

Doctrines Taught by Demons

Purpose: to clarify the nature of “evil spirits” in order to show who it is we are fighting against and to encourage to be aware but not to fear.

Suppose that you were in a ring with a heavyweight boxer, thinking that you were there for an interview. When the bell rings, you will be in for a shock, as you would be completely unprepared for the battle.

In the same way, we are in a battle against the forces of darkness, yet most of us are unaware and unprepared. We have already considered the characteristics of people in these last days:

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Now we are looking at something else that Paul wrote about the last days:

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Last time I spoke about deceiving spirits, but this has led me to deal with a couple of questions:

- What is the nature of “evil spirits” – what are they like and what do they do?
- What is the difference between a deceiving spirit and a doctrine taught by demons?

What are demons/devils/evil spirits?

- Evil began with the fall of an angel, Satan. Here are a few things to know about him:

- Satan is the leader of the kingdom of darkness

Matthew 12:24-26

Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?"

- He is not ugly

2 Corinthians 11:14,15

And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- His titles suggest his nature:
 - Lucifer (light bearer, son of the morning)
 - Serpent
 - Satan (tempter)
 - Dragon
 - Devil
 - Beelzebub (lord of the flies)
 - the Evil One
 - ruler of this world
 - god of this age
 - prince and power of the air

- Satan sinned from the beginning
 - 1 John 3:8
 - He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

- Satan was a liar from the beginning
 - John 8:44
 - You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Satan is an adversary
 - 1 Peter 5:8
 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- His fall was followed by the fall of many other angels
 - Luk 10:18 - And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
 - Rev 12:4 - His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

- Satan is responsible for the character of demons
 - Mat 25:41 - "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:
 - Rev 12:9 - So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- Satan does not possess the characteristics of God:
 - Omnipresent – he is in one place at one time

- Omniscient – he does not know everything
 - Omnipotent – he is not all-powerful
 - Eternal – he is a created being
 - Satan is not in any way an equal or rival to God.
- How are demons described?
 - They are called the “angels who sinned”
2Pe 2:4 - For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
 - Some are called “familiar spirits”
Lev 20:6 - 'And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.
 - A few are labeled by their actions:
 - Mark 9:25
When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "**Deaf and dumb spirit**, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"
 - Acts 16:16
Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a **spirit of divination** met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.
 - Most of them are called unclean spirits
 - Mark 1:23
Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out...
 - Luke 9:42
And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father.
- What are they trying to do?
 - They aim to hinder the purposes of God for all human beings
 - They aim to extend the authority of Satan
 - They aim to mislead the lost (preventing salvation)
 - They aim to wage warfare against believers (making them weak/preoccupied/fruitless, Ephesians 6:12; Matthew 13:22)

There is a difference between possession and oppression (influence)

- Possession –
 - Mark 5:7,8
And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"

- Oppression –

Acts 10:38

...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were **oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him.

Matthew 4:23,24

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and **torments**, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

These are the enemies that we fight against:

Eph 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Eph 6:11 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

If you are a believer, you have nothing to fear from them:

2 Kings 6:8-17

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan." Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Luke 10:17-20

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Conclusion:

The next time you are in the ring ...

- Know who you are fighting
- Know that you have backup – angels, the word of God, the Holy Spirit, etc. (there are more with us than with them)
- Be aware, but do not be afraid!