

What a Believer Should Do About Demons

As believers, Is demonic control an excuse or reason for our sinful behavior?

The Source of Sin from Within

Our Lusts ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust." We, as believers, sin because of our own lust, NOT because of demonic control.

The Flesh ¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Ga.5:19-21). These are the deeds of man, not the devil. We are the blame for these sins, not an outside force such as demons or the devil.

Evil Hearts ²¹For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²²deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy slander, pride and foolishness" (Mk.7:21-22).

Our wicked thoughts and deeds come from our own evil hearts. Demons are not to blame for our evil hearts.

SUMMARY

The believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within him. Our flesh battles against the Holy Spirit (Ro.7:18-21). In this life, this battle is never over. But God has made provision for victory over sin. "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Ga.5:24). Our flesh has been crucified. That is, the power of the flesh over the believer has been broken. This does not mean the flesh is totally done away with, for we still struggle with it.

⁶Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷for he who has died is freed from sin ...

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts..." (Ro.6:6-7, 12). Because of this we are not to let sin reign in our bodies. We do not have to obey our old master, namely sin. We are now free to serve God in righteousness. Unbelievers do not have this flesh verses the Holy Spirit battle. Their need is salvation first.

As believers, What do we expect Satan and his followers to do?

TEMPTER

Satan tempts us to do evil which may result in us feeling defeated, discouraged, or weak in faith. God sometimes uses these tests to prove us in overcoming the tests (1Pe.1:6-7); to teach us (1Pe.4:12-13), and to increase our faith and love for Him (Ja.1:12).

Satan Tempts Us To:

1. Conform to pressures of society (1Th.3:5)
2. Cover-up selfishness (Ac.5:1-11)
3. Immorality (1Co.7:5)

ADVERSARY

(1) Satan opposes our witness to the Gospel by confusing us as he plants tares among the wheat (Mt.13:38-39), taking away the Word that has been sown (Mk.4:15), arranging governmental authorities against believers (1Th.2:18), imprisoning believers to stop their testimony from spreading (Re.2:10).

(2) Bringing pressure on a believer he may not be able to bear (1Co.5). He needs to know he was forgiven (2Co.2:5-11).

ACCUSER

(1) Satan accuses us by spotlighting our sins (Re.12:10). He points out our sins to God. Thankfully, Christ, our advocate, takes our case in our defense for He paid for all our sin on the cross (1Jn.2:1-2)

(2) Satan accuses God of protecting a believer too much (book of Job).

Activity of Satan Against Believers

As Believers, What Does Scripture tell us to do?

- Trust the work of Christ is sufficient
- Claim the promises of God (1Jn.5:18-19)
- Know that Christ is our Advocate (1Jn.2:1)
- Reckon ourselves to be dead to self (Ro.6)
- Put on the Armor of God (Ep.6:13-18)
- Submit to God and resist the devil (Ja.4:7)
- Test the spirits (1Jn.4:1)

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