

# **Certain Of What We Do Not See**

**God's Way To Spiritual Freedom**

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**The Battle For Your Soul**



**DVD Video Series**

**Freedom In Jesus Series  
(Part 1)**

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## Certain Of What You Do Not See, #11 The Battle For Your Soul

In this last segment of *Certain Of What We Do Not See*, we want to discuss the battleground on which spiritual warfare is being waged against the followers of Jesus.

This is a spiritual battle over who'll influence your soul, which is your mind, will, and emotions. Will it be the Holy Spirit or the devil?

There's an important connection you'll make in the spiritual battle around you. First, the more you understand the reality of what's arrayed against you, the more you'll appreciate the sacrificial accomplishment of our Lord Jesus.

Second, you'll increasingly depend on the presence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit to keep transforming your character into the likeness of Jesus.

But, don't ever lose sight of the fact that the whole issue of spiritual warfare is over who'll control your mind, will and emotions.

If you're a follower of Jesus, you have responsibilities in this war. You need to keep focusing on eternal values and ways in which you can lovingly walk out your obedient trust.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, SET YOUR HEARTS on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. SET YOUR MINDS on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1-3).

The words "set your hearts" literally mean "to seek with your will and affections". You're commanded to seek our Lord Jesus with all the devotion and earnestness you can muster.

Many times we're assured in the Scriptures that if we seek Him with all our heart, He will be found by us.

The command to "set your minds" literally means, "to set your mind in a certain way." It implies intense pursuit that includes both your mind and your emotions. You can't just ponder the concept of things above. You need to aim your mental purpose toward heartfelt obedience to what you're commanded.

**(Explore:** Newsletter 1997-03 "Salvation Leads to Action")

Now let's consider what Satan's trying to do within your soul. As we mentioned in an earlier segment, one of his most powerful strategies is deception.

Paul's heart was wounded that his beloved Corinthian family in Jesus might have yielded to Satan's deception.

"I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3)

If the Corinthian followers of Jesus could be deceived, we today can be deceived as well, if we're not alert.

**Christians Can be Demonized. True? or False?**

As you read the title to this section, "Christians can be demonized. True? or

False?", what was your initial response?

Many Christians are afraid that demons might influence or control them. Over the centuries this fear has prompted a number of denominations to embrace a satanic lie that "Christians can't be influenced by demons!"

The false assumption behind that statement gives Satan an unchallenged foothold in the souls of so many followers of Jesus.

Let's clarify an important interpretation from the Bible. This concerns the Greek word, "*daimonizomenoi*".

This term is used in Scripture to describe the influence of evil spirits in the lives of individuals. It's often mistranslated as "demon possession."

For example, most translations state that "many who were demon-possessed were brought to [Jesus], and he drove out the spirits with a word" (Matthew 8:16).

When Jesus was in the region of the Gadarenes, two men called "demon-possessed" came to Him from the tombs (Matthew 8:28).

And again, a man who was blind and mute is referred to as "demon-possessed" by the translators (Matthew 12:22). In each case the word "*daimonizomenoi*" is inaccurately translated "demon-possessed."

This mistranslation conjures up a totality of demonic ownership and control that's more encompassing than the word really means. Demon-possession would indicate no free will, which isn't the case.

The more literal rendering of this word is "DEMON-IZED". A demonized person may be afflicted, agitated, influenced or tormented in some way by a demon or demons.

A good way for us to understand demonization is through the English word "cauterize." To cauterize a wound means that you sear it to keep it from becoming infected. A hot iron is applied to an open wound to stop the bleeding.

It's only the wound that's cauterized, not the whole person! And the injured person is certainly not cauter-possessed!

In the same way, demonization means the particular effect or impact of a demon on a certain area of someone's soul.

THAT AREA is one that isn't under the control of the Holy Spirit, so it's fair game for Satan. As with cauterizing, the deeper the "wound" of sin, the greater the "effect" of the demonization.

The most severe case of demonic activity reported in Scripture takes place in the man from the region of the Gerasenes. Even with a "legion" of demons plaguing him, this man had enough free will to recognize Jesus and run to him (Mark 5:1-20).

Now that you understand that the Bible is not talking about "demon possession", you can better realize that demons affect certain areas of our mind, will, and emotions that we've yielded to them through habitual disobedience.

Demons, or unclean spirits as the Bible often calls them, can also interfere with the normal function of our bodies, as

with the demonized man who was blind and mute (Matthew 12:22).

You can see the difference between a demonized person compared to the traditional understanding of someone who is "demon-possessed".

We'll deal with this a whole lot more in Part 2 of our *Freedom In Jesus* series, *Demolishing Strongholds*.

### **The Process of Demonization of Your Soul**

Demonic influence can create problems that are spiritual, emotional, and even physical. The difference of influence is a matter of DEGREE.

A severely demonized person suffers long-standing and frequent periods of demonic manifestations. A mildly demonized person may have only short bouts of agitation.

Again, we'll deal with this topic much more in Part 2 of this series, *Demolishing Strongholds*. But, right now we want to introduce you to how demonic activity, a very real feature of the unseen realm, takes place in your soul.

The first inroads are made through your body. The temptation to sin most often comes through one or more of your five senses. When you realize that the temptation you encounter is not something Jesus would think, say or do, your soul is in conflict. At this point, the temptation enters your soul.

- Within the soul, that is, your mind, will, and emotions, is your individual personality.
- Within your mind, will and emotions

are your needs, desires and motivations.

Your soul receives the temptation from your body. And because your soul is the arena that's open to demonic activity, a battle begins.

God's Word commands you to resist the temptation, or flee from it! If you don't, you'll not only give in to it and sin, but you'll also open your self up to demonic influence, oppression, and captivity of a vulnerable area of your soul if this sin becomes HABITUAL.

HABITUALLY GIVING WAY to temptation in particular areas of your soul will prevent you from responding to God. You won't be able to receive from Him in the way He intends. His love and truth will be blocked out by the demonic stronghold that the demons establish in your soul.

You can go through a lot of religious activities and programs, but you won't experience intimate relationship with God.

And those areas of your soul that are blocked by a demonic stronghold will quench the work of the Holy Spirit.

### **Entertaining Demons In Your Mind**

You'd be amazed how many Christians entertain demons in their mind! Many followers of Jesus listen more to the tantalizing or self-justifying voices of demons than they do to God's Spirit.

(Explore: Newsletter 1999-02 "Counterfeit Church")

Why is this? Because they've been taught that as "Christians", the devil can't do anything to them.

They think this because of the mistranslation of *daimonizomenoi*. We agree that they can't be demon-possessed. But as we've shown, they can be demonized to varying degrees.

If YOU want to live free in Jesus, you must be aware that you can be demonized! A careful look at Paul's words to his people in Corinth gives us a clearer picture of the choices we must make in our soul.

"The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?" (1 Corinthians 10:20-22).

Paul wrote this passage to followers of Jesus. What was he warning them about when he cautioned them, "I do not want you to be participants with demons"?

The Greek term that's translated "communion" in the King James Version and "participation" in the NIV is "*koinonia*". From this word we get the term "fellowship".

Paul was emphatic when he counseled them, "I do not want you to be participants with demons." Let's rephrase this: "I don't want you fellowshipping with demons!"

What do you think it means for you to participate with demons?  
What is it that you do that has you fellowshipping with demons?

Paul warned that people who drink of

the Lord's cup or share in His covenant, CAN'T mix that holiness with ways that are demonic.

If you want to live according to the world, your flesh and Satan, you can't partake of the table of Jesus in your heart.

A vital principle here applies to you entertaining demons in your soul, which encompasses your mind, will and emotions. This principle pertains to who is really ruling your soul — Satan or the Holy Spirit. Let's reword part of Paul's passage to the Corinthians:

"You can't entertain thoughts of Jesus and thoughts influenced by demons at the same time. The Lord and demons can't occupy your soul together. You'll become like whomever you allow to participate in your thoughts and actions."

Remember, your soul is the battleground for the unseen world going on around you. You can live free in union with Jesus to serve His purposes.

Or, you can be demonized by the devil and live in darkness in a particular area or areas of your soul. The choice is yours.

This concludes Part 1 of our *Freedom In Jesus* series. If you aren't experiencing the love and freedom promised you by Jesus, join us for Part 2, *Demolishing Strongholds*.

Living free to experience our Lord's love and to freely serve Him is what being a follower of Jesus is all about. Please join us for Part 2.