

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Heal the sick! Raise the dead! Cast out demons!

The Bible has much to say about spiritual warfare and about angels and demons, we can see much of it in the ministry of Jesus Christ Himself. After Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead and before He ascended He showed Himself to the disciples 15And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18"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). In Matthew 10:8 Jesus said "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." Jesus Christ died, rose again, revealed Himself and set to service those who believed! Signs and wonders as well as healing and casting out devils is every Christian's job. When Jesus returns will He find you working?

It is important to note that the ministry of deliverance is for Believers of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Believers must have a need for it, which means that they can be pressed, oppressed, depressed and possessed with demonic influence. It is a very relevant ministry today just as it was in the days that Jesus Christ walked the earth. The first way to deliverance is to believe there is a need for it.

I would like to address the question "*can a Christian have a demon or be possessed by a demon?*" It is imperative that we understand the word possessed in the original meaning of the Bible in order to answer that question. Of course there are two schools of thought on this subject, one is *yes* and one is *no*. I say *yes* and I will explain why.

There are two Greek words used in the NT for the word possessed one of these words implies ownership, however, the other word is found in the KJV Bible as *possessed by devils*. For years the teaching was wrong on possession and people disagreed that they could be possessed by a demon when they were owned by God. They were right, a demon cannot own us but they can possess or demonize us!

The words *possessed by devils* comes from the Greek word *daimonizomai* (Strong's G1139) and it simply means to be under the power of a demon. The Scripture references for this word can be found in Mat 4:24, 8:16, 8:28, 8:33, 9:32, 12:22; Mark 1:32, 5:15-18; and Luke 8:36. All of these Scriptures refer to those who were possessed by a demon or under the power of a demon. In Act 8:7 and 16:16 we see another word used for *possession* and it is translated from the Greek word *echo* meaning; to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to have (hold) possession of the mind (refers to alarm, agitating emotions, etc. To have i.e. own, possess such as is used of those joined to any one by the bonds of natural blood or marriage or friendship or duty or law

etc., of attendance or companionship. It also means to hold one's self to a thing, to lay hold of a thing, to adhere or cling to, be closely joined to a person or a thing.

If we are to consider the Greek meaning of the words used in the Bible we can see that it is possible for a Christian to be overpowered by a demon and to be closely joined to a thing (or a demon). Now before we get up in arms about this let us remember that Jesus has given His disciples all authority over demons. "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases." Luke 9:1 We are His disciples as well and because the Holy Spirit lives in us, which is God, we have the same authority as the disciples had in the days that Jesus was on the earth in flesh.

Satan has come to kill and destroy, he still roams the earth looking for someone he can wipe out either by death or destruction he really doesn't care. God loves us, Satan hates God therefore, he hates everything God loves and is hell bent on destroying those things while he still has time on this planet! Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and to teach us to do the same. It's high time the Bride of Christ gets this understanding and starts taking back what is His! We won't fight for things we don't believe in and we won't stand up to the devil if we don't believe he can hurt us.