

Ghost Busters

I aint afraid of no ghost...

“I ain’t afraid of no ghost...” - If you are like me you remember that line from the 80’s. Unbeknownst to many in the church world witchcraft is on a drastic increase. In a recent article in the Atlantic the title read: ***Americans’ interest in spell-casting trends as instability rises and trust in the establishment ideal plummets.***

In this article it notes that **“when there are events that really shake the foundations of society, people absolutely turn toward the spirit realm.”**

‘We’re in the middle of a witch moment’: Hip witchcraft is on the rise in the US...” – USA Today ...No longer considered wicked, witches are hip.

The numbers of Americans who identify with Wicca or paganism has risen from 134,000 in 2001 to nearly 2 million today

If this is true, why is the church turning from it? Why is the church so afraid to learn how to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Before we jump into the beginning of this series on the evil spirit realm, first lets get some basic clarification of terminology:

- Three different Greek expressions normally used to describe the influence of demons:
 - **To have an unclean/evil spirit**. See Matt. 11:18; Mark 7:25; 9:17; Luke 4:33; 8:27; 13:11; John 7:20; 8:48–49, 52; 10:20–21.
 - **To be in an unclean/evil spirit** (Modern English—to be under the influence of) See Mark 1:23; 5:2.
 - **To be demonized**. KJV incorrectly translates to be “possessed with devils.” There is nothing in the Greek to support the word “possessed,” which can be misleading. See Matt. 4:24; 8:16, 28, 33; 9:32; 12:22; 15:22; Mark 1:32; 5:15, 16, 18; Luke 8:36.

Identifying the enemy - Introduction:

- **The Nature of Demons**

- **Demons are spirits without bodies.** Distinguish between angels and demons: Angels have wings (see Daniel 9:21). Demons do not have wings (see Matt. 12:43).
- **Angels normally inhabit the “heavenlies” (see Eph. 6:12; Jude 6; Rev. 12:7–8).**
- **Demons are earthbound.**
- **Angels have bodies of their own, and do not normally desire to occupy another body.**
- **Demons have an intense craving to inhabit a body** (see Matt. 12:43–45; Mark 5:11–13). Only in this way can they gratify their evil desires and propensities.
- **Demons have all the hallmarks of normal personality:**
 - Will (see Matt. 12:44; Mark 5:11–13)
 - Emotion (see James 2:19)
 - Knowledge (see Mark 1:23–24; Acts 19:15)
 - Self-awareness (see Mark 5:9)
 - A conscience too seared to respond (see 1 Tim 4:2)
 - Ability to speak (see Mark 1:24; 5:7–12; Acts 19:15)
- Matt 12:24–28—As Beelzebub (Lord of Flies) **Satan rules over demons on the earth, as he rules over fallen angels in the heavenlies.**
- Activity Of Demons
 - Their activities may be summed up by various verbs:
 - Entice (see James 1:14)
 - Deceive (see 1 Tim. 4:1–2)
 - Enslave (see Romans 8:15)
 - Torment (see 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 John 4:18)
 - Drive/compel (see Luke 8:29)
 - Defile (see Titus 1:15)
- **Demons fight against peace in every aspect:**
 - Inner personal harmony
 - Peace of mind
 - Physical well-being
 - Harmonious relationships with other people, especially those closest to us
 - Harmonious adjustment to external circumstances

The great distinctive marks of demon activity: restlessness and confusion

- **Demons operate from two alternative positions:**
 - **From outside the body**
 - **From within the body**
 - If they operate from outside, we must resist them (see James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9)
 - If they operate from within, we must expel them (see Matt. 8:16; Mark 1:39)

Mark 1:21-27 – ²¹Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. ²²And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

²³Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴saying, “Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” ²⁶And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine *is* this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” ²⁸And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

Mark 1:32-34 - At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Mark 1:38-39 - ³⁸But He said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.”

³⁹And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons. (Philips): “So he continued preaching in their synagogues and expelling evil spirits throughout the whole of Galilee.”

- Important Points to Observe
 - Mark 1:27–28—**The way that Jesus dealt with demons was the most original and striking feature of His whole ministry.**

- He also performed miracles of healing, provision, control over the forces of nature, raising the dead, etc. But all these had occurred in the ministry of Old Testament believers, such as Moses, Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha.
- Demons are referred to in the Old Testament (see Lev. 17:7; Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:36–37).
- No Old Testament record of driving out evil spirits
- The people of Jesus' day recognized the reality of demons, and practiced some form of exorcism (see Matt. 12:27; Acts 19:13–14). But the authority with which Jesus cast out demons was completely new.
- **Matt 12:28** - But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.—**Jesus Himself described this as the open clash of two spiritual kingdoms: the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.**
- Mark 1:24–25—At times Jesus spoke directly to demons, and they to Him (compare
- Mark 3:11–12; 5:6–13). But there is no New Testament pattern for holding lengthy conversations with them.
- Luke 13:31–32—**One-third of Jesus' ministry was spent in healing and deliverance**

JESUS WAS THE ORIGINAL GHOST BUSTER!

Notice Mark 1:21-27:

- Jesus dealt with the spirit in the man
- **Jesus removed the spirit from the man, but the postmodern powerless church would have removed the man from the church.**
- **Daimonizomai (Greek) = To be demonized, not possessed**
- A continuing ministry
- Associated with healing - Luke 4:40–41; 13:11–16—Ministry of healing and deliverance is interwoven

Ghost Busters - 2

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John 10:10, John 10:1

Introduction:

- God's heart beats to the rhythm of freedom
- People are consumed with bondage
- God is not just interested in freeing you **from something**, but freeing you to **become something**.
- Most people think that being free from bondage means they have acquired the sum total of all that Jesus wants to give them.

TWO WAYS TO KNOW YOU'RE IN BONDAGE

1. If you live with or in **fear**
2. If you continually return to a **besetting sin**

THE PURPOSE OF THE THEIF

1. To **steal**
2. To **kill**
3. To **destroy**

THEIF COMES IN ANOTHER WAY! WHAT WAY? – John 10:1

FIVE WAYS THE ENEMY COMES IN

1. **Generational curses** – a predisposition towards sin
 - a. Notice – KJV has this translated right = “iniquity”
 - b. The sin is not visited upon the children, but the iniquity.
 - c. This is a predisposition toward a certain sin or bondages
 - i. Is. 65:7
 - ii. Lev. 26:40
 - iii. Neh. 9:2
 - iv. Jeremiah 14:20
 - v. Notice: Lust is the iniquity, but adultery would be the sin
 - d. Today we are going to restructure your family tree
2. **Unforgiveness and Bitter Root Judgments**
 - a. Eph. 4:26-27 (NIV)
 - b. Heb. 12:14-16 – If we allow a root to spring up “many will be defiled”
 - i. Defiled means sexual sin

- ii. A lot of sexual immorality is the expression of a bitter root of unforgiveness
 - c. Matt. 18:32-35 – Parable of the unmerciful steward
 - i. Master forgives a guy debt of 52 million (today's value)
 - ii. Guy forgiven forces a guy who owes 44 dollars to pay and throws him in jail
 - iii. God allows demon spirits to torture the unforgiving
 - d. Unforgiveness = is drinking poison hoping it kills someone else
- 3. **Hurts and Trauma**
 - a. Matthew 12:20 – Satan tries to take advantage of people in moments of trauma
 - b. Jesus is very gentle with bruised people
 - c. Hebrews 2:14-15
- 4. **Witchcraft and the Occult**
 - a. 1 Samuel 15:23 – Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft
 - b. Deut. 18:10-12 (NIV)
- 5. **Continued Sin and Strongholds**
 - a. Romans 6:16
 - b. Strongholds are dismantled just like they are built – one stone at a time!

Conclusion:

Because of our lack of understanding of who demons are, how they work and how to deal with them afflicting people's lives, we are seeing the fulfillment of a scripture in Jeremiah:

- **Jer. 6:14; 8:11** - They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is* no peace.
 - The hurt of God's people "slightly **healed.**" **Wounds covered, but not cleansed.** We must use "probe" and "forceps." Evil spirits must be detected and driven out.
- **1 Cor. 9:26** - Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

- To minister to human needs without discernment of evil spirits is to fight “as one that beats the air.”
- Man living in the tombs with a legion of demons inside. He came and ran to the feet of Jesus. Whatever is holding you today cannot keep you from running to the man who can set you free!