

## DEMONOLOGY (10)

The Apostle Peter implied that when we yield to fleshly things, which are lustful, we open ourselves up to a major war against our own soul (I Pet. 2:11). His counsel was to “abstain” from lustful things. Clearly the implication is that there is a demonic power at work in immoral and lustful things and the best way to stay away from any influence in this area is to stay away from it. There is no question that those who are involved in immoral and perverted activity are under the influence of demons.

In I Corinthians 10:20-21, Paul warns the believers not to go to the immoral temple rituals which were in Corinth and he was very clear that it was a demonic place. This is one reason why the Apostle Paul did not want us even associating with immoral people, especially those who are immoral and profess to be a believer (I Cor. 5:9; 15:33).

Those who are involved in lustful and immoral things are involved in that which is demonic.

**Influence Way #3** - Demons influence people in ways that are afflictive.

There is no question that some physical problems and mental problems and afflictions are the result of demonic influence. There is no question that certain types of death are demonically-produced suicides, murders and some catastrophic tragedies that take the lives of people. Satan was permitted to send a tornado-type wind to devastate Job and kill his children. Many afflictions may have Satan as the source (Matt. 4:24; Mk. 1:32, 34; Lk. 7:21; 9:1; Acts 5:1-11; Rev. 6:12-17).

It needs to be observed that the Bible does not classify every sickness or death or catastrophic tragedy as being demonic. To assume that all sickness and afflictions are of Satan is a very inaccurate assumption.

At the present time we do not have the apostolic ability to determine who is really influenced by demons and who isn't. Our responsibility is to point people to the delivering power of God, which is only found in Jesus Christ.

**Influence Way #4** - Demons influence people in ways that are idolatrous.

Demons are actively involved in promoting anything and everything that will keep people from a true, pure worship of the God of the Bible. Demons draw people away from a focus on God and His Word through that which is political and religious. He uses entertainment, sports and education to try and lure people away from God. You may be certain behind every American idol and every international idol anywhere in the world is the workings of demons (I Cor. 10:9-10).

The ultimate climax of this demonic activity will come during the Tribulation when demons will actually be worshipped (Rev. 9:20). But God's Word is very clear that all that is demonic and idolatrous will be destroyed.

## DEMONOLOGY (11)

Demons are out to oppose God and turn people away from God and His Word and they use many of their resources to lure a person into that which is idolatrous.

**Influence Way #5** - Demons influence people in ways that are religious.

Demons work very heavily in the arena of religion and in the arena of religious thinking. They appear as “angels of light.” Dr. Ryrie observed that the work of demons in false religion manifests itself in three ways (*Basic Theology*, pp. 164ff):

- 1) Demons promote a worthless Savior—they tamper with Christ’s person—I John 4:1-4
- 2) Demons promote a works salvation—they tamper with pure grace—I Tim. 3:16-4:5
- 3) Demons promote a libertine ethic—they convince people wrong is right—Rev. 2:20-24

**(Demonic Connection #3)** - There is real demon obsession.

This is a tactic of Satan in which a person becomes so caught up with the subject of Satan and demons that it becomes “the” major dominating focal point of one’s thinking. Satan has tripped up many a believer into getting his or her focus off God and fixated on Satanism and demonism. The thing that a believer should be consumed with is “rightly dividing” Scripture and accurately understanding God’s Word.

We need to remember that Satanism and demonism are sub-points of one doctrine—Angelology. Angelology is only one of the major doctrines of the faith. Therefore, to devote one’s total focus to these subjects is to limit one’s understanding of the rest of the deep things of God and thus remain distorted and negligent. Typically, those who become obsessed with Satan and demons have a very shallow grasp of the Word of God and sound doctrine. We must all realize the potential danger of becoming obsessed with these themes because this in itself is a subtle attack of demonic activity.

Dr. Chafer put this into proper perspective when he wrote:

“The power of Satan and his fallen angels is limited. They are but finite creatures who can do nothing outside the permissive will of God. Satan could do nothing against Job (and this was his complaint) until divinely permitted to do so. Satan and his angels are in possession of great knowledge, but they are not omniscient; they have vast power, when permitted to employ it, but they are not omnipotent; they cover the world by their delegated responsibility, but they are not omnipresent. They can suggest evil, but cannot coerce the will of another creature. They may spread snares and devices to ruin the children of God, but they cannot compel any other being to comply with their designs. They have power over nature when permitted to use it, but they can create nothing, nor can they employ God’s creation other than as He decrees. They never defeated God. In truth, God uses Satan as an instrument to chasten and correct the erring saints (Lk. 22:31-32; I Cor. 5:5; I Tim. 1:20). The knowledge of these limitations cannot but be a comfort to those Christians who take seriously their conflict with the powers of darkness” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2, p. 75). The more we know of God’s Word, the stronger our faith and defense. Satan and his forces are far inferior to the Glorious God of the Bible.

## DEMONOLOGY (12)

**QUESTION #8** – How does God view people who dabble in satanic or demonic things?

It is clear that people who are right with God stay far away from the satanic and demonic. For example, when some occultists came to know the Lord in Ephesus, they immediately got rid of anything connected to Satan and demons (Acts 19:15-20). God does not look favorably upon one who dabbles in any satanic or demonic area and His Word is very clear on this point:

There are six passages of Scripture that give us a good perspective of God's perception of these things. **One important point to note is that five of the six passages are aimed straight at believers.**

**(Passage #1)** - Deuteronomy 18:9-14 - One dabbling in demonic things is detestable to God.

**(Passage #2)** - Leviticus 20:6 - One dabbling in demonic areas loses the favor and blessings of God.

**(Passage #3)** - Leviticus 20:27 - One dabbling in demonic things deserves death.

**(Passage #4)** - I Chronicles 10:13-14 - God may physically execute one who dabbles in demonic things.

**(Passage #5)** - I Samuel 15:23 - One dabbling in demonic things will never reach full potential in life or ministry.

**(Passage #6)** - Revelation 21:8 - One dabbling in demonic things deserves hell.

God does not ever look or speak favorably concerning any person who dabbles in satanic or demonic things. If a person is an unbeliever and has been involved in these types of activities, he/she should immediately admit his/her sin and ask Jesus Christ to be his/her Savior. If a person is a believer, he/she should immediately admit he/she has grossly sinned against God and should confess it and turn from it. John says if a believer will confess sin, God will forgive sin (I John 1:9).

**QUESTION #9** – What are some of the ways that people come in contact with the satanic and demonic world?

These are all things that believers should completely avoid and, if they have ever been involved in them, they should immediately confess:

**(Contact Way #1)** - Sorcery

The Hebrew word indicates that this is a person who offers prayers and worship to someone or something other than the true God of the Bible. Some passages indicate people who contact Satan or demons do at times receive special answers and powers because of their request—Exodus 7:11; Daniel 2:2. This type of person would be highly committed to the occult and would actually pray and worship Satan, demons, and forces of evil.