



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

THE AUTHORITY FOR FAITH IS THE REVELATION OF GOD.

**SERMON OF THE WEEK**



**DEMONS**

Mark 16:14-18 NKJV; Revelation 12:3-4 NKJV  
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**INTRODUCTION**

**Demons** seek to do one of two things in a person's life:

- ⊗ Either keep them from being saved (**Possession**)
- ⊗ Or keep them from living saved (**Oppression**)

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**1) DEMON POSSESSION**

**Demon possession** (Greek: *daimonizomai*)

- ⊗ Describes a variety of conditions, both physical and emotional-mental-psychological.
- ⊗ Cause is identified as direct demonic influence.
- † Remedy used by Jesus and Early Church – Cast them out.
- † Modern theological term = exorcise/exorcism.

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**Demon possession:**

- ⊗ Indicates the presence of demons or unclean spirits.
- ⊗ Exerting a degree of regular or intermittent and pernicious influence in a person’s life.

Symptoms associated with **Demon possession** vary significantly from one exorcism account to another:

- ⊗ Inability to speak (Matt.9:32-33 NIV & NKJV; Luke 11:14)
- ⊗ Blindness (Matt. 2:22-23 NIV & NKJV)
- ⊗ Intermittent seizures and an inability to hear (Mark 9:25-27 NIV & NKJV)
- ⊗ Matthew 17:14-20 contains a general reference to seizures associated with “great suffering.
- ⊗ **Gadarene demoniac** (Matthew 8:28-34 (Mark 5:1-20/Luke 8:26-39), symptoms of demonic influence mimic a severe psychological or psychiatric disorder which include:
  - Ferocity (Matt. 8:28)
  - Social isolation (i.e., living among the tombs—Matt. 8:28; Mark 5:2; Luke 8:27)
  - Dwelling on the mountains (Mark 5:5)
  - Driven by the demon into the desert (Luke 8:29)
  - Nakedness (Luke 8:27)
  - Self-harm (Mark 5:5)
  - Excessive strength (Mark 5:3; Luke 8:29)

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**How does one respond to those who are under demon possession?**

Same way Jesus did:

- † Rebuking them in the Name of Jesus
- † Commanding them to leave (Mark 16:17 ... *In My name they will cast out demons...* )
- † Luke 10:17 — “...saying, “*Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.*”

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## 2) DEMON OPPRESSION

- † Strong biblical evidence - Christians **cannot** be **demonic possessed**.  
Question - What influence/power does a demon have over a Christian, if any?
- ⊗ Demonic influence on a Christian - “**oppression**” distinguished from “possession.”
- ⊗ Satan and his demons “scheme” against Christians (Ephesians 6:11).
- ⊗ Demonic forces seek to **tempt** us to sin and **oppose** our efforts to obey God (as Satan attempted with Jesus, Luke 4:2).
- ⊗ Should a Christian allow the demons to succeed in these attacks, **oppression** results.

**Demonic oppression** - when a demon is temporarily victorious over a Christian:

- ⊗ Successfully tempting a Christian to sin
- ⊗ Hindering his ability to serve God with a strong testimony.

If a Christian continues to allow **demonic oppression** in his/her life:

- ⊗ The **oppression** can increase to the point that the **demon** has a very strong influence over the Christian’s thoughts, behavior, and spirituality.
- ⊗ Christians who would continue in sin, even rationalizing why it is not sin, open themselves up for greater and greater **oppression**.
- ⊗ Paul refers to such Christians being weak and sickly and even falling asleep (premature death), because of unconfessed, habitual sin in their lives (1 Cor. 11:30).

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**Confession and repentance of sin are necessary to restore fellowship with God** (1 Jn 5:18 NIV & NKJV).

- † Christian: power for victory over/freedom from demonic oppression always available (1Jn 4:4 NIV & NKJV).
- † Power of indwelling Holy Spirit: always available to overcome demonic oppression (Rom. 8:9 NIV & NKJV).
- † No demon, not even Satan himself, can prevent a Christian from surrendering to the Holy Spirit and thereby overcoming any and all demonic oppression. Resist the devil (1 Peter 5:7-9).
- † Being firm or steadfast in the faith means: relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to successfully resist demonic influence.
- † Faith is built up through spiritual disciplines:
  - a. Feeding on the Word of God
  - b. Persistent prayer (Quiet Time)
  - c. Godly fellowship (Church attendance, Hebrews 10:25).

Strengthening our faith by these means enables us to put up the shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16).

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## WHAT ARE SIGNS OF DEMONIC OPPRESSION?

To understand the signs of demonic oppression you must understand the way Satan operates because he is their leader, and they follow his cues. One of the challenges in identifying this is many times the areas of attack may not often appear demonic at all. In some instances, they can even mimic other conditions that may cause you to not consider the possibility of a demonic attack.

Three signs of demonic oppression that are possible to overlook as attacks from the enemy:

- a) **Fear** (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Tim.1:7; 1 John 4:18)
- b) **Inability to rest and nightmares** (Psalm 117:2; Numbers 12:6; Joel 2:28)
- c) **Prolonged periods of unexplained depression, God says:** (Isa. 26:3; 1Pet. 1:8; Jas. 4:7; 1Pet. 5:9)

### Have you ever thought about what is the cause of all fights and Wars?

Resistance! Someone decides not to succumb to demands or influence of another!

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## HOW DO YOU OVERCOME DEMONIC OPPRESSION?

Regardless of the form, spiritual battles require spiritual weapons.  
Thankfully, God has given spiritual weapons to us.

- † **Ephesians 6:10-18** about the *armor of God*, the power of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in you.
- † As you read these and internalize them, see that God has equipped you, you do not have to be overcome by demonic oppression.
- † Read 1 John 4:4 NLT in its entirety.

### REALIZE:

- † If you are in Christ, then the Holy Spirit lives in you.
- † By this fact alone you now have dwelling inside you the Spirit of God, who is greater than any demonic spirit that would try to oppress you.
- † However, to fight back, you must know these things to be true.
- † You must take God's Word, study it, and apply it to your life.
- † As you begin to do this, you will grow stronger and more confident in who you are in Christ.
- † This can give you what you need to fight back against demonic oppression.

**REMEMBER:** James 4:7 NKJV; 1 Peter 5:9 NKJV

### Have you ever thought about what is the cause of all fights and Wars?

- † Resistance!
- † Someone decides not to succumb to demands or influence of another!