

# Spiritual Warfare

Fall 2022

## Lesson 5 – Demons and Their Activities

Satan is a created being and therefore not **omnipresent**. He can only be one place at once. This means he needs **helpers** to do his bidding.

### What We Can Know about the Powers of Darkness

- They seek to **inhabit** people (Matt. 12:43-45).
- They have different **personalities** (some beg, some are arrogant, some angry, some weak)
- They are **destructive**.
- They cause **illness**. (Matt. 4:24; 8:16; 10:1, 8; 12:22; 17:14-18; Mk. 1:34; 6:13; Lk. 7:21; 8:2, 36; 9:42; Acts 5:16; 8:7;)
- It seems they exercise authority over geographical **regions** and governments. (Deut. 32:8-9; Dan 10:13, 20-21; Ps. 82)
- It seems they are attached to **curses**, damaged emotions, and sin.
- They often come in groups with a **hierarchy** (Mk. 5).

### Three Types of Ground-Level Spirits

There are three types of ground-level demons: (1) family spirits, (2) occult spirits, and (3) ordinary spirits. Typically, family spirits are the **strongest**, followed by occult spirits, then ordinary spirits.

#### *Type 1: Family Spirits*

Family spirits are those that are inherited from generation to generation within families. It's common in cultures for people to **dedicate** their children to family spirits for well-being (protection, fortune, good health, talents, and abilities, etc.). These spirits can be passed even without a **formal** dedication. There's no way of knowing how many generations back the dedication can go for the spirit to be inherited.

#### *Type 2: Occult Spirits*

Occult spirits are those that come from membership in religions, cults, or occult **organizations**. Like family spirits, these can be passed down to succeeding generation, even to children and grandchildren who have not been dedicated. Dealing with occult spirits requires renouncing/canceling the rights the spirit has on a person. These rights are typically given through vows, curses, or dedications. Occult spirits are involved in world **religions** (Islam, Buddhism, Mormonism, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, Folk Religion, etc.).

#### *Type 3: Ordinary Spirits*

Ordinary spirits are those that gain a legal right to people because the people hang on to (wallow in) unforgiveness, anger, hatred, fear, shame, feelings of rejection, hurt, lust, etc. These are the spirits we see most when dealing with deep **healing**.

### Six Ways Demonization Happens

#### *Way 1: Through Conscious Invitation*

Demons can enter a person by **conscious** invitation. A conscious invitation happens whenever there is **deliberate** involvement with or worship of gods, spirits, or powers other than the true God. This can happen through participation in non-Christian religions and/or occult organizations. This would include Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age, Scientology, Freemasonry, Mormonism, Christian Science, Jehovah's witnesses, occult organizations, leaders of New Age groups, fortune-tellers, psychics, or witches.

#### *Way 2: Through Unconscious Invitation*

Unconscious invitation is more **subtle** than conscious invitation. Demons gain rights when someone **wallows** in negative attitude, usually in reaction to some difficult experience. This includes, but is not limited to

shame, guilt, bitterness, resentment, rage, depression, fear, worry, hatred, rebellion, rejection, abandonment, control, and sexual sins.

#### *Way 3: Through Addictive Behavior*

Repeatedly giving into **temptations** give room to demonic stronghold. Addictions include pornography, alcohol, drugs, gambling, self-rejection, self-hatred, self-condemnation, envy, or even jealousy.

#### *Way 4: Through Inheritance*

Demons can be passed through **bloodlines**. They can live in people whose parents and/or grandparents were in non-Christian religions, witchcraft, or occult organizations.

#### *Way 6: Curses*

Curses are **hateful** words aimed at a person (even the self). Sometimes curses are formalized through ritual including vows, oaths, pact-making, spells, and hexes.

### **Nine Activities Demons Promote**

1. **Disruption.** Demons **aggravate** existing situations. They push, prod, tempt, and entice people to make poor or unwise decisions. They work to make bad things worse and get people to overdo good things so that once-good things are no longer positive.
2. **Temptation.** Satan tempted Eve (Gen. 3:1-7) and Jesus (Matt. 16:21-23). It seems they can put ideas in people's minds and tempt in areas of greatest **vulnerability**.
3. **Hiddenness.** Demons like to stay **hidden**. They want people to think they don't exist. Being aware that a problem is demonic is more than half the battle.
4. **Fear.** Demons want us to fear them. It keeps us under their **control**. Demons can be greatly weakened through repentance and inner healing. They are not to be feared.
5. **Deceit.** Deceit is one of the **primary** strategies of the demonic. They lie about people and God. They also slander. Their lies can be direct contradictions or sometimes indirect questioning of truth.
6. **Hindrance.** Demons want to stop the advance of the gospel and the spreading of the Kingdom of God. They hinder Christians from effectiveness in ministry and non-Christians from receptivity to the gospel. They will attack Christians to keep them in church or attending Bible study, small group, or any place where grace is dispensed into their lives. They push to make our minds **wander** to distract from sermons or edifying messages.
7. **Accusation.** Demons **cripple** through accusation. They whisper accusations of others and undermine relationships. They especially make accusations about God (Gen. 3).
8. **Enablement.** Demons enable **compulsions**. They delight in helping people to develop a compulsive approach to both good and bad behavior. They encourage harmful compulsive behavior as well as overdoing "good" things like work, study, doctrinal purity, family, achievement, etc.
9. **Harassment.** Demons want to disrupt our lives using whatever **means** possible. This includes traffic, weather, health, stress, relationships, sleep, eating habits, and even mechanical objects (cars, computers, etc.).

### **Common Myths About Demons**

1. **People are Possessed by Demons.** There's a difference between demonization and possession. Possession is very rare. Demonization, however, is common.
2. **Deliverance Always Entails a Fight.** This is one of the lies of the enemy. Deliverance can come quietly and peacefully. Key to a calm deliverance is weakening the demonic through inner healing and repentance.
3. **Demonization is Simply Psychological Illness.** The Bible is clear that demons are personalities.
4. **The Demonized Are Guilty of Spiritual Rebellion.** Demonization can come from damaged emotions, pre-conversion sin, or even family spirits that have nothing to do with spiritual rebellion.

5. **Problems Are Either Demonic or Psychological.** Our culture likes a “one or the other” mentality. It’s possible that there are demonic causes behind psychological illnesses, or that they simply use those illnesses to confuse and further destroy.
6. **All Emotional Problems Are Caused by Demons.** Most of the time what’s necessary is crucifying the flesh, not deliverance from demons.
7. **Only Those with Special Giftings Can Cast Out Demons.** All Christian’s are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and can be used by God to cast out demons. God does the work, not us.
8. **Demonization is Uncommon in the West.** Demons like to stay hidden, as we’ve seen. They want us to think they are uncommon in the west but they are prolific everywhere outside of the church and in some circumstances in the church.
9. **The Demonized Speak in a Different Voice.** Demons can speak in other voices or language, but this isn’t common because it reveals them. They like to stay hidden. Demons can be a “behind the scenes” influence on people to cause disruption.
10. **Inner Voices Are Sure Evidence of Demonization.** Inner voices that cause torment and disorientation could be identity disassociate disorder (DID) or multiple personality disorder. These can be related to demonic activity but not necessarily so. All humans have different aspects of their personality that bring different perspectives into situations. This is common. It is cause for concern when the voices are harassing or tormenting the individual or disrupting daily life.