like in their words and actions. As they submit and yield to the Holy Spirit they will walk increasingly in these realities. (see **John 16:13-15** and **Galatians 5:22-25**).
- This person now has access to all promises of God found in the Bible. This person has the ability through reliance on the Holy Spirit to overcome all the works of sin and the demonic realm and the effects of the curse of sin. This becomes an increasing reality in this person's life as they have deeper revelation and understanding of scripture and obedience to the leading of the Spirit! (see 2 Corinthians 1:20, 1 John 4:4, and Psalm 103:1-5).
- This person is not exempt from the trials and difficulties of life (see **James 1:2-4**, **John 16:33**, and **Matthew 7:24-27**).
- This person is not exempt from temptation (see **James 1:12-15** and **Matthew 6:13**).
- Though forgiven and legally set free from the power of sin, this person still has the ability to choose conscious, willful sin (see Acts 5: 1-11, Hebrews 10:26, 1 John 6:16-17, and James 5:15-16).
- Though this person has every right to claim Christ's promise of healing, this person can still be affected by sickness in their body (see **James 5:13-16**, **Philippians 2:25-27**, and **Acts 9:36-43**).
- Though the Holy Spirit now resides in the spirit of this person, this person still must take responsibility for renewing their mind and taking thoughts captive. This person has the ability to think thoughts that are completely contrary and hostile to truth! (see 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 and Matthew 16:21-23).
- Though this person will now live forever, the body that they live in during this stay on the earth will die. At that time the true person (the spirit) will leave the body and go to The Lord, and the body will return to the dust of the earth! This point is important because it clearly demonstrates that the physical body is not the true person, it is only a temporary dwelling that the person lives in. The body in this dispensation of time is still subject to all the effects of the curse of

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- sin including sickness, sin, death and demonization (see Romans 7:18, 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, and Genesis 3:19).
- Though this person is in-dwelt by the Spirit of truth, they have the ability to listen to deceiving spirits (see 1 Timothy 4:1 and Matthew 24:24).
- Though this person is in dwelt by the Holy Spirit, they still can be affected and influenced by demons (which I believe includes demonization a term I will define shortly) through not resisting the attacks of the enemy, not taking thoughts captive, or unrepentant sin. (see James 4:7-8, Ephesians 4:26-27, Matthew 16:23, Matthew 6:13, and Matthew 18:21-35).

#### What is a demon?

A demon is a disembodied spirit!

- Demons have the ability to think, reason, speak and plan (Matthew 12:43-45).
- Some demons are more wicked and stronger willed than others (Matthew 12:24, 45, and Mark 9:29).
- Demons crave and desire to live in the bodies of a human being though they also possess the ability to live in an animal's body (**Mark 5:1-20**).
- Demons know that Jesus is Lord (Mark 1:23-24).
- Demons are subject to true followers of Jesus and must obey their commands (Luke 9:1-2 and Luke 10:17-20).
- Demons cause a wide variety of problems including but not limited to coercing and tempting humans into sin, causing sickness and disease, deceiving humans with lies and false doctrine, etc.
- Demons have assignments and take on names (see Matthew 12:24-27, Mark 5:9, and Revelation 2:20).
- Demons have rank structure (**Ephesians 6:10-12**).
- Demons normally will not leave a person or territory voluntarily but must be forcefully driven out! It is commonly believed that in an atmosphere of the manifest presence of God that demons will automatically leave; however, satan and his demons did not voluntarily leave heaven but had to be forcefully driven out! (see **Revelation 12:7-12**).

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Now that I have clearly defined what a Christian is and what a demon is, I will attempt to confront the elephant in the room! The million-dollar question – CAN A CHRISTIAN HAVE A DEMON?!?!

Most people who ask this question assume that the answer is a definite no! Many even hold the strong position that it is impossible for a Christian to have a demon. Though this position is fairly common in the western church, the conclusion that Christians cannot need deliverance from demons is based more on cultural bias, fear, misinterpretation, and application of a couple of scriptures, than study of scripture and practical application!

My position is very different than what is normally accepted in the west! I believe not only can Christians need deliverance from demons, but an alarmingly large number do! There are several reasons for this! Though many in the west take the opposite position, this teaching is widely accepted in churches in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East!

Many base the belief that Christians cannot have demons on the assumption that the Holy Spirit and a demon cannot possibly dwell in the same place at the same time. At first this assumption seems reasonable and sounds true!

On further examination, I find some holes in this logic

#### God is omnipresent!

"Where could I go from your Spirit? Where could I run and hide from your face? If I go up to heaven, you're there! If I go down to the realm of the dead, you're there too! If I fly with wings into the shining dawn, you're there! If I fly into the radiant sunset, you're there waiting! Wherever I go, your hand will guide me; your strength will empower me. It's impossible to disappear from you or to ask the darkness to hide me, for your presence is everywhere, bringing light into my night. There is no such thing as darkness with you. The night, to you, is as bright as the day; there's no difference between the two" (Psalms 139:7-12 TPT).

• I have ministered in some of the deepest darkest places in the world! I've ministered deep in the jungles of Africa where some of darkest and most evil forms of black magic are practiced! I've ministered in countries in the Middle East where radical terrorist groups are a constant threat. In the United States, I've ministered in underground clubs where they played the most vulgar music

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imaginable and created an atmosphere where drug use and all types of immorality abound! I've ministered at heavy metal concerts where the themes and atmosphere were completely anti-Christ and demonic in nature! I've ministered in prisons to outlaw biker clubs and all kinds of atmospheres that were extremely defiled and filled with demonic influences! Yet in these places I have seen some of the most powerful moves of the Holy Spirit! I've seen salvations, deliverances, miracles of healing in these places! This demonstrates to me the reality that Gods presence is everywhere and He will move in places that are defiled.

• If we follow the line of logic that demons cannot exist in the presence of God, we would be forced to conclude that demons cannot exist at all because the presence of God is everywhere!

"Now there was a day when the sons (the angels) of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan (the adversary and accuser) also came among them (**Revelation 12:10**). And the Lord said to satan, "From where did you come?" Then satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it" (**Job 1:6-7 AMPC**). We see in the book of Job that satan presented Himself in the presence of the Lord! There is a lot that can be said about the book of Job, but my main point here is that you see a clear picture of evil existing in the presence of God!

I also refer to a point that I made earlier in this lesson, that in Revelation 12:7-12 we see that satan and his demons had to be forcefully driven from heaven! They did not quietly leave on their own accord! That is just not the M.O. of the demonic. If this was the case in heaven, then why would we believe that they will leave voluntarily from our lives???

Another scripture that is commonly quoted by those who argue that a Christian cannot have a demon is: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people. Therefore, Come out from among them And be separate,' says the Lord. 'Do not touch what is unclean,

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And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty' (2 Corinthians 6:14-18 NKJV).

They often quote the portion of verse 14 that says what communion has light with darkness, inferring that light and darkness cannot dwell together! However, it's clear simply from reading this scripture that the context does not have to do with Christians and demons but rather to Christians being unequally yoked with unbelievers. Furthermore, it does not teach that Christians cannot be yoked to unbelievers but rather that they should not be yoked to unbelievers! Yet we see that many believers do choose to be unequally yoked to unbelievers.

In a similar manner, I believe that Christians should not be yoked to any demonic influence but many choose to be (though oftentimes out of ignorance and by default).

# LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT DELIVERANCE MINISTRY IN THE LIFE OF JESUS!

Let's look at the first recorded account of Jesus casting out a demon!

"Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, 'Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be quiet, and come out of him!' And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.' And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee' (Mark 1:21-28 NKJV). I want to take note that the first demon Jesus ever cast out was not encountered on the streets with the prostitutes and tax collectors BUT IN THE SYNAGOGUE AMONGST GOD-FEARING JEWS WHO LIVED ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES!

The man who manifested the demon was likely a devout man. It's a safe assumption that he lived a much more morally clean life than 90% of people you will find in most modern Christian churches on any given Sunday morning. This man most likely loved

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God and loved the scriptures... yet he had a demon that was tormenting him in some area of his life. Jesus brought deliverance to this man!

We see later in the chapter that Jesus went about in circuit preaching in the SYNAGOGUES AND CASTING OUT DEMONS! Apparently, this deliverance was not an isolated incident but there were many other God-fearing Jews who faithfully attended synagogue who also needed deliverance from demons. "But He said to them, 'Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.' And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons" (Mark 1:38-39 NKJV).

Jesus' ministry of deliverance was mostly to God-fearing Jews with a couple of exceptions. Jesus even once made it abundantly clear that deliverance is for the children of God not for the lost, (and it was in the context of casting out demons) (see Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30).

**HOW JESUS DEALT WITH DEMONIC SPIRITS** (let's take a look at some of Jesus' deliverance protocols)

- He spoke directly to the demon (Mark 1:25).
- He identified the demon (Mark 9:25).
- He made the demon identify itself (Mark 5:9).
- He made a clear distinction that not all demons are the same (Mathew 24:30).

Let's take a look at an account of deliverance that Jesus did that resulted in a great miracle (and some controversy from the religious crowd).

"Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman there who for eighteen years had had an infirmity caused by a spirit (a demon of sickness). She was bent completely forward and utterly unable to straighten herself up or to look upward. And when Jesus saw her, He called [her to Him] and said to her, 'Woman, you are released from your infirmity!' Then He laid [His] hands on her, and instantly she was made straight, and she recognized and thanked and praised God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; so come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day' [Exodus 20:9, 10]. But the Lord replied to him, saying, 'You playactors (hypocrites)! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead it out to water

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it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?' Even as He said this, all His opponents were put to shame, and all the people were rejoicing over all the glorious things that were being done by Him' (**Luke 13:10-17 AMPC**).

#### A few important points in this story.

- 1. Jesus said this woman was a daughter of Abraham. This meant that she was a devout believer and had a covenant with God!
- 2. Jesus said her condition was caused by a demon!
- 3. This demon was not just a minor inconvenience but completely changed this woman's life (for the worse) for 18 long years. This shows that it's possible for demons to have a great and devastating effect on the life of a believer.
- 4. The removal of the demon brought physical healing!
- 5. The leader of the synagogue should have been overjoyed that a member of his synagogue received such a great miracle. Instead, he was infuriated because certain religious protocols were broken and this miracle challenged his current understanding of the scriptures! Notice the leader of the synagogue did not criticize Jesus for casting out demons or healing the sick! He challenged Jesus' methods! He said that Jesus should change the time, the way, and the place that He cast out demons. In other words, it's good that you do it.... but only under certain circumstances and according to certain rules. (This same spirit is alive and well and it's working through many leaders in the west today.)
- 6. Jesus did not change His methods to appease the religious leader. In fact, He sternly and openly rebuked him!
- 7. This put the leader to shame and caused joy amongst the rest of the crowd!

#### A LESSON IN PRAYER!

Jesus' disciples were 12 men hand-picked by the Lord! These men left everything to follow Jesus! They endured persecution and difficulty and 10 of the 12 eventually would give their life as martyrs! These men asked Jesus to teach them to pray! Jesus taught them what would become the model prayer for all believers for all time!

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen" (Matthew 6:9-10, 13 NKJV).

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Notice the couple of sentences in the last verse say DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE! Not deliver the world or those who don't know you BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE! How could these devout men need to pray deliver us from the evil one if true followers of Christ cannot need deliverance from demons???

Why would we as believers need to pray this way if Christians never need deliverance from demons?

Peter spoke by revelation of the Holy Spirit that Jesus was the Christ! (see **Matthew 16:15-20**). Moments later He spoke under the inspiration of another spirit! Jesus called this out for what it truly was. Apparently, somehow a demonic spirit found access in some way to speak into the subconscious part of Peter's mind. The idea of stopping Jesus from going to the cross seemed logical but was contrary to the plan of God!

"Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men" (Matthew 16:22-23 NKJV).

I'm sure Peter just thought this was an idea that originated in his mind, but Jesus said this idea was due to demonic influence. Also, notice Jesus said that satan caused Peter to be mindful of the things of man and not the things of God! Demons don't always cause thoughts of outrageous sin such as murder or adultery. Many times, demons distract us by filling our minds with the things that seem logical to man but are contrary to Gods plan!

The Bible clearly states that satan entered Judas!

"Then satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve" (Luke 22:3 NKJV).

Obviously, there were things in his heart that were not right. There is a lot that could be said about Judas but that's another teaching for another time. My point is Judas was numbered among the 12. He left everything to follow Jesus just like the other 11. He preached the Gospel, healed the sick, and cast out demons just like the other 11, yet Scripture says satan entered him!

In the Book of Acts, we read one of the most sobering stories in the entire Bible. "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he

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kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.' Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, 'Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?' She said, 'Yes, for so much.' Then Peter said to her, 'How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.' Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things" (Acts 5:1-11 NKJV).

Their sin was the sin of hypocrisy! They cared more about what they looked like to the Apostle Peter and those in the church than what God knew was really going on behind the scenes. This cost them their life!

(Sadly, the sins of hypocrisy have ended the lives and ministries of many men and women of God through the centuries.)

This sin did not originate in the human soul but from the demonic realm. PETER SAID WHY HAS SATAN FILLED YOUR HEART TO LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT!!

That's strong language! Satan has filled your heart.... That's the same kind of language used when talking about the upper room experience in Acts Chapter 2 on the day of Pentecost. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4 NKJV). This couple was born again, baptized in water. Baptized in the Holy Ghost faithful members of the Church, yet Satan filled their heart with the idea to commit a sin that cost them their lives! How could this happen if the idea that Christians cannot have demons is true??

#### LESSONS FROM THE EPISTLES

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"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—" (Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV).

The Book of Ephesians was written to believers not unbelievers!

Some important points for believers to grasp from this passage of scripture:

- 1. There is a real spiritual battle and there are real demons that oppose the work of God!
- 2. It is our responsibility to contend with those forces of darkness!
- 3. God has given every tool that we need to overcome every force of evil!
- 4. Though God has given us all that we need, WE MUST PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD (which I believe represents certain beliefs, attitudes, mindsets and character traits)! GOD GIVES US THE ARMOR BUT WE DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PUT IT ON! WE DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PRAY IN THE SPIRIT! WE DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO STAND OR GIVE UP!
- 5. Victory in the spiritual battles was only promised if we are obedient and vigilant. Our salvation is based on faith in Christ alone...but our victory over the forces of darkness according to this passage, is based on obedience and vigilance.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world" (1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV).

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"Be sober [well-balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour. But resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]" (1 Peter 5:8-9 AMP).

1 Peter was written to believers not to unbelievers!

We are encouraged to be sober and alert. The amplified translation says well-balanced and self-disciplined because the devil is seeking opportunities to invade our life and cause trouble! Protection from this type of attack does not come simply from our confession of faith in Jesus but because we are alert enough to recognize it for what it is! Only then can we take authority over it and walk in victory!

"Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you doubleminded" (James 4:7-8 NKJV).

The book of James was written to believers not to unbelievers!

In this passage, we see that freedom from the influence of the devil comes not from having a confession of faith but from submission to God; actively resisting the demonic realm and walking in repentance and renewing of our mind!

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron," 1 Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV).

1 Timothy was written to believers not unbelievers!

A couple important points:

- 1. The writer uses some strong language to open this passage. THE SPIRIT EXPRESSLY SAYS! As you read the scriptures take note when phrases like this are used. It indicates that something of great importance is being taught.
- 2. Some will depart from the faith, which means they were followers of Jesus. You cannot depart from the faith unless you were first in the faith (I'm not opening the

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theological can of worms of once saved, always saved. That's another lesson for another time.) My point is these were saved, not unsaved people.

3. Their deception and downfall were caused by demons!

"Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil" (**Ephesians 4:26-27 NKJV**).

Again, the book of Ephesians was written to believers not to unbelievers.

This passage warns believers to set healthy boundaries on how we express our emotions. The emotion of anger is not sinful, but if it is not dealt with in a proper manner it can lead to serious sin!

If we go to bed with unresolved anger in our heart, it can turn to wrath (which is defined as strong vengeful anger or indignation).

This will give place to the devil...or open a door to a demon in your life.

If it is impossible for born again believers to be bound by demons, then why do we find so much warning and instruction on how to resist demonic influence in the Epistles??

Obviously, it is possible for Christians to come under the influence of demons.

The question that arises then is how far can that influence go???

People often say Christians can be oppressed by demons but not possessed by demons.

While I understand the thought people are trying to convey when they say this, I do not like the terminology.

People will often say a Christian cannot be possessed by a demon because the term possession implies ownership and a person who has truly been born again belongs to the Lord! I would have to agree with this train of thought.

People will then say that a Christian can be oppressed by a demon as a way to describe a demon having influence over a believer while still acknowledging that the believer's life belongs to Christ. Again, I agree with this train of thought.

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As we read through the accounts of deliverance found in the gospels and the Book of Acts, we see the terms possessed and possession are used quite frequently to describe those who have demons.

Many agree that this is a poor translation and the word possessed would more accurately be translated demonized, which means under the power of or under the influence of a demon. I don't really like the terms possessed or oppressed; I simply use the term demonized to describe someone who needs deliverance. Again, I'm not going to stop and argue about terminology when demons are manifesting in my presence. I'm going to simply step in and cast them out (or at the least investigate the situation a little more). I feel the term demonized more accurately describes what is going on.

I believe a Christian can be demonized! I believe a large number of Christians are demonized!

A born again believer is united to the Lord and one spirit with Him (see **1 Corinthians 6:17**). A demon cannot touch the spirit of a believer.

However, the soul realm, the mind, the will, and the emotions can be greatly affected by demons. The physical body (which is still subject to the curse of sin) can be greatly affected by demons.

When I say a person is demonized, I mean that demons have internalized, in some way, in the mind and emotions of the person (thus influencing their will). At times, the demon(s) is able to take over the psychomotor functions of the body and look through the person's eyes, speak through their voice, etc. Demons manifesting themselves through the body of their host in this way does not happen often unless they are directly confronted by the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority of Christ. They will normally only manifest in this way as they are being expelled from the person's life! (In extreme cases of demonization, cases of severe disassociation, where ritual abuse or other forms of mind control and brainwashing have taken place, demons may manifest more freely and often, even when they are not being directly confronted.)

Not only do I believe Christians can be demonized, but I believe a large number of Christians in the modern world are demonized!

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Again, the term demonized means to be under the control or influence of a demon.

A good example that comes to mind when dealing with the subject of Christians and demonization is that of being a landlord.

In the past I've rented our home out to a couple different tenants. (Some tenants were wonderful; they always paid their rent on time and took good care of the property. I've also had some tenants that were a complete nightmare to deal with!)

Though the property and house legally belonged to me, I made a legal agreement that allowed other tenants to stay in in my home (I possessed the home, but they lived there.)

You and I can do the same with our lives! My suggestion is to not rent the rooms of your mind out to demons! They are always horrible tenants. They always trash the place and the process of getting them evicted can be messy and frustrating!

If you have already rented rooms of your mind out to demons, my advice is to begin the eviction process asap. While it is not fun, it doesn't get any easier with time!

Once they have been evicted, we can begin the process of cleaning up the mess they made while they were there!

Though I've found that many in the modern church are demonized, it's a reasonable assumption that demonization was rare amongst believers in the Book of Acts!

I believe there are two big reasons for this:

- 1. The way in which the early saints came into the Kingdom (in other words, the way the Gospel was presented and received) vs the way that many come into the Kingdom in modern times.
- 2. The way new converts were taught, trained, and discipled in the early Church vs the way they are taught in modern times.

Let's examine the pattern of evangelism that we see in the Gospels and the Book of Acts and see how it differs from many of the evangelistic practices of the modern-day church.

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing

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the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:5-8 NKJV).

#### Philip's pattern was:

- 1. Boldly and clearly preach the Gospel so that people understand how to be born again.
- 2. Publicly cast demons out of many people so that the authority of Christ is clearly demonstrated over the demonic and new believers are free from demonization.
- 3. Publicly perform miracles of healing to clearly demonstrate Christ's authority over sickness and disease and so that new believers are healed and healthy.

The results of this pattern?? Great joy in the city!

What was the pattern that Jesus followed when He ministered to the multitudes?

- 1. Clearly preach and teach the Word of God so that the pathway to eternal life is clearly seen and understood.
- 2. Publicly cast out many demons so that Christ's authority is clearly seen over the demonic and so that those who heard His message were set free of demonization.
- 3. Publicly heal many people so that Christ's authority is clearly seen over sickness and disease so that those who heard His message were healed and healthy.

The results of this pattern? Multitudes believed!

At evening when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him" (Mark 1:32-34 NKJV).

"But He said to them, 'Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.' And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons" (Mark 1:38-39 NKJV).

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick

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people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan" (Matthew 4:23-25 NKJV).

"When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!' And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ" (Luke 4:40-41 NKJV).

When Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the Gospel, He taught them this pattern.

- 1. Clearly and boldly preach the Gospel so that the way of salvation is understood.
- 2. Publicly cast demons out of many people so that Christ's authority is clearly seen over the demonic and so that the new believers are free from any demonization.
- 3. Publicly perform miracles of healing so that Christ's authority over sickness and disease is clearly seen so that the new believers are healed and healthy.

The results of this pattern.... Multitudes believed and, in some cases, entire cities were saved!

"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (**Luke 9:1-2 NKJV**).

"After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go" (**Luke 10:1 NKJV**).

"Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name" (Luke 10:17 NKJV).

"And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8 NKJV).

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"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mark 16:15-18 NKJV).

JESUS NEVER COMMISSIONED ANYONE TO PREACH THE GOSPEL WITHOUT ALSO EMPOWERING THEM AND COMMANDING THEM TO CAST OUT DEMONS AND HEAL THE SICK!

In Jesus' mind, if you did one of these three things or even two of these three things, your job was at best partially done!

Jesus fully intended for the pattern that He taught and demonstrated to His disciples would be taught to all believers in every generation.

"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" (Matthew 28:20 NKJV).

As you read through the Book of Acts, you see that they followed this pattern of evangelism. Specifically, what we read in **Mark 16:15-18**.

- 1. Boldly preach the Gospel.
- 2. Baptize the new converts in water immediately! (clearly teach on the significance of water baptism so that new converts understand the joy of burying the old man and rising again in newness of life with Christ (see **Romans 6**).
- 3. Cast out any demons that may be demonizing the new believers so demons from their old life will not be a hindrance in their new life with Christ.
- 4. Get the new believers baptized in the Holy Spirit immediately! This is often evidenced by speaking in new tongues. Clearly teach that this empowers us for service and causes us to become a bold witness for Christ!
- 5. Trust God for supernatural protection from harm!
- 6. Lay hands on the sick and believe for miracles of healing!

I try my best to follow this pattern when leading either an individual or a group of people to Christ!

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# Now let's examine the pattern of evangelism that is practiced in the west in modern times:

- 1. At least in most cases the Gospel is clearly presented and people are encouraged to repent and believe in Jesus to receive salvation. (THAT'S A GOOD THING! I'M IN AGREEMENT SO FAR!)
- 2. In some cases, water baptism is encouraged; it's talked about very much! (YEAH FOR THOSE WHO DO ENCOURAGE AND PRACTICE BAPTISM.) Even when it is practiced there may not be clear teaching on what baptism means; therefore, the new believer may not have faith to claim the full benefits of their baptism.
- 3. New believers are encouraged to join a good church. That's biblical and I do that with new believers as well.
- 4. Rarely, but occasionally, is the baptism of the Holy Spirit emphasized. (Often when it is clear teaching of the purpose for this empowerment is not given just a lot of emotionally charged excitement for the initial experience!) There is nothing wrong with emotionally charged excitement, I actually love that! I just believe that sound teaching is important as well! BUT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY DON'T EVEN TEACH OR EMPHASIZE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SOME EVEN TEACH AGAINST IT!
- 5. Rarely, but occasionally, someone will get the courage to pray for the sick and even more rare, but it does happen, a couple of them actually get healed! YEAH, FOR THOSE WHO DO THIS but it should not be a rare occurrence! It happened en masse, almost daily, in the life of Christ! It should be a frequent thing for all who call themselves His disciples!
- 6. ALMOST NEVER (at least in the west) ARE DEMONS DIRECTLY CONFRONTED AND DRIVEN OUT! (Again, this is only in the west; in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East everyday ordinary believers cast out demons on a regular basis.)

The results of this pattern are that people truly get born again! YEAH!!!! However, many of these new believers are not equipped and empowered to become the witness for Christ that they are called to become! Their best hope is to become a nice church member!

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Many of these believers are demonized and while there are occasions where demons may leave without being directly confronted and cast out, that is the exception not the rule! Demons typically only leave when directly confronted and commanded to do so by someone filled with the Spirit of God (even then they may not go quietly, easily, or quickly as many people assume, but the reasons for this are another lesson for another time).

If demons are confronted and driven out the day that the new believer is saved or the day they are baptized or even within the first few weeks of their new life with Christ, then the new believer will come into the Kingdom free from demonization. (They will still need to resist demonic temptation from the outside, but their soul and body will be free from internal demonic influences. They, of course, must walk in obedience and wisdom from then on so that no opportunity is given in the future for demons to enter once again... but it's the responsibility of seasoned believers to teach them and demonstrate how to do so.) This is the way Jesus intended for it to be!

If the demons are not confronted and cast out immediately and, let's say ten, twenty, or thirty years go by and then, at some point, someone ministers deliverance to them, at that point the demons will surface, manifest their presence, and come out! At this point, the person may be shocked that they had demons because they have faithfully followed Christ for so many years.

Why is this? The answer is simple because nobody cast them out! Demons typically remain until they are forced to leave! Whoever led this person to Christ or whoever baptized them should have cast these demons out that same day. Now here I am (or whoever is casting out the demons) thirty years later doing what should have been done at the beginning.

During the last thirty years, this person has been a devout follower of Jesus! Many will testify to the fruit in their life! They have studied and memorized scripture, they have given to the poor, gone on mission trips, joined the worship team, and even become pastors! They are absolutely genuine and sincere and they have often done a lot of good for their church and community! They are still, however, inhabited in some part of their soul and flesh by demonic influence, as a result they have struggled for years with sin cycles they can't overcome! They weep over their sin and because they are truly saved feel deep remorse and conviction. Each time they promise to never fall into this cycle again.... Sometimes long periods of time will go by (often with daily

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intense struggle to resist inward temptation, which that struggle in and of itself shows the sincerity of their walk with Christ), but they will fall into the same sin again because some unseen force seems to be pulling them in that direction!

They will oftentimes struggle with intense emotional immaturity, moments of explosive rage, deep depression, and even suicidal thoughts. Fear and extreme anxiety are things that seem to never fully go away no matter how much they pray, fast, memorize scripture, and go to church. (Demons are not the only cause for these emotional problems. There are many other factors to consider, but demons are much more of a reasonable culprit than many would even consider.) Suppose that nobody ever ministers deliverance to this believer. They will live and die with these demons. They absolutely will go to heaven when they die. Sadly, many go through unnecessary struggle and torment during their stay on earth!

What happens to the demons when the person dies? Good question. My experience in deliverance has taught me they that often go to the person's next of kin. If they have a living spouse or a child (that's where generational curses and soul ties come into play, again that's another lesson for another time). That's not a good inheritance to leave to your loved ones.

If we walked in the biblical pattern of evangelism including healing the sick and casting out demons along with sharing the Gospel, most people would be set free upon coming to Christ (or at least shortly after) and there would be a lot less demonized Christians.

Let's examine the pattern of discipleship that was practiced in the New Testament.

#### Jesus discipled the twelve by:

1. Jesus taught the principles of the Kingdom. Often using parables and language that people could relate to and understand. His message of prayer, fasting, and acts of generosity done in secret so that your Father in heaven can reward you openly are easily enough to understand! His teachings about forgiving people, loving your enemies, going the second mile, refusing to judge others hypocritically, surrendering all your cares and worries to God, and trusting Him to take care of you are simple concepts to understand. While these teachings are very easy to understand, living them out is a little more difficult. Jesus compared walking these

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- teachings out to walking down a narrow and difficult road! (see **Mathew Chapters 5, 6, and 7**).
- 2. Not only did Jesus clearly instruct His disciples how to live but He lived among them day and night for three and a half years. Every lesson that He taught He also demonstrated through His life. He clearly demonstrated what it looks like to love your enemies, to forgive and bless those who curse you and to go the second mile! Jesus' life lived in front of the disciples gave them an example that they could follow.
- 3. Jesus encouraged and challenged His disciples to take steps of faith while in His presence (while He was physically here on earth). He applauded their victories and corrected their mistakes. Some examples are found in **Matthew 14:13-21**, **Matthew 14:22-33**, and **Mark 9:14-29**.
- 4. Jesus sent them to live out what He taught and demonstrated to them (Luke 9:1-6, Luke 10:1-20, Matthew 10:1-26, Matthew 28:16-20, and Mark 16:15-18).

The early church followed the same pattern of discipleship that Jesus modeled for them!

By clearly teaching the principles of the Kingdom and by living and demonstrating these realities in their daily lives!

Some of the things that the early church emphasized included:

Having clean hands and a pure heart before God!

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:" (**Hebrews 12:14 NKJV**).

"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV).

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV).

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (James 4:8 NKJV).

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit

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of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (**Ephesians 4:29-32 NKJV**).

They emphasized overcoming faith! Faith that lasted through any trial, difficulty, or trauma that must be endured in this life. In fact, they taught that these trials have the potential to strengthen our faith, draw us near to God, and even set us up for the reward in this life and in the age to come! "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4 NKJV).

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12 NKJV).

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21 NKJV).

"that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead" (**Philippians 3:10-11 NKJV**).

"So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:41-42 NKJV).

"Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth" (Hebrews 11:35-38 NKJV).

"For I consider [from the standpoint of faith] that the sufferings of the present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us!" (Romans 8:18 AMP).

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These attitudes of no tolerance for sin and willingness to endure suffering and pain did many things for the early church among which was protect them from demonic influence. This is because demons gain access to human lives mainly through these two avenues.

Demons enter the lives of human beings through SIN (repeated habitual sin or severe occult and/or sexual sin). BELIEVING LIES (lies about God's word, God's character, and lies about ourselves). UNRESOLVED EMOTIONAL TRAUMA (demons prey on weakness. They are drawn to emotional pain much like sharks are drawn to blood in the water).

#### Compare this to the discipleship model that is often followed in the west:

- 1. You join a Church. (typically, churches are categorized into people who are, for the most part, of the same race and ethnicity, people of the same social class and people who share the same political views. There may be many reasons for this but perhaps even on a subconscious level, we choose a congregation of people who are very similar to us in hopes that it will make it easier for us all to get along with one another. Sadly, in most cases we don't get along with one another very well at all). Typically, this church will have a new members class or discipleship class. It runs for about 4-6 weeks. They will instruct you on the basic beliefs and doctrines of that particular organization. Some of these teachings may be good some of them may not be totally accurate or helpful.
- 2. After that, you will attend weekly meetings at this church (either for the rest of your life or until you get upset about something and leave and go to another church). Typically, these meetings will run about two hours long (give or take depending on the denomination or particular church group).
- 3. The first half of the meeting will consist of a band playing some music (the level of talent and musical excellence of this band will vary greatly from church to church). Typically, they will play worship music, three fast songs and two slow songs seems to the pattern most of the time. After that another guy will get up and give some announcements and receive tithes and offerings. After that another guy will get up and give a thirty to forty minute encouraging motivational speech with a couple of scripture verses in it. (again, the charisma and talent of the guy giving the speech will vary greatly from church to church). Typically, it will end with a word of prayer.

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4. Then we spend the remaining 166 hours of our week being trained and discipled by our culture, and trying our best to live the American dream with a little bit of Jesus sprinkled on top! I'm not trying to sound critical! I believe in being a part of a local church! All I'm saying is this is a far cry from the model of discipleship that was shown to us in the Bible. It does little to transform the world and it's almost powerless to set us free or protect us from demonic attack!

I believe all of us need deliverance, inner healing, and freedom in our lives! I've seen firsthand that there are literally tens of thousands of heavily demonized believers in the church today! If we practiced a more biblical model of evangelism and discipleship, this would not be the case.

If we get to work by first getting free and allowing God to change our hearts, then sharing our experience with those around us will have a domino effect in our families, churches, and communities! It will begin to change the culture, then perhaps by the time my grandchildren are born, Christians being demonized will be rare and Christians walking in freedom and their God-given identity and purpose will be the norm!

On the level of personal experience, seventeen years ago (at the time in this writing) I cast a demon out of a person. Since then, hardly a week has gone by that I haven't cast demons out of someone. I've ministered all over the world in many different countries! I've ministered in many different settings. I've cast demons out of individuals and large groups of people! A large majority of the people I've ministered to were born again, Spirit-filled Christians. Many are even pastors, worship leaders, and missionaries! Yet they clearly manifested demons while going through deliverance!

Most of my deliverances take place in a very public setting (there are a few exceptions to this but this was the biblical pattern for casting our demons) so I extend the invitation for anyone to follow me around for a week, a month, or a year, (depending how much time you have).

Observe and do your own research. Watch me, my family, and our ministry teams confront and cast out demons. I invite you before and after to interview the people to whom we minister, ask them about their life and what their experience of deliverance was like.

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If you take me up on this, I believe there are only a few logical conclusions that you could come to.

- 1. I'm a total con man! I have thousands of paid actors and stunt people all over the world, who put on one heck of a show in order to deceive people. (This option seems farfetched to me because it would take a huge budget and an insane amount of work to do this!)
- 2. I am doing some type of hypnotism or witchcraft to cause people to behave in very strange ways, therefore causing it to appear that they have demons, (this option could be reasonable but I warn you be careful with this one. Some of the religious leaders in Jesus' day criticized His deliverance ministry saying it had an unholy source. It was in this context that Jesus warned them about the dangers of blaspheming the Holy Spirit (see **Matthew 12:24-32**).
- 3. These are legitimate miracles of deliverance! There are indeed many more people in need of this ministry than most of us originally thought. This is something that Jesus did and taught and something we should all take more seriously!

In conclusion, yes, I believe a Christian can have a demon..... but, more importantly, I believe that same Christian can rise up and take his or her authority in Christ and drive out every demon, claim healing of every disease and walk in dominion over sin! If we correctly diagnose a problem, we will correctly treat the problem.

THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN JESUS!!