

FEBRUARY

## DEMON POSSESSION

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your prayers and kind generous support. Over the past 38 years I have received hundreds of letters and phoned calls dealing with demon possession. Below is a typical letter I recently received. The names and addresses have been changed for privacy reasons.

*My name John Samuels . I'm a youth minister at First Christian Church in California. I have a student that is claiming to see demons. He says that this demon told him his name was "Malia". He also claims that he's hearing noises in the home and has seen object move by themselves. His parents have never seen, heard, or felt any thing in their home. We have prayed over him and the home as well as the entire family. I don't know what to do next. I'm wondering if any thing is really happening at all. Any help that you could give me would be greatly appreciated.*

Ben's reply:

There is a danger in assuming demon possession, a person could be mentally ill, suffering from brain damage, split personality or multiple personalities, psychiatrists claim the reason for this problem is often traced to the victim being sexually abused as a child, the personality is often used as a defense mechanism against adults.

Another aspect of demon possession is that the person may be suffering from **psychosis** this is a major mental disorder in which the personality is very seriously disorganized and contact with reality is usually impaired. This person may believe something which is not true, or he may hear voices or see things which are not there, some cannot tell the difference between fantasy or reality. This is not demon possession, this is an illness which requires medical treatment.

Christians are prone to illness, organic and mental: God sometimes permits mental sickness to come into our lives. But He also provides relief through the love of Christians who care and understand, also God has given us doctors and medical treatment. Let us be careful not to label every time we see strange behavior as demon possession.

## THE DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

This type of ministry is of some concern to me, nowhere in the Bible are we told to have a deliverance ministry. Those who practice this ministry claim that even Christians can be possessed by demonic spirits I spoke to one lady who told me she was a Christian but was possessed by a spirit, I cannot remember the type of spirit that she told me that she was delivered from. These pseudo exorcists claim they deliver Christians from spirits of lust, anger, jealousy, hasty haughty spirits. A serious danger in considering all these sins to be demons is that the individual may feel no responsibility for his actions and feel that the necessity for repentance removed.

Actually, the Bible calls men to repent of these things and to put off these attitudes. The great conflict within us, is not between the Holy Spirit and demons, it is between the

indwelling Holy Spirit and the flesh

**The word spirit can mean an attitude or a disposition. David spoke of a “Broken spirit” Paul came to Corinth “ not with a rod but with love and a “gentle meek spirit” Peter speaks of a meek and quiet spirit “**

Unless the context shows that an independent spirit being meant, it seems best to take most phases such as a

Haughty spirit

Hasty spirit

Spirit of lust

Spirit of jealousy; **to be sins of the flesh and not demons.**

### BIBLICAL DELIVERANCE

Exorcist spend hours casting out demons that may not even be there. The casting out of demons in the Bible was a miracle, it was done instantly. When Jesus cast out a demon, it was performed instantly, He just said a word (Matthew 8:16) in Matthew \*:32) we learn the word was “Begone” again when Paul cast out a demon in Acts16:18 the demon came out immediately.

I believe there are our steps to deliver a soul from bondage

1: Prayer

2: Teach the Gospel

3: Agape love to the victim

4: That person must repent, must be baptized must live a Godly life

**WE DO NOT FIGHT SATAN WITH EXORCISM BUT WITH EVANGELISM. WE ARE TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO THE SAVIOR WHO HAS ALREADY TRIUMPHED OVER SATAN AND HIS HOST.**

**WE ARE TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE NOT TO SCHEMES OF DELIVERANCE BUT TO THE DELIVERER HIMSELF “JESUS”**

God bless you

Love in Christ

Ben

**IMPORTANT: Our forwarding agent has moved to Georgia, Please send future mail to**

**P.O. Box 307 Kennesaw, Georgia 30156**