

THE UNAWARE INFLUENCE OF DEMONS IN THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS IN THE 21ST CENTURY CHURCH

By

Wonder Steve Omoniyi

Dynamic Theological Seminary, Kwale, Delta State Affiliated to Harvest Bible University, USA

Email: wondersteveomoniyi@gmail.com

Abstract

The precise identity of demons cannot be determined because the Bible is silent on the issue because scripture does not reveal exactly who the demons are or how they came into being; numerous theories have been advanced to account for their origin. However, demons are spirit beings without a body who seek a body to live in. They do not care whether they live in a person or in an animal but they need a body through which they can express themselves (Matt 12:43-45) The word "Demons" comes from the Greek word "daimon" or "daimonion" meaning breath or spirit. Though we cannot see them with our eyes, they do exist. Heathen cultures have always acknowledged their existence but our so-called sophisticated western society usually denies their existence. Some psychologist have describe them as "parts of the personality" but refuse to acknowledge their existence as spiritual beings. The Bible talks about their existence. Throughout the gospels we have references of Jesus casting them out of various people. In fact he said, "These signs will follow those who believe in my name they will cast out demons" (Mk 16:17)

They are real spiritual beings. They have an intense desire to live in a body. The legion of demons who live in the man who had come out of the tombs, begged Jesus to send them into the swine. They said "send us to the swine that we may enter them"

INTRODUCTION

The Bible leaves no doubt as a reality of spiritual forces. Even the Western Theologies can convince themselves that this biblical teaching is dispensable. However, the Lord has given us authority over principalities and powers of

darkness (Matt 10: 1,8,Lk 10:19). They are subject to us and do obey our orders in the name of Jesus. Jesus gave the church the authority to cast out demons(Mk 16:17)

There are facts about demons that believers need to know. The fact that the Christian church has not adequately responded to this problem despite the overwhelming acceptance of Christianity even by the Africans undermines the totality and comprehensiveness of our salvation in Jesus Christ. This is because early missionaries over-looked the issue of demon and condemned it as heathenistic. Consequently the church up till today has to a very great extent, alienated herself from addressing this problem. This is one of the reasons that this issue is being treated.

THE CONCEPT

It is quite necessary that Christians should have a vital knowledge of the devil and the works of demons in line with scripture and as manifesting in the 21st century church. Many Christians believe that once a person is born again he/she cannot be influenced by demons. There are a lot of teachings today that have allowed so many Christians to suffer demonic affliction and obsession unaware. However, proper knowledge is what delivers freedom. In Jn 8:32 and we shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free. Hos 4:6 says God's people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge. The importance of knowledge is to deliver freedom. Christians should have a proper understanding that once he/she is born again he cannot be possessed by demons but if he/she opens him/her to sin demons can come in to obsessed his/her soul or afflicts the body.

Demons are real and they still manifest themselves even today in the lives of people. Ignorance is not a permission to be free from their influence (Hos 4:6). When it comes to the subject of demons influencing Christians there are different opinions to this. Some Christians believe that once you are born again you are free totally from demons, which is not true. Some even believe that there are no demons, while others believe the subject of demons ended during the earthly ministry of Jesus. Ignorance is never an excuse to suffer demonic afflictions.

Demons have influenced the lives of so many Christians hindering them to fulfil God's agenda for their lives. Many are under perpetual stagnation and limitation

in life because of the ignorance on this subject matter, some homes and families have experienced satanic stepbacks because of the influence of demons.

So many Christians are under the influence of satanic manipulation of obsession and oppression unaware. We should note as believers that every evil in life carries a particular satanic influence behind it because everything God created was good. Whatever that is not good is not in the beginning. As believers we should have a proper understanding of who we are and ensure we live with this proper knowledge as to live in dominion and enjoy the fullness of life on Earth as children of God.

BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF DEMONS

From the Bible we understand that numerous demons roam the earth and the air space, since they do not die, they have been in the world since the beginning of time. These demons are personalities without bodies manifest themselves. They are angry with God and want to destroy what God loves or creates, especially human beings.

They are fallen angels, deathless creatures serving Satan. They are cast out of heaven to await final judgement. Their minds are permanently set to oppose God. Demon spirits can invade and dwell in human bodies. It is their objective to do so. By dwelling on a person they obtain greater advantage in controlling the person than when they are working outside the person.

In his book "Demons in the World Today" Unger wrote that Demons are unconfirmed fallen angels. In view of the Bible's silence regarding the origin of demons, the best supported deduction from scriptural hints is that demons are fallen angels. When Lucifer rebelled and introduced sin into a previously sinless universe, he drew with him a great numbers of lower celestial being(Rev 12:4)

These demons are free to roam the heavens under their leader prince, who became Satan, called "Beelzebub, prince of the demons" (Matt 12:24) "Satan and his angels"(Matt 25:41) and "the dragon and his angels"(Rev 12:7) In Satan's kingdom and under his rule, demons are his subjects and helpers(Matt 1:26). They are so numerous that Satan's power is practically ubiquitous. They are also so

well organised that Satanic strategy can use them as effectively as a commander-in-chief wielding a great army(Eph 6:11-12)

SOME WAYS THROUGH WHICH DEMONS ACT IN CHRISTIANS

They Entice: When as Christians we fail to crucify the flesh and allow unclean or wrong desires to tempt us, then we open the door to demonic power and can be enticed by demons into deeper sin(James 1:14-15)

They Harass: One of the major work of demons is to harass people, especially Christians. They are the agents of Satan set to both obstruct Christians in their walk or to prevent people turning to Jesus (Eph 6:12). **They Torment:** It is clear from scriptural that they torment but God has not given us the spirit of fear or torment, but of power and love and of a sound mind(2 Tim 1:7). Fear involves torment(1 Jn 4:18). **They Deceive:** They tell and speak lies, they deceive people especially Christians(1Tim 4:1-2).

They Defile: Many people especially Christians who have been bound by demonic activity find their minds and lives have been defiled(Titus 1:15)

They Enslave: Many Christians are enslaved today causing addiction. God has not given us the spirit of slavery but that of adoption through Jesus Christ

They Drive and Compel Christians: They want to drive and compel people if they have the opportunity. Demon can drive a Christian to commit suicide. The man from the tombs has a demon which often seized him and he was driven by the demon into the wilderness (Lk 8:29)

HOW DEMONS ENTER A CHRISTIAN

Lying: When a person love falsehood and find pleasure in it like Ananias and his wife, Sapphira Acts 5:3

Occult Practice: This is use of Black magic, charms, conjugation, fortune telling etc

Pornography and evil Imaginations: Decoration of our offices/rooms walks with nude pictures and evil imaginations can be a doorway to demonic incursions into our lives.

Keeping a familiar Object at home: These are objects which demons cling to.

Anything used in the worship of Satan is legal ground for demo into our lives.
Idolatry: Removing God from our lives and replacing Him with another thing e.g idol, money, pleasure addition etc

Sexual Obscenities: Allowing the eyes to watch dirty films, pornography, homosexuality, lesbianism etc

Adultery and fornication: Having sexual intercourse against the standard of the scripture.

Mental Attitude: Hatred, jealousy, grudge, malice, un forgiveness, bitterness etc opens the door for Satan through his demon to come into our lives

Sin: Sin open doors for demons to enter our lives

During Pregnancy: Demons may be passed into baby from the mother while in the womb

Shock: When a person is suddenly scored by something or involved in an accident an evil spirit can come in.

Hereditary: Demons may be inherited from parents

Entering Building: Demons could come into a person when he enters a building that is possessed by demons like Hotels, Hospitals, Occult houses etc

Sex in dreams: This is somehow common today. If you have sex in dreams is likelihood that demons have gain access

Eating in Dreams: When we constantly eat in dreams we can contact Demons

Through the love of money: The Love of money is enmity with God. The God of this world is already in control with his demons. We are to channel our love to two places, to God and to people.

Reading of Demonic novels: When we engage in reading Demonic novels we open our lives to demons.

HOW TO BE DELIVERED

Before deliverance would be effectively occur in our lives as christians, the following steps should be considered

Be honest with yourself and with God confess and repent of all known sins(Ps 66:18; 2 Chr 7:13-14)

Humility: Putting aside "self" and being dependent upon God and His provision for deliverance (James 4:6-7)

Repentance: a determined turning away from all sins and Satan and ensure you receive forgiveness (Amos 3:3)

Renunciation: is the forsaking of evil, an action resulting from repentance. A clear break with Satan and all his work in your life (Matt 3:7-8)

Seek for forgiveness (1Jn 1:9)

Your willingness to forgive others who offend you is absolutely essential to deliverance (Matt 18:21-35)

Prayer: Ask God to deliver you and set you free in Jesus name

Put on the whole armour of God (Eph 6:10)

Spiritual Warfare (2 Cor 10:3-5)

Abide under the covering of the blood of Jesus. Always cover yourself with the blood of Jesus. We shall call on the name of the Lord to be delivered (Rm 10:13)

HOW DEMONS LEAVE AND THEIR MANIFESTATIONS

Demons are spirit beings who do evils and they are like air. You cannot see them leave but there are some indications by which you may know that they are leaving. They leave through opening in the body. There are five sense organs in the body and they are the Eye, Nose, Mouth, Skin and Ear. They use some of these points mainly

Through the Eyes: Tears

Through the Mouth: Crying, Frothing, Crowing, Laughing, Sighing, Vomiting, Shouting, Spitting, Yawing, Itching, Belching, Roaring, Moaning

Through the Nose: Spontaneous oozing of Phlegm from the nose, Sneezing, Deep noisy breath, Blowing the nose

Other ways: Terrible odour, Urination, Faeces, Sweat in profusion, Gas We should not be afraid of manifestations which often take place in the course of deliverance, such manifestations are common in the days of Jesus deliverance ministry

".....convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said. "He is dead" (Mk 9:26)

"And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him"(Mk 1:26)

When people lie down as though dead, it is often the spirit of coma or hypnosis which is binding them, sometimes mucous comes out of the nose in great quantities and sometimes there is animal noise and yawning. Some demons come out with a sin, a roar or a scream.

Sometimes manifestation occur in the following ways

Death: The patient may feign death that is, he will be as if he is dead

Face: It is distorted and twisted may show anger or pride
Pain: Cramps nausea may be felt in various parts of the body
Serpentine: The patient hissing sounds. The patient wriggles on the ground like a snake. The eyes resemble a snake eyes. The tongue darts in and out. Body Odour: This may occur during deliverance when Odour is perceived in the body
Swaying: Swaying of the waist may be due to demon of lust, adultery or dancing
Violence: The patient may kick, jump, struggle, fight etc
Physical manifestation of the symptoms can be seen through many ways as chronic and persistent mental pain
Waste pains during menstruation
Erratic and inconsistent mental period may be for one or two days with little blood
Strange illness like low sperm count, infertility, excess fat
Frivolous anger as if one is remotely controlled
Lack of pregnancy despite all known medical diagnosis
Suggestion of living separately with no aim of divorcing your husband
Unnecessary quarrels boarding on condemnation of ones behaviour
Unfulfilled mental desires
Loose sex life
Manifest frustration
Matrimonial disharmony
Hearing strange voices
Fearful thought when alone
Not being able to control your thought life

30 WAYS OF EFFECTIVE DELIVERANCE

By prayer(Acts 12:1-10)
By commanding with Authority
By laying of hands
Cleaning of homes
Purposeful fasting(Isa 58:6)
By listening the Word of God
Using the Word of God
By Baptism in water
Anointing with oil (James 5: 14-15)
By Baptism of the Holy Spirit
By drinking the blood of in faith

Through praise(Acts 16:25-26)
 By destruction of covenant materials (Acts 19:19)
 By confessing the sins of our ancestors
 By calling the fire of God upon the enemy
 By living a holy life
 By absolutely faith in the Lord
 By personal prophecy to the situation
 By Testimony (Rev 12:11)
 By prayer of agreement
 By constant confession of your stand or position in the Lord Jesus Christ (1Jn 2:1)
 By pleading the blood of Jesus
 By asking for assistance of God's angels(Ps 34:7)
 Sometimes by breaking of evil covenants
 Sometimes by breaking of Curses(Isa 10:27)
 By participation in aggressive United prayers(Acts 4:23-24)
 By breaking in the power of the Holy Spirit
 By prayer of binding and loosing
 By using a spiritual gifts e.g spirit of discernment, word of knowledge, Revelation knowledge, open vision etc
 By worship and singing of anointed praise songs(Col 3:16)

REASONS WHY SOME PEOPLE ARE NOT DELIVERED

Lack of genuine repentance
 Lack of desperation for deliverance i.e passivity
 You are delivered to serve the Lord(James 4:3) Don't have a wrong motive for deliverance
 Failure to break with occult
 Self centeredness. Your desire for affection or recognition may cause problem for you
 Failure to serve slavish relationship
 Failure to confess a specific sin e.g abortion should be confessed as a sin of murder
 If a person is under a powerful curse
 Sometimes not separate by water baptism
 If you are part of a large base requiring corporate dealing e.g problems of heredity, generated curse, ancestral related curses etc

Failure to forgive

Failure to accept God's forgiveness we must realize that when we turn to Jesus we are accepted and loved by God and totally forgiven (Eph 1:6)

HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR DELIVERANCE AS A CHRISTIAN

Put on the whole Amount of God (Eph 6:10-18). Be watchful of any thought that could be considered negative, they are from the enemy, replace them with positive spiritual thought (Phil 4:8). Resist the devil.

Confess positively, confess what God's Word say (Mk 11:23)

Stay in the scripture (James 1:22-23; Ps 109:105; Heb 4:12)

Crucify the flesh, forsake old deadly habits(Gal 5:19-21,24)

Develop a life of continuous praise and prayer(1 The17; 1 Cor 14:14)

Maintain a life of fellowship and spiritual ministry(Heb 10:25). Keep yourself under authority (1 Cor 12:7,14)

Commit yourself totally to Christ . Determine the every thought word and action of your will reflect the very nature of Christ. Walk in daily deliverance, do not settle for anything less (Rm 5:20)

Always be filled with the Holy Spirit(Eph 5:18)

Stay with people who will be able to help you and encourage you rather than go back to your old crowned

CONCLUSION

We could now see that demons are real, spirit beings who seek to live in the body of human beings to manifest their works. We as believers should not be ignorant as to who demons are, how they act, how they enter people, ways through which they manifest, their personalities, how they leave etc. As Christians, we could be oppressed in the body through sickness and infirmities or obsessed in the soul that is in our mind, will or emotion. But a Christian cannot be possessed. We need to come to accept that there are some problems in our lives that the root source is demonic and until such demons are addressed before we can receive total deliverance.

Jesus was extensively involved in deliverance ministry while on earth. If we are to be like Jesus we can not avoid this area of ministry. **DEMONS ARE REAL. AS A CHRISTIAN IF YOU HAVE A DEMONIC PROBLEM, IT IS SAFE TO SEEK FOR DELIVERANCE.**

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