

## Where Evil Spirits Came From And How To Cast Them Out

'There was a man in the synagogue who had an unclean spirit and he cried out with a loud scream, "Ahh! What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know Who You are – the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" When the demon had thrown the man down, it came out of him without injuring him. They were amazed and said, "What Word is this? For with authority and power He commands the evil spirits and they come out?"' (Luke 4:33 to 36).

We have written this Bible study for your information, solely to deal with the subject of the devil, fallen angels, evil spirits and how to take authority over them. There are references to evil beings scattered throughout the Bible and the scriptures describe the actions and outcomes of those evil entities. The devil, fallen angels and evil spirits are the wicked principalities and powers that stand before God (Job 1:6; 2:1). Fallen angels dwell in heavenly places causing havoc and offence but evil spirits dwell on earth causing chaos, sickness and death. The Lord Himself in His sovereignty sometimes uses the devil and evil spirits for His own purposes and when He has finished with them, they will be thrown into the lake of fire, the place Jesus called the eternal fire, Gehenna or Shoal, for all eternity along with the false prophet and the beast, and we will be free of them forever. The lake of fire was created for God's judgement on the devil and fallen angels (Matthew 25:41). Before they rebelled, the lake of fire did not exist. 'The beast was taken with the false prophet ... These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur ... The devil who deceived mankind was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet are. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever ... The cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death' (Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 21:8).

Although we have God-given authority over all the power the invisible evil creatures once had, we are not to gloat about it. 'Jesus called the twelve apostles together and gave them power and authority over all demons ... I have given you authority to trample upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power the enemy has and nothing will in any way harm you. Do not rejoice because the evil spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven' (Luke 9:1; 10:19 & 20). Jesus stripped the evil forces of all their power. 'Jesus, stripped the principalities and powers, making a show of them openly, triumphing over them on the cross' (Colossians 2:15). Christians must not become puffed up with pride because we have been given authority over the devil and all the powers of darkness. We need to keep in mind, it was pride that caused the devil's downfall. We are not permitted to call the devil names nor condemn the evil forces. 'When the Archangel Michael was contending with the devil, argued over the body of Moses, he dared not bring an abusive condemnation against him but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you"' (Jude 9). God speaks to the devil and evil spirits without any malice or anger. If the Lord Himself, Jesus and Michael speak to the devil calmly without harsh words or name calling, so should we. We should always cast out demons the same way Jesus did by speaking with authority, telling the demons to be quiet and ordering them to come out of the person. We cannot improve on His method. Jesus never sent an evil spirit to hell as some Christians think they should. On one occasion Jesus commanded an evil spirit never to return to a child (Mark 9:25) and scripturally that is our limit too. It is not our place to condemn them. That is the Lord's prerogative. There is an appointed time for their judgement and they know it. 'They shrieked, "What have You to do with us Jesus Son of God? Have You come to torment us before the appointed time?"' (Matthew 8:29).

'All things were made by Jesus and without Him was not one thing made' (John 1:3). 'By Jesus all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, evil principalities and powers, all things were created by Him and for Him' (Colossians 1:16). 'God created all things through Jesus, so through the assembly (church) the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the principalities and powers in heavenly places according to the eternal purpose which He intended through Jesus our Lord' (Ephesians 3:9 to 11). These verses tell us, the Lord created the principalities and powers for His own good purposes, but God did not create them as wicked beings. Fallen angels are spiritual beings and when they were first created they were perfect, holy angels that were initially created to do good, but later they chose to rebel and become wicked, becoming evil through their own rebellion. They chose to disobey God's commands, bringing His wrath and judgement. According to the scriptures, two thirds of the holy angels have remained holy and the only cherub that ever rebelled was the devil. The devil does not have 'divine rights' as some preachers claim. He is merely a created cherub that has rebelled and fallen into sin. He was actually the very first of any of God's creation to rebel against Him. The devil was never an archangel. Angels and cherubim are very different. The devil was initially created as a beautiful, anointed, holy, blameless cherub, not as the evil thing he is now. The devil is the ultimate evil being that has dominion over all other evil beings, both on earth and in heaven. He gives them their authority (Revelation 13:2). He

once had dominion over mankind until Jesus came and stripped him of it, then that authority was given to people who submit to God's will. That is one reason the devil tried so hard to stop Jesus; he did not want to lose his dominion over humanity. The devil is the prince or chief over all fallen angels and evil spirits. The Bible names him Beelzebub, Beelzebul or Baalzebub (Matthew 12:24) which translates as the 'lord of the flies'. The King James Version of the Bible names the anointed cherub Lucifer, but the original Hebrew scriptures name him, Helel, meaning 'Son of the dawn'. Lucifer means 'Waning moon' so where that name originated is unclear. Under the devil's control are fallen angels that lurk in the second heaven known as heavenly places. Under their control are the evil spirits that roam the earth. The scriptures describe the pride then fall of the anointed cherub named Helel, who was rejected from heaven and renamed satan, which means the accuser or adversary, so he lost His original God-given name. Scriptures reveal the precise time in history when the devil rebelled; about 6,000 years ago, after the heavens and earth were created but before Adam and Eve were created. He was ejected from the highest heaven and thrown to the earth. Jesus said He witnessed the devil fall from heaven as quickly as a bolt of lightning (Luke 10:18). The devil ended up in the Garden of Eden where he later deceived Eve. The devil acted alone when he deceived Eve, which was the first recorded sin acted out by the devil against mankind.

This is Isaiah's account of the fall and judgement of satan. 'Sheol from beneath has moved for you to meet you at your coming; stirring up the dead for you, all the rulers of the earth; raising up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. They all will ask you, "Have you also become as weak as we are? Have you become like us?" (Humans in the lake of fire will ridicule the devil.) Your pomp is brought down to Sheol with the sound of your stringed instruments (some types of music that is not God's music is the devil's music from the pit of evil; eg, thrash metal, heavy metal). Maggots are spread out under you and worms (suffering) cover you. How you have fallen from heaven, morning star (Helel), son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, "I will ascend into heaven! I will exalt my throne above the stars (holy angels) of God! I will sit on the mountain of assembly in the far north (meaning the highest heaven)! I will ascend above the heights of the clouds! I will make myself like the Most High!" Yet you will be brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the pit (the lake of fire). Those who see you will stare at you. They will ponder you saying, "Is this the one who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness, overthrew its cities, who did not release his prisoners to their home?" (Humans will marvel at the powerlessness of the devil who did not release his followers to their rightful heavenly home but dragged them down to the pit.) All the (righteous) kings of the nations sleep in glory, everyone in his own (heavenly) house but you are cast away from your tomb like an abominable branch, clothed with the slain who are thrust through with the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit like a dead body trodden underfoot (the devil is responsible for the deaths of millions of people) (Isaiah 14:9 to 19).

This is Ezekiel's account of the fall of satan. 'You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone adorned you. Ruby, topaz, emerald, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Gold work of tambourines and of pipes was in you. In the day you were created the precious stones and gold were prepared (the same day as the musical cherub was created, the Lord created all the gold, precious metals and precious stones). You were the anointed cherub who covers (the throne with music) and I set you on the holy mountain of God (in the highest heaven). You have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (around the throne of God). You were perfect in all your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your sin they filled the midst of you with violence and you have sinned. Therefore I have cast you as profane out of the mountain of God (heaven) and I have destroyed you, covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up (proud) because of your beauty. You have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I have cast you to the ground ... By the multitude of your iniquities in the unrighteousness of your trade, you have profaned your sanctuaries (holy places). I have brought forth a fire (of rage) from the midst of you. It has devoured you and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all those who see you (Jesus triumphed over the devil). All those who know you among the peoples will be astonished at you. You are become a terror (to look at) and you will nevermore have any being (body)' (Ezekiel 28:13 to 19). Notice this last sentence; the devil no longer has a body. All holy angels and cherubim have a body. When Jesus was resurrected He was given a new body with His wounds still visible. When righteous people go to heaven we will all be given a resurrected body. Because of their wickedness, the devil and evil spirits are eternally disembodied.

It is not written anywhere in the Bible, any angels rebelled at the same time as the devil. There are scriptures revealing two separate groups of angels that rebelled, but they were thousands of years apart. The devil rebelled before the creation of Adam about 6,000 years ago. The Bible pinpoints the exact time when the first group of angels fell into sin – about 1,000 years after Adam's creation but before Noah's flood about 5,000 years ago. Angels are not spirit-like but very human-like beings, with bodies, they are all male, fertile

and able to reproduce with human women. Angels are so much like humans, rebellious angels came to earth to force women into sexual liaisons. That is startling enough but the fact the women became pregnant and had offspring, reveals just how alike our two species really are. The offspring were called mighty men not mighty spirits. They were called (in Hebrew) the Nephilim (fallen ones), which is plural for nephel. 'When people began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God (rebellious angels) saw the daughters of men were beautiful and they took for themselves women of all they chose. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men they bore children to them' (Genesis 6:1 to 4). Notice the women did not go after the angels, the angels came down from heaven and 'took for themselves women of all they chose' indicating the women were violently raped by those huge, evil angels. We can only imagine how repulsive they were and how terrifying it was for the women. This earth was never intended for angels to inhabit. Their rightful place is in heaven. 'It was not to angels God gave the habitable world' (Hebrews 2:5). When some angels did leave their rightful place in heaven and came to earth, because of their disobedience, violence and their abominable sin of cohabiting with human women, they were bound in chains and sent to hell to await the final judgement. There is no redemption or deliverance available to any of the angels who rebelled because they were living in heaven which is perfect, and came to earth which has been defiled by them. 'Jesus did not take hold of the fallen angels to give them a delivering hand' (Hebrews 2:16). 'God did not spare the angels that sinned but cast them into hell, delivering them to be kept there in pits of gloom till the judgement' (2 Peter 2:4). 'The angels who did not keep their own first place of power but abandoned their proper dwelling place (heaven), God has reserved in eternal chains under utter darkness until the doom of Judgement Day' (Jude 6). 'Begone from Me you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his (fallen) angels' (Matthew 25:41).

Only the angels from the first group that had sexual liaisons with women are in chains and cannot do any harm. Other angels that rebelled and became wicked but did not cohabit with women, are still free to dwell in heaven. They are the fallen angels who became rulers in heavenly places that we must stand against. They are the wicked beings that cause chaos, wars and other evil deeds. They are collectively called principalities and powers in heavenly places, rulers of darkness and spiritual forces of wickedness. We are not wrestling against people, we are wrestling against invisible forces of wickedness in the heavenly realm, the rulers of darkness. 'Put on the whole armour of God so you may be able to stand against all the wiles (strategies, deceits, actions) of the devil. We are not wrestling with flesh and blood but against the principalities and powers of darkness; against the rulers of darkness and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore put on the whole armour of God, so you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore; having tightened the Girdle of Truth around your waist and having put on the Breastplate of Righteousness; and having shod your feet in the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Lift up over all the Shield of Faith with which you can quench all the fiery missiles of the devil; and take the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit which is the spoken Word of God' (Ephesians 6:11 to 17). Notice in this verse, we are told to stand against the devil, and by standing against the devil we are standing against all other evil forces.

Some people believe evil spirits are fallen angels but that is incorrect. Angels fly; evil spirits can only walk. Fallen angels do not ever inhabit a human body because they have a body, but evil spirits need a human body to inhabit. Fallen angels are wicked and cause dreadful problems for humanity but their place of habitation is still heaven. So where did evil spirits come from? For the answer to that question we need to look at history. Read Genesis 6:1 to 4 again regarding the Nephilim. 'Enoch walked with God and he was not (on earth) because God took him' (Genesis 5:24). Enoch was a righteous man who fellowshiped with God. He was a scribe who wrote a book as God gave him the words, just as God told all the other prophets what to write, which became the Bible. The Book of Enoch was mentioned by the prophet Jude. 'About these (wicked men), Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam prophesied saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have done in an evil way, and of all the blasphemes which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him"' (Jude 14 & 15). The Book of Enoch was an important and fully accepted book in the Bible until about 300AD when Constantine decided to have it removed. Enoch revealed where all the evil spirits came from. It was the Lord Himself who gave them the title of evil spirits.

Book of Enoch, 15:1 to 12: 'The Lord spoke to me and I heard His voice, "Fear not Enoch, you righteous man and scribe of righteousness, approach here and hear My voice. Go and say to the wicked angels, 'You have left the high, holy and eternal heaven and lain with women. You defiled yourselves with the daughters of men and have taken to yourselves women and done like the children of earth, and produced giant Nephilim as your sons. Though you were holy, spiritual, living the eternal life, you have defiled yourselves with women and have produced children with the flesh, and just as the children of men who have lusted after

flesh and blood, all those who do, perish. I have given the men wives so they might have children by them so nothing might be wanting to them on earth, but you were formerly spiritual, living the eternal life and immortal for all the generations of the world. I have not appointed wives for you, for as the angels of the heavens, heaven is their dwelling. Now the giant Nephilim who are produced from the angel spirits and the flesh will be called evil spirits on the earth and on the earth will be their dwelling. Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies. Because they are born from men and from the wicked angels, their beginning and primal origin, they will be evil spirits on earth and evil spirits they will be called. The angels of heaven, in heaven their dwelling will be but the evil spirits of the earth, born on the earth, on the earth will be their dwelling. The evil spirits of the Nephilim afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle and work destruction on the earth and cause trouble. They take no food but always hunger and thirst and cause offences. These evil spirits will rise up against the children of men and women because they have proceeded from them.”

Book of Enoch, 19:1 to 3: 'Here will stand the angels who have connected themselves with women, their spirits assuming many different forms are defiling mankind and will lead them astray into sacrificing to demons as gods until the day of the Great Judgement in which they will be judged until they are made an end of. The women offspring of the angels who went astray will become sirens’.

Evil spirits were not created directly by God but came about as a result of the sin of lusty fallen angels who took women and produced the evil half-human and half-fallen-angel Nephilim, and when the Nephilim died, their body-less spirits remained on earth to cause dreadful destruction to the human race they now hate. They hate mankind because the fallen angels pleaded for a redemptive second chance but were denied, but humans were to be given a Saviour. The female offspring of the Nephilim ‘take many forms’ and have produced sirens. Sirens are the female form of evil spirits that bring about lesbianism, homosexuality, incubus, paedophilia and other sexual perversions the Bible calls, ‘going after strange (unnatural) flesh’ (Jude 7). Some versions of the Bible say the angels married the women but the original Hebrew does not say that. The women were taken by force. The evil offspring were monstrous, huge, strong and exceedingly wicked, defiling all of humanity and the earth. The coupling of lustful fallen angels with human women, was a sin so abominable to God it brought about Noah’s flood that destroyed the population of the entire earth. God became so angry with the angels for leaving heaven and sinning the way they did, He had them chained and imprisoned for eternity.

‘The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also afterward when God's angels came in (once again) to men's daughters’ (Genesis 6:4). That verse tells us some angels did the same thing again after the flood producing more Nephilim that vexed the children of Israel – the family of promise who were chosen to bring forth our Saviour. ‘They brought up an evil report of the land they had spied out to the children of Israel saying, “We are not able to go up against the people for they are stronger than we are. The land is a land that eats up its inhabitants and all the men we saw in it are giants. We saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak who come of the Nephilim and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, so we were in their sight’ (Numbers 13:31 to 33). Archaeology has proven there were once real giants that lived on earth about five thousand years ago and there have been hundreds of authentic photographs taken of the massive skeletons. The photographs can be viewed on the internet. Nephilim have their own DNA, just like mankind and every other creature and plant has their own DNA. Archaeologists once found a grave containing three skeletons; a normal human woman, a male ‘human-like being’ with a different DNA to humans, and a boy that was a blend of the two. Dozens more skeletons of other variations of human-like beings have been discovered all over the earth, but they most likely came from the same evil source. A number of giant tribes are mentioned in the Bible; Rephaim, Emim, Horim; Zamzummim, Anakim, Kiriath Arba, Og of Bashan, Goliath and his family. Kiriath Arba was named after the greatest Anak (Joshua 14:15). Two of these giants seemed to have turned to God and served in King David’s army; Abialbon and Abiel from Arba (2 Samuel 23:31; 1 Chronicles 11:32). Some giants ended up in America and their very large bones were discovered by native Indians. The giants were about 3 metres tall with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot (1 Samuel 17:4; 2 Samuel 21:20). One giant, King Og of Bashan was so tall his bed was made of iron and was about 4 metres long and nearly 2 metres wide (Deuteronomy 3:11).

Jesus made no reference to the ability of angels to engage in sexual activity. In heaven there is no procreation. When righteous people die and go to heaven, even if we were married on earth, we will never again know any sexual union. Jesus said, "The children of this age (on earth now) marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy (righteous) to attain to that age (the future in heaven) and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage. They cannot die again for they are like the angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection’ (Luke 20:34 to 36). The Lord could have created enough people to populate the whole earth if He had wanted to. After all, He created millions of

angels, but He gave humanity marriage; a human institution given exclusively to us for procreation and companionship. In essence, God gave us the ability to 'create' our own children through marriage, giving us the incredible blessing and joy of seeing our own newborn babies, tiny little humans that come from our own bodies, something angels were not permitted to do. The angels that did produce evil offspring will suffer the consequences for eternity. The Nephilim were the result of the first group of fallen angels.

The Bible pinpoints the exact time the second group of angels rebelled; just before Jesus came to earth 2,000 years ago. The Bible describes the birth of Jesus, then the birth of the early church and the dragon that tried to destroy the salvation message by trying to destroy the new church. He first tried to destroy Jesus as a baby when Herod had all male babies slaughtered. Then the devil tried to destroy all hope of salvation through the Messiah by having Jesus murdered and when that did not work he tried to destroy the church by persecution. Although the devil did not succeed in destroying the church, he has severely weakened it by causing the full Gospel message to be diluted and become a powerless religion. To help him destroy the new church and stop the spread of the Gospel, the devil swept through heaven recruiting every rebellious angel to join him. That was the time when about a third of the angels fell into sin. 'A great sign was seen in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun with the moon under her feet (she had special status with God) and on her head a crown of twelve stars (the twelve apostles). She (Mary) was with child and cried out in pain, labouring to give birth. Another sign was seen in heaven. A great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and on his heads seven crowns (multiple evil forces of wickedness). Verse 4; His tail drew (enticed) one third of the stars of the sky and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman (Mary) who was about to give birth so when she gave birth he might devour her child (the devil tried to kill Jesus before He could complete His mission). She gave birth to a Son, a Male Child (Jesus) Who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. Her (Mary's) Child was caught up to God and to His throne (Jesus was resurrected and is sitting on the throne) ... verse 13; When the dragon saw he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman (the early church) who gave birth to the male child (the spiritual offspring of Jesus) ... verse 15; The serpent spewed water out of his mouth after the woman (the early church) like a river so he might cause her to be carried away (destroyed) by the stream. The earth (the nations) helped the woman and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river (the early church was never destroyed), which the dragon spewed out of his mouth. The dragon grew angry with the woman (the church) and went away to make war with the rest of her offspring who keep God's commandments and hold Jesus' testimony' (Revelation 12:1 to 17). If we look at the context of these verses, we can see the devil was poised to destroy Jesus and the new early church as it was brought to birth, then Jesus was taken up to the throne in heaven to sit beside God the Father, which happened just 2,000 years ago not 6,000 or more years ago when the devil rebelled. The devil's rebellion and the birth of Jesus did not take place at the same time. It does not make sense to assume the two halves of verse 4 are talking about two completely different topics and are divided by thousands of years. The twelve stars on the crown placed on the 'woman's' head are symbolic of the twelve apostles helping the 'woman' to give 'birth' to the new early church. The 'woman' had special status and protection from God against the attacks of the devil. If those stars were evil, they would not have been worn by the holy 'woman', nor would they have received any protection from God. The devil attempted to prevent Jesus coming and tried to destroy the Gospel message and the early church, and history has shown us the church went into serious decline, however, Jesus said the gates of hell would never prevail over His church (Matthew 16:18). When we read in these verses how desperately hard the devil tried to destroy Jesus, we wonder if Mary and Joseph were aware of all these things happening in the spirit world when Jesus was born. We know they were told to go to Egypt then on their return to Israel they withdrew in Galilee, but did they know what was happening in the unseen realm? They probably did not know Jesus was the reason for the recruitment of a third of the rebellious angels that later persecuted His followers.

Ghosts are not the souls of humans wandering around the earth. They are evil spirits. When people think they have seen a ghost, they have actually encountered a roaming evil spirit. 'A 'thing' was secretly brought to me. My ear received a whisper of it. In thoughts from dreams of the night when deep sleep falls on men, fear and trembling came on me which made all my bones shake. An evil spirit passed before my face. The hair of my flesh stood up. It stood still but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes' (Job 4:12 to 16). Before Jesus came, everyone who died went to a waiting place called 'prison' or Hades. After Jesus died He went to the 'prison' to preach to the people there to give them a chance to be saved. 'Jesus suffered for sins once, the Righteous for the unrighteous so He might bring you to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Holy Spirit in which He went and preached to the spirits in prison ... The Gospel was preached even to the dead so they might be judged as men in the flesh, but live to God in the spirit' (1 Peter 3:18 & 19; 4:6). After Jesus was resurrected, some of those people rose from the dead, were completely healed of death, came out of the tombs and were seen in Jerusalem by many people. 'Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked and the rocks were split.

After His resurrection the tombs were opened and many of God's people who had died were raised and came out of the tombs, they entered the holy city (Jerusalem) and appeared to many' (Matthew 27:51 to 53). Since that time, there are now two places where the spirits of humans go after they die. If the person who died was righteous and walked with God, the moment of their death they are ushered into heaven by holy angels to be at Abraham's side. If the person is unrighteous they go straight to hell or hades to await judgement (Luke 16:22 & 23). Both will be resurrected at the time of judgement. The righteous to eternal life with God and the unrighteous to eternity in the lake of fire. 'Many of those who are buried in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt' (Daniel 12:2). No human spirit ever stays on earth after death. When evil spirits have possessed the body of a person and that person dies, the evil spirits remain on earth to roam around looking for another human body to possess (Matthew 12:43 to 45). All 'ghosts' are wicked evil spirits.

Evil spirits are only given permission to vex non-believers or the wicked, except in the case of Job but that was for a specific purpose. We have an invisible enemy. We cannot see an evil spirit any more than we can see the wind. What we can see is what the wind does – so too we can see what an evil spirit does. We know when the wind is blowing because we can see the effects of it. We do not normally see evil spirits unless God opens our spiritual eyes and shows us into the spirit realm, but we can see the destruction they do and we can see the effects of the evil spirit within a person by their behaviour or by the type of illness they are suffering from. Praise the Lord, Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). The scriptures tell us evil spirits can cause whatever mischief they choose, but only when the Lord allows it. All evil beings are under the complete control of God and cannot do anything nasty unless God gives them direct permission. God also sets the guidelines so the evil things cannot go too far (Job 1:12; 2:6). While on earth, Jesus exercised total control over evil spirits and they knew exactly Who He was (Luke 4:34). The demons believe in God and shudder in terror (James 2:19). Once we are Holy Spirit-filled Christians, evil spirits are subject to us and we have authority and power over them (Mark 6:7). Evil spirits cannot trouble born-again believers at will – they are subject to God and have to ask permission. The devil asked excessively to be allowed to 'sift' Simon Peter 'like wheat' but permission was denied (Luke 22:31). On the other hand, Paul the Holy Spirit-filled apostle had the authority to hand Hymenaeus and Alexander over to the devil to be taught not to blaspheme (1 Timothy 1:20). Jesus said if we refuse to forgive fellow believers, He will hand us over to tormentors (Matthew 18:34 & 35). Tormentors are evil spirits that bring torment. Certainly the devil noisily roams around looking for people to devour or destroy, but that does not mean he is allowed to devour them because the very next verse tells us to stand against him (1 Peter 5:8 & 9). Once we submit to God, we then have the power to resist the devil himself, not just mere evil spirits. 'Be subject to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you' (James 4:7). New Christians take note: you do not need to be afraid of the devil. If you are submitted to God, you have the authority over all evil.

Evil spirits can possess or completely overtake unsaved people or backslidden Christians who have turned their backs on God (Matthew 12:43 to 45; Luke 11:24 to 26). Evil spirits cause insanity and violence but when they are cast out, sanity is restored. Although they cause torment, they are unspeakable cowards and scream at the thought they could be sent to Gehenna. 'A man out of the city who had demons for a long time met Jesus. The man was naked and did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus he screamed and fell down before Him. With a loud voice said, "What do I have to do with you Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you do not torment me!" Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. The unclean spirit had often seized the man. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and fetters. Breaking the bands apart, he was driven by the demon into the desert. Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered into him. They begged Jesus not to command them to go into the abyss (lake of fire). There was a herd of many pigs feeding on the mountain and Legion begged Jesus to allow them to enter into the pigs. Jesus allowed them. The demons came out from the man and entered into the pigs and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned ... People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid' (Luke 8:27 to 35).

Most people assume evil spirits could never be sent from God but they are all subject to God and can be sent from Him. God sometimes uses evil spirits to bring judgement on the wicked. People act differently when they are under the power of an evil spirit. They do not all act the same way, all the time. If we study the life of Saul we can see how evil spirits came and went. The insanity, bad temper and violence manifested by Saul was a result of the evil spirit. 'The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from God troubled him ... When the evil spirit from God was on Saul, David took the harp and played it so Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him ... An evil spirit from God came violently or forcefully on Saul and he raved madly in his house ... An evil spirit from God was on Saul as he sat in his

house with his spear in his hand. David was playing the harp. Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear but he slipped away out of Saul's presence' (1 Samuel 16:14 & 23; 18:10; 19:9 & 10). We read in the scriptures where God Himself called for an evil spirit; the evil spirit was in the throne room in heaven; the evil spirit chose his own actions, was given permission and he was male. 'I (the prophet Micaiah) saw the Lord sitting on His throne and all the host of heaven standing at His right hand and His left. The Lord asked, "Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?" A spirit that stood before the Lord said, "I will entice him." The Lord asked him, "How?" The spirit answered, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets." The Lord said, "You will entice him and succeed. Go forth and do so." Behold, the Lord put a lying spirit in the mouths of your prophets, and the Lord has spoken evil concerning you (Ahab)' (2 Chronicles 18:18 to 22). We can see by that passage of scripture, the evil spirit had to ask permission, then it caused the mischief of its own choice, then it is stated, it was the Lord Who sent the lying spirit as judgement on wicked Ahab. The Lord sent an evil spirit another time. 'God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem' (Judges 9:23). God became angry with Israel and prompted David to number Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 24:1) ... The devil prompted David to number Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1). This was the same situation where David was prompted to take a census of Israel. The Lord did not use a spirit, He used the devil himself.

In Job 1:6 to 22 and 2:1 to 7, (too much to include in this text) the devil had to ask permission to attack Job and it was granted but only in stages. Initially, poor Job did not know the devil was at work in his life or why those things happened, but after a while he did realise this fact and acknowledged it. 'God has delivered me to the evil one' (Job 16:11), then later God took responsibility for what happened to Job. 'Job's family comforted him after all the evil the Lord had brought on him' (Job 42:11). The Lord used the devil to do those things to Job to purify him. 'God knows the way I take. When He has tried me I will come forth like pure gold' (Job 23:10). We have the benefit of knowing Job's story so we can be aware of why evil happens to us sometimes. Occasionally, the Lord allows even the most righteous to be vexed so we can be purified by fire and made fit for the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 48:10; Colossians 1:12; Titus 2:14), and sometimes evil spirits bring God's chastisement and discipline on Christians (Hebrews 12:3 to 15; Proverbs 3:11 & 12). It is clear, these evil beings have access to God now as they did back in the days of the Old Testament. There is a distinction between the two groups; the rebellious angels are called angels and the evil spirits are called spirits, and one was called a lying spirit not a lying angel. Since the spirit said to God he would be a lying spirit in the people on earth, and since we can read in the Book of Job the devil was among the holy angels, we can logically deduct evil spirits, the unchained fallen angels and the devil can freely travel between heaven and earth and all over the earth, whereas the fallen angels that are in chains cannot move from their place in hell. The final judgement has not yet happened and until it does, the evil spirits are available to God and sometimes He uses them for His purpose. It is true God is righteous and holy but He is able to do whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3). 'God stands alone and who can oppose Him? What His soul desires is what He does' (Job 23:13). He does not have to explain any of His reasons to us. He does not have to justify Himself to anyone. He owns everything, so in all righteousness, He can use whatever method He chooses to achieve His goals. We do not have the right to question His sovereignty. It is the Lord Who is the potter – we are just the clay and He can do whatever He chooses, and woe to us if we question Him (Isaiah 45:9). The door of access the devil, fallen angels and evil spirits have to God will close once they are cast out of heaven forever. All causes of offence will one day be ejected from heaven and tossed into the furnace of eternal fire (Matthew 13:41 & 42).

In various Bible translations evil spirits and fallen angels are given a few different names such as demons, unclean spirits, loathsome spirits, rulers of darkness, master spirits, forces of wickedness, legion, foul spirits, the beast, the false prophet or rulers in heavenly places. They are controlled by the devil, the accuser, the enemy, the adversary, the evil one, the destroyer, the dragon, the prince of the power of the air, the father of lies. The way to deal with these evil beings is to cast them out, drive them out, resist them, overcome them, rebuke them, put on the whole armour of God and praise His name. When Jesus or the apostles rebuked an evil spirit, they always spoke to the spirit within the person, not to the person (Mark 1:25; Acts 16:18). We must be filled with the Holy Spirit and be close to the Lord before we try to deal with them or they could turn on us (Acts 19:13 to 16). Once people are delivered from evil spirits, they are often healed at the same time (Acts 5:16). Sometimes when evil spirits are driven out of someone, and if that person does not commit themselves to God and are filled with the Holy Spirit, then more evil spirits may return and the person ends up seven times worse off (Luke 11:24 to 26). When a person is demon possessed, it means they are afflicted or troubled by evil spirits but the power of the Holy Spirit is always more powerful than any number of evil spirits.

What exactly do evil spirits do? The devil and evil spirits roam around the earth looking to people to inhabit and to create trouble, they can possess people, they have intellect and will and make choices, they vary in their wickedness, power and authority, they need rest, they hear and speak (Job 1:7; 2:2; Matthew 12:43 to 45; 1 Peter 5:8). Evil spirits can inhabit buildings (Isaiah 13:21), they can enter animals (Mark 5:13) and especially dogs (Psalm 22:20). They can give people supernatural strength (Mark 5:3 & 4; Acts 19:16). They can draw people away from the Truth (Matthew 13:19; Mark 4:15). Some are individual and work alone. Sometimes they group together and operate like a pack of wild dogs (Psalm 22:16 & 20; Luke 8:30). Some evil spirits inhabit families (familiar spirits) for generations (Numbers 14:18). Some are very unusual like the spirit of deep sleep, for example. Evil spirits can influence governments (Revelation 16:14). The fallen angels that rule in heaven are called 'princes' from the word 'principalities'. 'The prince of the kingdom of Persia ... the prince of Greece'. Some evil spirits or fallen angels rule over whole nations and kingdoms and they violently fight with God's holy angels for supremacy (Daniel 10:13 & 20). There is a chief evil spirit over Assyria (Syria) (1 Chronicles 5:26), over the Arabians, Ethiopians and the Philistines (now the Palestinians) (2 Chronicles 21:16), over Egypt (Isaiah 19:3) over the Medes (northern Persia and Turkey)(Jeremiah 51:11) and over the Roman and Babylonian Empires (Revelation 18:2).

There are hundreds of different problems caused by evil spirits. There are so many negative things evil spirits do, we cannot possibly list everything. They cause sickness, disease, fever, physical deformities and mental illness. They can cause people to self-harm (Mark 5:5; 9:22). They cause havoc and tempt people to do things they would not normally do, and they make people act in ways they sometimes cannot control. Tourette's syndrome is one example. Evil spirits can cause epilepsy, deafness, muteness, arthritis, asthma, tooth decay, stiffness and crippling, chronic pain, insomnia, spina bifida and other birth defects, miscarriage, stress, migraines, allergies, discouragement, mental illnesses, ADHD, depression, self-destruction, suicide, materialism, illegal drug taking, sniffing glue and other things, jealousy, misery, emotional breakdowns, doubt, compromise to sin, divorce, chronic fatigue, forgetfulness, confusion, guilt over past sins, phobias, unnatural and illogical fears, strange behaviours like kleptomania, schizophrenia, compulsive disorders, multiple personality disorders, rage, violent behaviour, addictions, compulsive lying, cursing, blasphemy, every form of the occult, divination, fortune telling and strange beliefs, they cause people to hear voices, they entice people to do evil. Any temptation that comes to us in words or 'voices' comes from an evil spirit. They harass, they give us a bad day, they make life difficult. They can cause a normally mild mannered person to become enraged over the slightest thing. People with a vicious tongue may have an evil spirit. They torment spiritually; they torment with fear, illnesses, guilt and other areas of torment. Resentful unforgiveness can be caused by a spirit of unforgiveness. When a person is under the control of an evil spirit, sometimes they are controlled or enslaved. Smokers and other addicts are under the power of an evil spirit. Evil spirits defile; they make us feel unclean. They may project unclean thoughts or images within our minds and dreams. We read earlier the evil spirits always hunger and thirst but cannot take food or water. When evil spirits overtake a person, due to their unquenchable thirst and hunger, they can cause chronic overeating, compulsive eating, anorexia, bulimia, alcoholism or digestive conditions like crohn's or coeliac disease. Beelzebub, the 'lord of the flies' or ruler of insects uses bugs to cause sickness and death in various ways. Tiny insects have the power to transmit many terrible diseases and destroy life. Three such insects are fleas that carry Bubonic Plague; mosquitos that cause malaria, Ross River Fever and Dengue Fever; the Tsetse fly that causes sleeping sickness and death.

Evil spirits deceive and are behind all forms of religious deception. There are doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). All religions that teach salvation comes through good works are false religions. The scriptures say all salvation comes through faith and belief in our Saviour Jesus. Good works only come as we walk obediently with God. All false religions are demonic and it is the job of the False Prophet to lead people astray in into false doctrines. Christian science, Scientology, Islam, Bahai, Unity, Freemasonry, Mormonism, Armstrongism, Science fiction, Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age, Jehovah's Witnesses, exclusive or closed Brethren churches, theosophy, Zen, humanism, reincarnation, astrology, evolution, all eastern cults and heresies which are departures from scriptural doctrine, are all doctrines of demons. False prophecies are from the false prophet. If we are not walking in the Holy Spirit and walking with the scriptures in our hearts, we can be easily misled.

How do evil spirits come into our lives in the first place? The areas in which they operate are emotions, attitudes and health. Behind every negative emotion and attitude there is usually a corresponding evil spirit. When an evil spirits gets in, it can open the door for the next spirit through sins like unforgiveness, pride, rebellion, stubbornness, sexual sin or involvement in the occult. Sometimes situations beyond our control open the way for evil spirits to come in. There are people who are innocent of sin but are suffering terribly because of the sins of other people, and through that an evil spirit enters into their lives and they suffer. That



is why deliverance is so important. Situations like severe disappointments, isolation, loneliness, rejection by parents, excessive criticism by a domineering parent or a child subjected to sexual sin of whatever type, can open the door for an evil spirit. Many outward problems are a cover for deeper issues. Before dealing with the outward behaviour, we should first deal with deeper issue. For example, when people are depressed they often do something for consolation – drink alcohol, eat too much, take legal or illegal drugs, go shopping and buy what they do not need, and some steal things they do not want. In that case we would need to deal with the spirit of depression before the behaviour is dealt with. The sin in mankind opens the door to evil spirits and sickness (John 5:14). Sin can bring a curse down the generations and can cause a woman to be barren. Idle words and word curses can bring curses on children and we will have to give an account to God for what we say (Matthew 12:36 & 37; 27:25; James 3:9). These curses open the way for demonic attack. The names parents choose for their children can bring about a curse and death. People often live up to their name. Parents need to be very mindful of what they name their children because as we repeatedly speak out the child's name, the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), hears what we say and he carries the thought like an evil bird (Ecclesiastes 10:20; Revelation 18:2), and so we bring about good or evil responses to that name. 'Let not my lord regard this foolish and wicked fellow Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal (foolish and wicked) is his name and folly is with him' (1 Samuel 25:25). Other examples of people living up to their names are Jesus (Saviour), Jacob (supplanter or usurper), Abraham (father of a multitude), Job (he cries), Moses (saved from water), David (beloved). Your child's name is important and needs to be carefully thought about because they are repeatedly spoken out to the prince of the power of the air. What is a natural thing for humans (our names) is played out in the spiritual realm.

Here is a list of some actions and outcomes of horrid evil spirits. Evil spirits do not have names as such, but have specific target areas. Some mentioned here are self-explanatory like the spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3). A spirit of deep sleep or stupor or slumber (Isaiah 29:10; Romans 11:8). A spirit of jealousy (Numbers 5:14 & 30). There is a spirit of the 'world' that makes people act sinfully (1 Corinthians 2:12). A spirit of anger (Ecclesiastes 7:9) causes people to have an uncontrollably bad temper that sometimes leads to violence. A spirit of pride (Ecclesiastes 7:8) causes spiritual destruction (Proverbs 16:18). A spirit of error (Isaiah 29:24) also called a 'different' spirit (2 Corinthians 11:4) leads people to believe false doctrines and lead others astray. It is the same as seducing spirits and demons that teach false doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1). A spirit of perverseness causes people to go astray (Isaiah 19:14). A spirit of confusion (Proverbs 23:33) causes the opposite to peace. It is an earthly, demonic, unspiritual 'wisdom' that does not come from above. It causes confusion, selfishness and all sorts of evil deeds (James 3:15 & 16). A spirit of rumour or gossiping (Isaiah 37:7), spirits of lying and falsehood are where false prophets obtain their false prophecies that lead many astray (Micah 2:11). A spirit of deceit (Psalm 32:2) causes people to be very deceitful. Spirits of infirmity or sickness (Luke 13:11) cause terrible, debilitating illnesses, but not all sickness is caused by an evil spirit. Sometimes there are other factors. Spirits of deafness and muteness cause people to become deaf and mute (Mark 9:25), but not all deafness is an evil spirit. A spirit of epilepsy causes epilepsy (Luke 9:39) but not all epilepsy is demonic. A spirit of unbelief (Hebrews 3:12) can keep people out of the Kingdom of God and prevent healing. 'Jesus did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief' (Matthew 13:58). A spirit of bitterness defiles the bitter person those who listen to their words (Hebrews 12:15). A spirit of discouragement (Ezekiel 3:14) can be caused by bitterness and anger. A spirit of divination or a familiar spirit (fortune telling, witchcraft, mediums etc) (1 Samuel 28:8; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 19:3; Acts 16:16) are as evil in the Lord's eyes as rebellion, stubbornness and idolatry (1 Samuel 15:23) ... a spirit of idolatry and loathsome spirits of demons (Revelation 16:13 & 14; 18:2) are all foul spirits of demons (Luke 4:33). A spirit of impurity (Zechariah 13:2), a spirit of prostitution or harlotry and that includes homosexuality (Hosea 4:12; 5:4) are abominations to the Lord (Leviticus 20:13). Spirits of fear or terror that cause strange phobias or night terrors never come from God (2 Timothy 1:7). A spirit of bondage never comes from God (Romans 8:15). Evil spirits cause people to have strange compulsive disorders and addictions. A spirit of anguish and sorrow (Job 7:11; 1 Samuel 1:15; Isaiah 65:14) causes anguish and sorrow. A spirit of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2) causes people to act in accordance with the devil. We need to have the Word of God in our hearts so we can quote His Word and resist temptation to disobey God.

The spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3) is known in our day as depression and for that problem we can use praise. Depression cannot stay around if we are determined to fight it by praising and thanking the Lord for extended periods of time. The heaviness will lift off our head and if we do battle every day, eventually the evil spirit that causes the depression will leave entirely. The scripture says it is a spirit that causes heaviness/depression, and if the scriptures say it is a spirit, then it is an evil spirit. Remember, we are not battling with flesh and blood but an evil force. It is also our will to choose whether or not to stand against it. We can give in to depression or we can fight it. It is hard, but if we persevere we will be set free. But first we need to give ourselves over to God the Father, through His Son Jesus then we will have the power and

authority to resist the devil. 'Be subject to God. Resist the devil – stand firm against him – and he will flee from you' (James 4:7). This is not maybe or perhaps he might go. The scripture says the devil will flee, run away, leave the scene or take flight. At the name of Jesus, demons will flee. At the name of Jesus, depression will flee. If we are subject to God and born of God by faith, then we can claim the victory over depression. 'Whatever is born of God is victorious over the world and this is the victory that conquers the world: your faith' (1 John 5:4).

'There was a woman who for eighteen years had a spirit of infirmity. She was bent forward and was unable to straighten herself up or look upward. When Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are free from your infirmity!" Then He laid His hands on her and instantly she stood up straight and glorified God' (Luke 13:11 to 13). This woman had an evil spirit of infirmity. Jesus did not pray for healing, He went straight to the matter and rebuked the spirit of infirmity. Notice Jesus said the devil had bound the woman in sickness for eighteen years. Her sickness was a direct result of an evil spirit. The distressing ailment appeared to be physical but the cause was spiritual. When the spirit went out, the woman was healed. Casting out demons was not something Jesus did occasionally, it was a regular ongoing part of His total ministry. Everywhere He preached He cast out evil spirits. Jesus never separated preaching, healing and deliverance. One of the weaknesses of the modern church is they have separated the three. As a result, many people who need deliverance do not get it, and many people who need healing miss out.

One of the strongest evil spirits we will ever encounter is a spirit of death. Death is someone not something. It is a murderer, it destroys, it can hear and speak. 'Destruction and Death say, "We have heard a rumour of it with our ears"' (Job 28:22). The spirit of death causes people to give up of the spirit of life (Job 11:20). Death is an evil entity that will one day be burned in the lake of fire. 'Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death' (Revelation 20:14). 'I (Apostle John) looked and behold, a pale horse came and its rider's name was Death' (Revelation 6:8). Fear of death is a terrible fear and when we have the blood of Jesus, that fear should dissolve away. 'Since the children of God have shared in flesh and blood, Jesus Himself became flesh so through death, He might bring to nothing the devil who had the power of death, and might deliver all people who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to the bondage of fear' (Hebrews 2:14 & 15). Jesus rose from the dead to triumph over death. 'Knowing Jesus was raised from the dead, He is dead no more. Death has no dominion over Him' (Romans 6:9). After accepting Jesus we no longer need to experience any fear of any kind, and especially fear of the evil spirit of death. The spirit of death can come into a person through being weary with life, through a serious illness or accident, while under anaesthetic, through rejection or physical abuse and feeling helpless in that situation. It comes in, in a moment of emotional or physical weakness. Some women who undergo an abortion are left with a spirit of death that plagues them for years. Some people die without any real reason, such as sudden infant death or unexplained stillbirth or a seemingly healthy young person suffers sudden heart failure when there was no history of heart problems. A freak accident where a person is killed can be caused by a spirit of death. Prenatal influences can bring a spirit of death to a person. When one twin dies, the surviving twin may be affected by a spirit of death and could in later years battle depression and a sense of sadness they often cannot understand. When a woman is pregnant, it is not just a foetus in the womb, it is a living person who will grow to become an adult. Unborn babies are very sensitive to what their mothers feel and say about them. If a child is unwanted, the baby will sense it. If a mother feels strongly enough, she does not want that baby, the child could be born with a spirit of rejection. That is amazingly common. Those people go through life feeling unwanted and unloved and are more likely to suicide. Adopted children sometimes feel rejected by their birth mother and some never recover from being given up for adoption.

Have you ever noticed how uncomfortable some people become when you talk about Jesus? People will use the Lord's name in vain as an expletive, but if you try to bring Him into a conversation, everyone goes quiet or they become embarrassed and change the subject. Some people even become angry. They do not want to talk about Jesus because He makes them feel uncomfortable. Just hearing His name can make people squirm. The reason for their discomfort could be an unclean spirit lurking within, and the spirit feels uneasy at the name of Jesus causing the person to react. A person who has backslidden may react stronger than someone who has never known God. Remember Jesus said people could end up seven times worse off if they move away from the Gospel and do not keep their lives clean. Jesus said, "You are of your father the devil and it is your will to practice the lusts of your father. 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 what is natural to him for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). 'Jesus the Messiah has reconciled you to God the Father in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, faultless and blameless in His Presence, provided you continue to stay in the faith, well-grounded and steadfast, not moving away from the hope of the Gospel, which has been preached to every person under heaven' (Colossians 1:22 & 23). The devil has

dominion over unsaved people but not born-again believers who walk with God. He cannot force Christians to do anything. All he can do is lie, deceive, tempt and discourage. Jesus said it is our will to do what is right or wrong. It is our choice to stand up against temptation to sin or give in to it. With the Lord's help He can keep us from falling into sin so we can stand before the Lord, faultless and justified (Jude 24), but we must have the courage to take a stand for righteousness. Jesus said it is our will, whether to listen to the father of lies or not. We are responsible for our own thoughts, actions, speech and behaviour. We must not give attention to deception and turn away from the faith. The devil cannot snatch the Word of God out of our hearts if we maintain our close relationship with Him by praying, reading the Bible, worshipping Him, attending church, listening to Christian music and fellowshiping regularly with other Christians. These actions are all a matter of our own will. Only a person who has knowingly rejected God can be completely overtaken by the devil like the man in the synagogue mentioned in the opening verses, who had lost his sanity. The devil deceives those who inhabit the earth (Revelation 13:14). He deceives the whole earth (Revelation 20:2) causing some to ...'turn away from the faith, giving attention to seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach' (1 Timothy 4:1). False prophets (with a spirit of lies) will arise to deceive and lead astray even God's people if they can (Matthew 24:24). There are wicked men and impostors who 'will go on from bad to worse deceiving and leading astray others and being deceived themselves' (2 Timothy 3:13). We are told in very strong words not to listen to these people (1 Timothy 1:4), yet many Christians do listen to them. 'The time will come when they will not listen to sound doctrine, but having itchy ears will gather for themselves teachers after their own desires and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside to myths and fables' (2 Timothy 4:3 & 4). As we have just read, the evil one deceives everyone on the earth and he does this by sometimes using unsaved people but it is our own will and choice to believe or ignore these people. We must not accept 'bad seeds' and not listen to lies and myths. The enemy himself sows bad 'seed' or wrong thoughts. 'He Who sows good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world and the good seed is the children of the Kingdom. The darnel is the children of the evil one and the enemy who sowed it is the devil' (Matthew 13:37 to 39), but it is our will to accept or reject the truth of the Bible.

One strategy of the devil is to deceive people into believing nonsense about the universe (including lies about evolution, aliens, UFO's, science fiction and more recently, 'global warming') instead of believing in Jesus. We have a strong warning in the Bible about this subject. 'Let no one rob you by his so-called philosophy, foolish deceit, following human traditions and teachings of the universe, disregarding the teachings of Jesus the Messiah' (Colossians 2:8). Some of those foolish teachings are things like categorising people into worldly groups such as choleric, sanguine, melancholic or some other such nonsense. There is 'earth mapping', 'colour co-ordinating' and other earthly, crude notions and non-scriptural rubbish that immature Christians go on with. These things must seriously irritate the Lord for Him to write about them so harshly in the scriptures. Practicing this nonsense brings strong discipline from the Lord. If what we believe does not line up with the Bible; if it does not glorify God, then it would be better not to touch it, rather than annoy the Lord and bring strong discipline in the form of serious problems down on ourselves. Our goal should always be to glorify God and increase the Kingdom of God by reaching unsaved people to bring them into the Kingdom. All these silly, unnecessary teachings only serve to diminish the urgency of sharing the Gospel. Since we know the devil does not want the Gospel preached to the unsaved, we can assume the devil is behind the foolish, worldly teachings.

When we read the Gospels and the Book of Acts, we see Jesus and the Apostles dealt with the devil when it was necessary, and occasionally Jesus and the Apostles taught about the devil in order to teach us. They did not bring him into every conversation like many Christians do today, nor did they blame him for their own bad behaviour, as some Christians do today. If a Christian sins – that sin will have a consequence – the result of which may not be evident sometimes long after the person has repented. For example, if a young lady allows herself to be tempted to engage in sexual sin and she falls pregnant, that is not chastisement but a consequence of her sin. If a young man chooses to drink alcohol and then drive a car, the consequence may be an accident or a heavy fine. When high profile Christians fall into sin and they are caught, they always blame the devil for their sin. We all have to take responsibility for our own sin and confess it. Once it is confessed and forgiven, then the Lord can cover our sin with His blood, bury it and then we may not have to suffer the consequences of our foolishness. Sin is our choice and all the devil can do is tempt us, but we chose to do the sinning. Jesus said sin is our choice. Early Christians did not blame the devil for their 'fiery trials' as Christians do today, but accepted the trials as being chastisement from the Lord to test their faith, not an attack from the devil (Hebrews 12:5 to 11; 1 Peter 1:6 & 7). Modern Christians need to learn the difference. 'Beloved, do not be amazed or bewildered at the fiery trial that has come on you to test your quality as though something strange happened to you. You are sharing the sufferings of Jesus. Rejoice so when His glory is revealed, you may also rejoice with exceeding joy (1 Peter 4:12 & 13). The devil is there all right and lies, deceives, cheats, steals, destroys, causes contention, tempts and seduces but the scriptures

say he cannot harm us. If we are going through a difficult trial, scripturally, it could be the divine chastisement from the Lord to purify us. We need to leave the evil one in the realm where he should be left; under the blood of Jesus. We can resist him, ignore him, have victory over him and choose not to give him ground. It is God Who is in control, not the devil and some Christians today constantly assume every little thing that goes wrong is an attack of the enemy. That attitude is wrong. We cannot blame the devil if the Lord chastises us for sin. The Lord may use the devil, but the devil cannot touch us without the Lord's expressed permission. It is completely wrong to think the devil can attack a Christian who is walking in line with God's will and purpose. We have nothing to fear from the devil because the Lord has given us power over all the power the enemy possesses! Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have already won the victory in this battle and all we need to do is lay hold of that fact and apply it to our lives.

Christians: You know if you talk about the Lord, you invite the presence of the Lord. The same applies to evil. When you talk about the devil, you are inviting his evil presence into your conversation, into your home, into your lives and you are giving him unnecessary ground. He loves the attention! When you use your mouth to talk about the devil, you are giving him an opening to use your mouth to destroy! Why does he use your mouth to destroy? Because you let him. He never encourages or edifies. He only ever brings contention, listens to and acts on everything you say, like the evil bird or an evil creature with wings. 'A bird of the air will carry the voice, and a winged creature will tell the matter' (Ecclesiastes 10:20). The devil ruins relationships between Christians. He wrecks marriages. Have you ever had a sudden furious argument with your spouse and wondered, "Where did that come from?" Or have you been listening to your children playing happily and all of a sudden they start fighting for no apparent reason? Have you had a close friendship with a fellow Christian when for some inexplicable reason they take offence, or you are suddenly 'put off' them by something trivial? It is the devil that causes these scenarios but how does he get into your homes and lives? When you repeatedly talk about him you are inviting him into your homes and lives, in exactly the same way, if you talk about the Lord, you are inviting Him into your conversation, homes and lives. Why invite the devil in to do those nasty things? It is written, we have the mind of Jesus, so why let evil butt into the mind of Jesus? The more mature the Christian, the less they will bring the devil into their conversation because they have the mind of Jesus and they put the devil where he belongs; underfoot. The immature babes in the Lord are the ones who allow the devil to use them, who gloat about their power over evil and who talk about him all the time. We should not mention him because he is not worth mentioning. We should not open our life to him or our mouth for him. Above all, do not ever use your Christian mouth to do the devil's dirty work. If you want peace and harmony in your home, do not invite him in. If you want to encourage and edify, do not talk about him. If you want to be delivered from evil, do not talk about him. Talk habitually about the Lord and think on good things and your speech will be edifying and not destructive. Destructive words from a Christian can cause deep hurt and could make a weak Christian fall away from God and out of heaven. Be careful your words do not cause someone to stumble. Do not let the devil use you. Make a conscious effort not to allow yourself to talk about the devil unless you have a purpose for doing so such as casting out an evil spirit, or teaching about the evil one as we have done here. It is written: 'Greater is He (the Holy Spirit) Who is in you, than he (the devil) that is in the world' (1 John 4:4).

At the end of Jesus' ministry, His divine instructions never changed. Jesus said, "Go into the entire world and preach the Gospel to every person. Those who believe and are baptised will be saved but those who do not believe will be condemned. These signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons, they will speak in new tongues, they will pick up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing it will not hurt them, they will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover" (Mark 16:15 to 18). The first of the five signs Jesus spoke about is deliverance. Jesus said, "Teach them to observe all things I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). Amongst the 'all things' Jesus taught them, was to cast out evil spirits. When we make disciples of believers they should cast out evil spirits, then in turn, when those disciples are taught in the Word, they should continue to do the things Jesus taught. If the modern church would obey the commands of Jesus, there would be more maturity and spiritual growth in the church. The single evidence we are in the Kingdom of God is when we cast out evil spirits in the name of Jesus. When Christians refuse to do what Jesus commanded, we need to ask if they truly are in the Kingdom of God. That single act divides the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. The light defeats the darkness and the devil hates that. He does not want the reality of demons to be evident and he does not want people, especially Christians to know we have all authority over demons. That reveals the supremacy of God and the victory won on the cross. The devil has been suppressing this revelation for hundreds of years. He does not want his total defeat to be known. The devil has three objectives, (1) torment and torture of the mind and body (Matthew 4:24), (2) to stop people knowing Jesus as their Saviour and thus keeping people out of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:19) and (3) if we do come to know Jesus as our Saviour, he tries to hinder us from serving the Lord effectively (1 Thessalonians 2:18). Jesus taught us there are two spiritual kingdoms and when we are

involved in dealing with evil spirits, the two kingdoms clash. 'The Father has delivered us out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of the Son of His love' (Colossians 1:13).

Deliverance demands our will, not our emotions. We have to set our will against the evil thing that is bothering us and be prepared to let it go. However, if we enjoy that thing and treat it like a friend, then it will not come out. For example, there are some people who embrace their depression like a 'security blanket' and prefer to keep it. There are smokers who enjoy their addiction. There are Scientologists who love their religion more than they love God. As long as a person enjoys the company of their evil spirit, then it will remain with them. For those who desire to be set free, the Bible tells us how to get rid of them. There are certain conditions we need to adhere to before we seek deliverance and free ourselves of evil spirits. We need to put our trust and faith in the Lord – not in the person praying for us. We need to forgive everybody who has ever wronged us because unforgiveness is the greatest barrier to healing and deliverance. We need to be humble and submit to the Lordship of Jesus. Pride is sin and is another barrier to healing and deliverance. When Jesus sent seventy men out in pairs they came back rejoicing. What impressed them most was the fact they had authority over evil spirits, but Jesus was careful not to allow them to boast over it, but to rejoice more in their salvation. We need to have that same attitude. We need to be honest with God for He is our Deliverer. We need to call the problem by the correct Biblical name. A deaf spirit is a deaf spirit. ADHD is a spirit of rebellion. Compulsive lying comes from a spirit of lies. Lust is from a spirit of lust. Anger is a spirit, and so on. To be free we need to be completely honest with the Lord. We cannot lie to Him about a problem we have, or we will not be delivered. If there is no Christian who is willing to deliver us from evil spirits, we are entitled to call on the name of the Lord ourselves. It is written, 'Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered' (Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21). Once people realise they are dealing with an evil personality that is not themselves, then they are close to receiving deliverance. It is up to them to seek God for themselves and command that thing to go. We need to accept the reality into our hearts, we have power and authority over all the power the devil has. Too many Christians believe we should be frightened of the devil and give him power over their lives. That is not scriptural. The Bible says we have the authority. All we need to do is exercise it. Sometimes an evil spirit cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29) so we need to keep that in mind too.

All Christians have to know why we need to drive out evil spirits and we all need to know how. The way to be delivered from demons, unclean spirits or evil spirits is demonstrated through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and the Book of Acts. What one prefers to call these evil beings is not as important as knowing how to be rid of them. Jesus never sent anybody out to preach or teach without first equipping them to deal with evil. In the same way, we should never send missionaries out until they are able to deal with evil spirits. The first authority Jesus gave the disciples was not to heal the sick, but to cast out demons. We should always demonstrate the power of God with these signs following. This is a very neglected subject in the modern church. We need to be alert because there are a few people who go to the extreme regarding evil spirits. Some people believe evil spirits are everywhere and in everything. Some people choose not to believe they exist and behave as though they are not there. Some people refuse to believe Christians can have an evil spirit. The truth is, evil spirits are there but we need to have the correct balance in our approach and the correct attitude regarding them. We need to make Jesus our foundation and centre and not become preoccupied by evil spirits. When we cast out an evil spirit, we speak firmly to the spirit, not to the person and we should command them to be quiet like Jesus did (Mark 1:25). Jesus did not put the people with evil spirits out of the synagogues; he put the evil spirits out of the people. The evil spirits did not object to going to the synagogues, they objected to the power of the Son of God. The people with the evil spirits were regular worshippers in the synagogues and fellowshiped with other Jews, but they were still afflicted by evil spirits. That proves a Christian who goes to church and does all the 'right things' can have an evil spirit influencing their lives and they need deliverance. In many modern churches, if a person behaves badly the leadership asks the person to leave, but they do not deal with the evil spirit lurking inside the person. Jesus knew He was not dealing with the individuals, He knew He was dealing with evil spirits in the people. It was direct Spirit to spirit contact between Jesus and the people. That was something the population had not seen before.

Before we ask for deliverance, we need to verbally confess faith and belief in Jesus. We often need to quote scripture and hold on to the promises written in the Bible to receive healing. We cannot pray to anyone but to God and we must mean what we say. We need to fully believe the Lord Jesus is the Son of God and He is our High Priest forever. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead. We must look to the Lord – not to people because it is the Lord who delivers us; not our pastor, friend or spouse. We need to be determined. We need to confess any sin committed by ancestors because their sins can be generational. We are not guilty because of their sins, but may be suffering because of their sins. To be delivered, we need to

confess their sins as the Holy Spirit reveals their sin to us. We must accept personal responsibility for our sins, so we need to repent of them. God expects us to confess our sins to Him and only then He will forgive us because if we do not take responsibility for our sins and confess them, that gives evidence God's Word is not in our hearts – His teachings have not penetrated our hard hearts. Only after we have repented and confessed our sin are we cleansed and made righteous (1 John 1:9). We need to break every contact with the occult, confess and renounce it. If there are objects in our homes that are related to the occult, smash them or burn them – do not give them away, for to give them away will cause the receiver to sin by having them. Hate even a garment used for sin; garments like vestments used in witchcraft. Break every contact with sin, whatever the sin may be.

The phrases, casting out, driving out, deliverance and exorcism from demons or evil spirits are all the same thing and was a vital part of the ministry of Jesus. When we read about the people who had evil spirits, we notice several different things happened. (1) It was not the people who cried out, but the spirits in the people. (2) Jesus spoke directly to the evil spirits when He cast them out, He did not speak to the people with the spirit. (3) The evil spirits immediately knew who Jesus was. (4) The evil spirits could see, hear, speak, feel fear and they screamed. They also had supernatural strength (Mark 5:3 & 4). It took the disciples over a year to discover what the evil spirits instinctively knew; Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus instantly became famous due to His deliverance ministry. That was the first impact of His public ministry. Other aspects of His ministry appeared later, but the first thing that impressed the people was He knew how to deal with evil spirits. The same evening as Jesus began His deliverance ministry, He began his healing ministry. Everything Jesus did in His ministry except only one, was already previewed in the Old Testament. Raising the dead, healing the sick, healing multitudes, making food out of nothing and being baptised in water were all done in the Old Testament, but casting out evil spirits was not done. The distinctive sign the Kingdom of God had come to earth was when Jesus cast out evil from their midst. 'If I by the Spirit of God cast out demons then the Kingdom of God has come upon you' (Matthew 12:28). 'The King of Israel is in the midst of you. You will not be afraid of evil any more' (Zephaniah 3:15).

How do we actually expel an evil spirit during deliverance? There are a few ways. Evil spirits can be expelled by blowing. At first natural breath will come out, but if you go on, eventually, a demon will come out. Sometimes the person will groan as the spirit leaves. At that point, do not go on praying. Do not even speak in tongues because that will hold it in. Do not stop blowing when the first demon goes, go on until you know within yourself you are free. Some people have many demons (Luke 8:30). Sometimes evil spirits are expelled by shaking the hands as though trying to shake a ring off a finger, as in the case of compulsive stealing or a spirit of lust. It comes out through the hands or fingers. Sometimes, as with mental or emotional problems, the spirit exits through the top of the head. One woman said she felt as though the top of her head had been supernaturally opened and all the torments of her mind left her that instant. Sometimes the spirit exits while people are laughing, crying, sighing, yawning, groaning, trembling, lying on the floor or in the waters of baptism and sometimes there is no outward sign whatsoever, just a feeling of peace, joy, an intense feeling of being free and a change in behaviour. All these events are completely painless and are more humorous than frightening. It is the thought of needing deliverance that is frightening, not the event itself. If a spirit begins to scream, the people praying should take authority and command the spirit to be silent and come out. Sometimes prayer and fasting is needed before a person can be delivered.

If people want to be set free, here is an example of a prayer for deliverance. 'Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and the only way to God. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. I now confess to You any sins You have made me aware of, or sins committed by my ancestors. Lord I repent of all sins I have ever committed and I turn from them. I turn to You Lord Jesus, for mercy and forgiveness. If I have been involved with the occult, I repent and I renounce it and I sever myself from it through the blood of Jesus. If I have occult objects in my possession I commit myself to get rid of them. We come against every occult spirit and every form of witchcraft. Lord I forgive any person who has ever wronged me, offended me or hurt me in any way. I forgive them just as I want you to forgive me. Lord to the best of my ability I have met Your conditions and I now claim Your promise: Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered. I am calling on You now, in the name of Jesus, deliver me from all evil spirits. I hate them. They are not my friends, they are my enemies and I command them to go from me now, in the mighty name of Jesus. Cover me Lord with the blood of Jesus. I come against every evil spirit in the name of Jesus. Every evil spirit is defeated by the name and the blood of Jesus. Deliver me Lord and set me free, in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen'.

We need to distinguish between the carnal mind which is the flesh and an evil spirit. The flesh is the old 'us' that behaved in an unspiritual way before we came to know Jesus. We are to 'crucify' the flesh, but we

cannot crucify an evil spirit. We cannot cast out the flesh, so we must know what we are dealing with; self or spirit. Some people do not 'feel' delivered. Deliverance is an act of our will not an emotion so sometimes the emotions are not stirred up. Deliverance is not always instant. It can be immediate but it can take place an hour or even a week after the initial prayer. The lack of 'feeling' delivered, could also be because the person has not yet been delivered, or it could be because they are so carnal it was not a demon in the first place, or it could be they have allowed themselves to be defiled once again. It could be a lack of repentance. Repentance is not an emotion it is decision of the will, so we need to consciously turn our backs on sin. The first thing Jesus told the people to do when he began His ministry was to repent (Matthew 4:17) and that has not changed. All through the New Testament, the first requirement of God from the sinner is repentance, and it was God Who made the rules. All we have to do is follow them. We need to yield and submit every area of our life to the Lordship of Jesus and make Him the Lord of our life then we can be free of evil. If we fall back into the same sin, then the evil spirits can return if there is nothing to fill the vacancy left by deliverance. That is why baptism in the Holy Spirit is so important. He fills the void left behind by the exiting evil spirits. If we are delivered and do not yield those areas to the Lordship of Jesus, we really can end up worse off. To avoid that, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and keep on speaking, praying and worshipping in tongues (Ephesians 5:18 to 20). When Jesus is our Lord, nothing can come near us. We need to live by the Word of God and not by our feelings. We are not saved because we feel saved. We are saved by faith in the blood of Jesus. That takes faith and we receive our faith by reading and studying the Word of God. People who are not baptised in the Holy Spirit often do not believe in the devil, or they do not believe the devil could be the cause of their problems so they do not get the relief they often desperately need. Many Christians today never cast out demons nor are they delivered. People who are baptised in the Holy Spirit know by revelation our enemy the devil, is real. Some people do not realise they are under the influence of demons until they are baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit, He was almost immediately challenged face to face by the devil. There is no scripture that says He had trouble with the devil before he was baptised. In dealing with the devil, Jesus always used the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit. Every time, Jesus quoted, "It is written" and we must do the same. We must get fully acquainted with the Word of God. Jesus had the scriptures deeply embedded in His heart so He could quote the correct verse for each occasion.

After being delivered, we need to take the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11 to 17). God does not drop it on us. It is an act of our will to exercise the armour of God every day. Fiery darts are the difficulties we face and every believer will have an evil day or period of time; a time of testing, pressure, persecution or some other intense problem. Through much affliction we enter the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). The belt of truth means to be honest in all things and do not lie. The breastplate of righteousness is just that – righteousness. We need to conduct ourselves as the holy people of God that we are, through the blood of Jesus. We need to share the Gospel of peace with unsaved people. We need to exercise the shield of faith – the shield of divine protection that faith in God gives us. Faith is for the present. Hope is for the future. The helmet is the hope of salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8). The helmet protects the mind or thought life. We must submit our thoughts to the Lord and cover our minds with the blood of Jesus. All the thoughts of doubt or unbelief are in the mind. Sinful thoughts are held in the mind and evil thoughts are as bad as evil deeds. Deliverance sets us free, then we have to cultivate that freedom in God. We need to train our minds to be optimistic and hopeful, especially if we have been delivered from depression. 'Hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us' (Romans 5:5). Then lastly we need to be steeped in the Word of God to soak our minds in the Sword of the Spirit. We need to be careful and guard against returning to sin. We need to cultivate right fellowships with fellow believers. Light cannot fellowship with darkness. Bad friends cause bad character. We need to keep our hearts clean. We must realise at the cross, the devil was overcome and cast out. The exciting and encouraging results of healing and deliverance are written in the scriptures to build our faith. 'People went out to see what had occurred and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind' (Luke 8:35).

May everyone who is seeking spiritual, emotional, mental or physical healing be encouraged by Biblical testimonies and be healed and delivered. We can rejoice in knowing that eventually, we will be free from all evil forever. 'Rejoice because your names are written in heaven' (Luke 10:20).

Amen and God bless you.

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