

Chapter Sixteen

Dealing With Demons And Their Effects

Psalm 149:5-9

Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;

7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

*8 **To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;***

9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

It is our privilege to deal with evil spirits the same way that God deals with them. He gave us authority to put them in chains, and this is an honor for us to do wherever and whenever we encounter them! Here's how God deals with them:

2 Peter 2:4

*For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, **and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;***

Jude 1:6

*And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, **he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.***

Luke 10:17-20

*And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, **even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.***

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

*19 **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***

*20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, **that the spirits are subject unto you;** but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

So you see, it is not only available to deal with spirits decisively, but it should become part of one's normal Christian walk to do so. This includes ordering them into chains of darkness to be reserved for the judgment of Christ. You become a particular terror to them when you detect their presence and you use the name of Jesus Christ to command their obedience. Therefore evil spirits desperately want believers to be ignorant of their presence and operations, lest the believer notice them and cast them out (or worse for them – to chain them in darkness in the abyss) merely by commanding them to go in the name of Jesus Christ (that name at which every knee must bow). This is an honor and a privilege for every saint to do. Part of the continuing problems faced by many believers hinges on their ignorance (and often their unwillingness) to discern the influence of an evil spirit, and how to deal with it once it is discovered.

So don't be as I have been in past times -- far too tolerant of a demonic attack on my health. You will find that when you get in the habit of putting an evil spirit into chains, you will have fewer

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How Can I Get My Healing From God?

spirits to deal with, and they will be more anxious to leave when you are around and have your discerning antennas on. This isn't to say we should become cocky or to go looking for spiritual fights, but when you encounter them, be aggressive and realize you are doing Christ's work to chain them up.

For an evil spirit to gain access to afflict a believer, it must acquire the spiritual authority to do so. Some of the ways they do this have been discussed already, such as sin (including unforgiveness), the permissive words of agreement from our own lips, curses (such as generational curses) and issues, disobedience to revelation, ignorance of spiritual principles regarding how satan works, ignorance of the believer's authority to overcome satan, and most especially an anemic relationship with the Great Physician, Jesus Christ.

There is something concerning our relationship with Jesus Christ and dealing with evil spirits that must always be kept in mind. It is this: dealing with the devil and his spirits is really not about dealing with him. It is about dealing with Jesus, who openly triumphed over the devil. Some believers become rattled and nervous when contemplating age old issues regarding how to handle demons, and they wonder if teaching about them isn't tantamount to giving them space and authority. So rather than argue, let's simply remember this from Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 23:14

*For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, **and to give up thine enemies before thee**; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.*

By definition, if we are in the place of sweet fellowship with the Master, gathering revelation manna at His feet each day, we will be in the place of holiness before Him. If our camp is thus holy, He will deal with our enemies, and we will not have to do so, other than to have the joy of throwing them into the deep or casting them out as the Lord directs. My point is, this should be no more challenging than dealing with a hangnail or a splinter.

2 Chronicles 16:9

*For the eyes of the Lord run to and for throughout the whole earth, **to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him**. Herein thou has done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.*

A perfect heart is a heart that is laboring to enter the Lord's rest, the secret place of the Most High. He becomes strong on our behalf when we stay sweet with Him in His presence. Evil spirits? Don't sweat too hard, as long as you keep close to Jesus's lips as sheep that hear the voice of their Shepherd.

Obviously I am endeavoring to show the reader that satan is far more easily handled as we draw near to our loving Lord and Savior. Those who have not developed such a relationship with Him, who have not walked in covenant with Him, will have varying degrees of success in dealing with demons. And make no mistake, demons bring sickness, and lots of it.

Let us now consider one last point about devils. As mentioned previously, an evil spirit requires authority to gain access. One of the ways in which authority can be obtained to attack believers is

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through cursed objects, such as ungodly trinkets, statues, artifacts, worldly music, writings, movies, and even heirlooms to which evil spirits are able to attach themselves.

I began to learn about this topic on my first missionary trip to India in 1997. After preaching at an open air crusade one evening, hundreds of people began to line up for healing prayer. So many wonderful miracle healings occurred – their faith was high, even though it was probably the first time I had ever ministered healing in that way before. It was quite a confidence booster, a faith building experience for me. I had never seen so many people healed before. Tuberculosis, broken bones and funny joints, crippling arthritis, all kinds of things were healed by the power of God. He is so ready to join us when we step up in faith to minister to His people!¹

But I noticed that every now and then, a person would fail to be healed. When it happened the first time that night, I stepped back and asked God what the problem was. He told me in a word, “cursed jewelry.”

It happened to be a lady. I learned that in India, the culture is such that women wear jewelry, and it is often dedicated to Hindu gods. The reason why they were not receiving their healing is that because of this dedication, the jewelry carried authority which demons were able to ride upon. The people wearing these objects were blocked from receiving their healing. When I explained to them the problem, and why they were not getting healed, the ones that removed their cursed jewelry immediately were healed. Some did not, and they walked away without gaining the healing they were seeking.

Cursed objects are a significant obstacle for many believers. Without realizing what they have in their own homes, or around their own necks, they often don't realize why they are being hindered from gaining their healing. Although this is one of many such clever methods satan uses against God's people, I mention it here simply to point out one example. The Lord by revelation is pleased to show us what baggage we may have in our lives that needs to be jettisoned to receive His promised healing.²

¹ I am always encouraging ministers and faith filled believers to get out of their comfort zones and go minister in a foreign country where people have desperate faith for being healed. The enormous meeting of your faith with their faith, together with stepping out for God to preach, teach, and heal is one of the most practical ministry boosts one will ever see. It imparts practical ministry building tools of faith that accelerate one's growth in ministry. Often we must be willing to go in order to grow!

² For more extensive coverage of this topic, see *Succeeding In Spiritual Warfare: Lessons From Joshua*, and also the chapter on “Cleansing The Home” published in the Marriage Seminar: *How To Walk By The Spirit In Your Marriage* book. Both of these books are noted in the Resources appendix of this booklet.

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