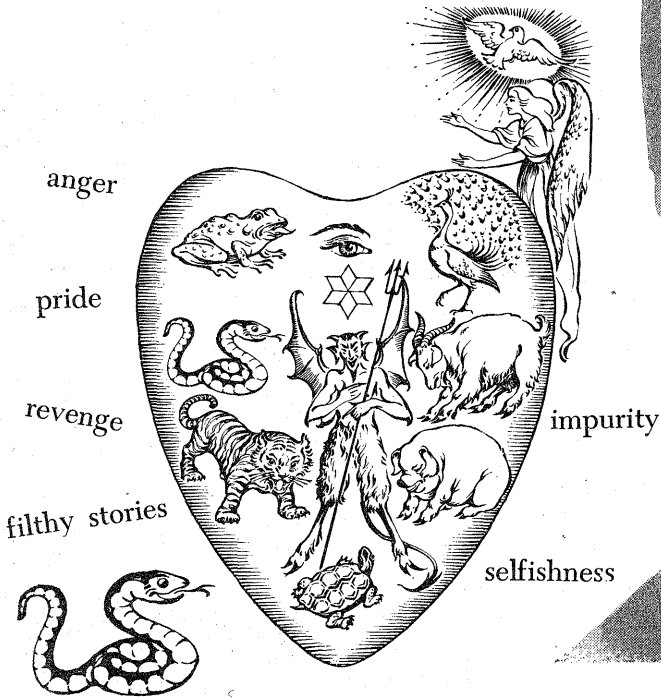
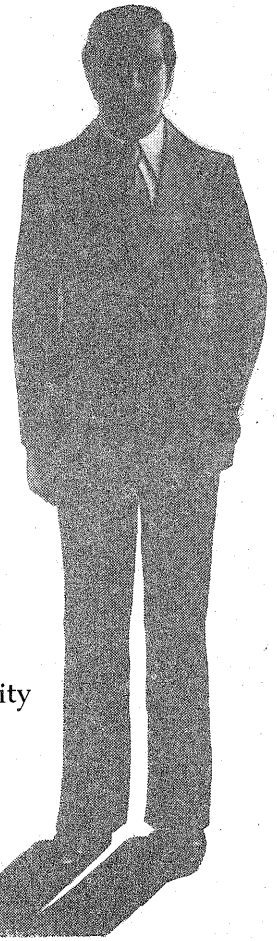


CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON- POSSESSED?

- Ray Brubaker
GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
RADIO BROADCAST



CAN A CHRISTIAN

BE

DEMON-

POSSESSED?



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Are These The Demonized Times Forecast By Scripture?	
KNOW YOUR ENEMY - SATAN!.....	5
DEALING WITH DEMONS! (THE EXORCIST)...(# 965).....	10
PSYCHIC PHENOMENA.....	17
CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON-POSSESSED? (1).....	22
CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON-POSSESSED? (2)...(# 964).....	26
DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONS!.....	33
MENTAL DEPRESSION - THE WORK OF DEMONS?.....	38
THE DEMON OF LUST!.....	44
(# 931)	

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Introduction

ARE THESE THE DEMONIZED TIMES FORECAST BY SCRIPTURE?

TIME magazine, featuring an article reporting on devil-worship, declares: "Occultism cannot be dismissed as mere fakery or faddishness. Clearly it is born of a religious impulse and in many cases it becomes in effect a substitute faith. Much of the occult, after all, is man's feeble attempt to become godlike, to master the world around him." (June 19, 1972 TIME)

Lucian Truscott IV, prolific writer, declares: "I shudder to think of the locust-swarm of eviloids" of the Satanist cults. Truscott says they "are devouring some of the best young minds of the country at this very moment."

What about the wave of fascination with the occult seen sweeping the world today? Is the devil preparing to take over the world?

First, we would observe that these are demonized times as witnessed by the continued violence and unrest in the nations today.

Communism, feeding on hate and propagated by violence, we believe to be the work of demons.

What we might call the spirit of nationalism may very well be stimulated by demonic activity where racial hatreds and bloodshed are abundant.

Proof of demon activity among the nations might be seen in Rev. 16:14 where we read of "the spirits of devils...which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... Armageddon."

We see here that it is the work of demons to foment crises, cause unrest, bring revolution, kill, murder, engender hate, produce strife...until one day demons will actually drive the nations of the whole earth to Palestine where a battle will be fought--an awful battle between mankind and God the Creator.

Second, we would observe these are demonized times as witnessed by the many religious cults abroad today.

TIME magazine carried the story of Elijah Muhammad, who claimed a following of 250,000 here in the United States. Elijah demands of his followers that they give up tobacco, dope and alcohol, and that the women dress modestly, use no lipstick, etc.

All this may be well and good, but Elijah's followers are taught to scorn what they call the "poison" Bible, and Christianity's "slave-master doctrine," and to dislike the White man.

Now, the Word of God has predicted "false Christs" and "false prophets" for the end-time. Jesus Himself warned, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Paul writes: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils."

Did you hear it, neighbor? Some would give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

Oh, let no one be deceived.

Now, as we read from II Tim. 3...will you note if these conditions prevail today? Surely, if given spiritual discernment, you and I know these very conditions, forecast 1900 years ago, are an accurate expression of conditions as they exist today. (Let me read from the King James version...along with interjections from both Williams and Phillips)

"This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. Men will become utterly self-centered (selfish) lovers of their own selves. They will be greedy-for-money."

(I read recently where a noted authority said that 90% of our thinking is connected with money-making.)

They will be boasters...full of big words.

They will be proud, haughty, without regard for other people.

(How we see this evidenced in nations and peoples who consider themselves superior to others... This was the doctrine of Hitler.)

Paul then declares...men will be blasphemous, abusive, speaking evil.

(Again we would think of various and sundry movements to ridicule and destroy the name of the Lord by evil speaking and blasphemy.)

"Disobedient to Parents"...without regard for parental instruction.

They will be unthankful...utterly lacking in gratitude...ungrateful.

(Do people appreciate what you do for them? Do your children appreciate your assistance? Are we unthankful?)

They will be unholy...without natural affection.

In other words, the love that should be found between husband and wife, and parents and children is lacking.)
Truce-breakers...men of unscrupulous speech, having no control of themselves, self-willed and conceited, loving all the time what gives them pleasure instead of loving God.
(How sad! How true!)

Keeping up the forms of religion (having a form of godliness)...
but denying the power thereof--not giving expression to its power.

FROM SUCH TURN AWAY. AVOID SUCH PEOPLE. YOU MUST KEEP CLEAR OF PEOPLE LIKE THIS.

What a commentary on conditions as they exist today! Surely these are "perilous" (demonized) times and the believer is encouraged to do all to stand against the forces of evil in the world today.

What lies ahead is described for us in the Word of God when Satan will actually be cast down upon the earth. Already it would appear that his forces are uniting for a final major attack, and we need to be fortified by the Holy Spirit dwelling in fulness within us for days just ahead.

Another way to be protected is to claim the blood of Jesus as a covering for our lives, and to be bold in our witness for Christ. As we read in Rev. 12:11 concerning believers, it is said: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Who knows what lies ahead for the saints? Surely Satan is regrouping his forces for a final attack. In Rev. 3:10 we read, "Behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison..." which speaks of his power to persecute the church. Again in Rev. 13:7 we read, "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them." This refers to the coming Antichrist who will be the puppet of Satan to rule the world during the coming tribulation at which time he will greatly oppress the saints who are upon the earth.

But thanks be to God for victory throughout Lord Jesus Christ, that whether we face Satan's attacks now, or whether his attacks will become more vicious later, we can rejoice in For that reason - to encourage your faith that you may be victorious over the devil - this booklet has been written. While it may surprise you to hear authorities quoted who would assert that Christians can be demon-possessed, may it excite and thrill you to know that our Lord has defeated the devil, and through His Name and the power of His shed blood we can likewise be victorious over him. God grant it. Amen.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY - SATAN

CHRISTIAN LIFE magazine has noted with increasing alarm the sicknesses, mental breakdowns, accidents, frustrations and discouragements afflicting even the more spiritually-minded both at home and abroad. The solution to the problem suggested is recognition of the believer's authority over Satan with daily fellowship and communion with God that is not marred by sin in the life. During the last war, you may remember seeing signs which read, KNOW YOUR ENEMY! Satan is the foe of every Christian, and we must know something about his evil work in order to defeat him.

Now some would deny that Satan exists. Some time ago, I read of a meeting of Anglican Bishops where the subject of demons was discussed. Do demons exist? Replied the Dean of Windsor, the Right Reverend Eric Hamilton; "I would rather believe that the devil exists than that he does not!" Quite agreed was Canon Arthur Shepherd, who observed; "The first tactic of the devil is to persuade Christians that he does not exist; next, to persuade them that God does not exist!" In our modern cultured society many would deny the existence of Satan or of demons. Martin Luther had no question about the existence of the devil, for he will ever be remembered for his attack upon the devil when he attempted to throw an ink bottle at him. Comments the Anglican journal, CHURCH TIMES, concerning satanic powers: "The Son of God had no doubt about the existence of such forces. Where He was certain, it is hardly necessary for Christians to doubt!" Yes, the Bible does declare that we are faced with an enemy who may appear as an angel of light or as a roaring lion, and who both day and night appears before God to accuse the brethren. Our purpose is not to give this foe special mention except to note ways and means whereby he attacks that we may be wise to his ways and quick to discern his deceptions. As the Apostle Paul spoke of "Being aware of his devices," permit me to list seven ways wherein Satan may try to attack the saints.

First, he tries to keep our prayers from being answered. Remember how Daniel prayed for three weeks, and an angelic being appeared before him to say: "Fear not, Daniel; for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days...." Here is evidence that Satan tries to stop our supplications--to thwart our prayers. (Dan. 10:12-13)

In the second place, we would note the attempt of our enemy (Satan) to interfere with one's plans. Oftentimes, when planning on some revival campaign or evangelistic activity, it would appear that the car may give trouble, or physically, our bodies may be attacked by illness. This is evidence of Satan's work. As the apostle Paul addressed the Thessalonians, saying, "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul once and again, but Satan hindered us...." If the enemy attacked the great apostle Paul, we can't be surprised if he attempts to hinder us. (I Thess.2:18)

The third thing we would note about the devil is his determination to get us to speak our own mind instead of "thus saith the Lord!" when it comes to giving forth God's message. Why is it that there is a growing conflict with the Word of God, and men who should be upholding the authority of the Scriptures are today seen on the side of those who are attacking the Bible? For instance, the United Church of Canada, at a cost of a million dollars, revised its Sunday School lessons, and children are being taught that the Bible is not all true, and that the Old Testament is largely mythology. The story of David killing Goliath isn't true, according to the new intermediate guides, and the plagues of Egypt were a "children's disease," not a supernatural curse of God. The account of Noah and the ark is legend, and the miracles of Moses crossing the Red Sea just never happened, according to the lessons hundreds of thousands of boys and girls in Canada were being taught in their churches. Now, the reason for this rejection of the Word of God is that church leaders no longer find it possible to accept the miracles of the Bible, including the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, or the Genesis account of creation. This more liberal approach to the Bible is said to be more in harmony with reason.

Remember the occasion when our Lord spoke of His decease--His death on the cross--to His disciples. Peter replied, "Be it far from thee, Lord; this shall not be unto thee!" Here Peter was speaking his mind instead of speaking "thus saith the Lord!" Jesus is seen turning to him and saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan....for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men!" How important for every minister to preach the Word of God, and

stick to the Bible, rather than to give their opinions based on human logic and reasoning, for in so doing, they may become tools of the enemy.

The fourth way we would find the devil attacking us is in oppressing our bodies. Job's sickness was brought on by Satan. Of the woman bowed together, who could in no wise lift herself, Jesus said: "Satan hath bound thee, lo, these 18 years!" Luke, a doctor, testifies that when Jesus was on earth He went about healing "all that were oppressed of the devil...." Acts 10:38. Dr. John R. Rice says, "Sickness and disease come from Satan. God permits them as He permits sin and permits certain results of sin; and God often overrules sickness to His own glory. But generally, it is proper to say (says Dr. Rice) that sickness is from Satan!"

Satan's fifth method of attack is to motivate ulterior desires. In the case of Judas, he was motivated to betray Christ by greed and love of money. Now the Scripture warns of this, saying: "The love of money is the root of all evil; and they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts." (I Tim. 6: 9-10) When Ananias and Sapphira sold some land and agreed together to keep some of the money in a dishonest covenant, Peter remonstrates, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?" (Acts 5:3) Satan's desire is to promote half-truths and encourage ulterior motives.

In the sixth place, we would note the enemy's greatest work and that is to deceive. Warning after warning is given in the Scripture to be careful lest we be deceived. Dr. Wilbur Smith, noted Bible teacher and theologian, says that the deception of the Endtime will spring largely from a lack of the Word of God. Says Smith: "As the knowledge of the Scriptures decline in our generation, man will be increasingly liable to falsehood. Not knowing the truth, he will believe a lie!"

Finally, we would point out that Satan's greatest power is to ensnare! Paul writes in 2 Tim. 2:26, "that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." Did you hear it? Here is a verse that reveals something of the tremendous power of the enemy--to exercise his authority upon his captives, to ensnare his victims. This is why men become enslaved to lust, to liquor, and to love of money. They need to be set free, to recover themselves out of the snare of Satan. Let us not forget, Satan is a powerful foe!

We have shown you seven ways wherein he is determined to defeat us, but how wonderful to know that Satan is a defeated foe. The Bible tells us that when Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He wrestled the very keys of death from the devil, and Christ is now seated victoriously at the right hand

of the Father. We read, "Through death He (Jesus) might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil." (Heb. 2:14)

The story is related of a robber who would hold up buses and rob the passengers. He would wait until the bus came to a stop and then proceed to take money and jewelry from those aboard. This happened abroad. Finally, the government stepped in and decided something must be done to stop this robber as the people were frightened and didn't want to ride the buses. Detectives went on board the buses and eventually the robber was captured, and his weapons taken from him. However, when the detective wasn't careful, the robber escaped. What happened? The detective surmised that the robber would make another attempt to hold up a bus, and sure enough, this is what happened. But as the detective walked up to the robber who pretended to be armed with a gun, the detective said: "You can't frighten me. I know you can't shoot a mosquito." So Satan, too, has been robbed of his great power, by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

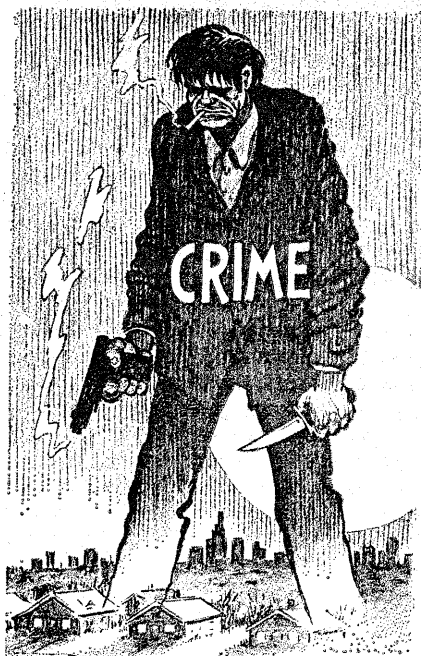
It's interesting to know that before Calvary, the Greek word "DUNAMIS" is used to describe Satan's power--an untrammelled power! But since the resurrection, we're told another Greek work, "EXOUSIA" is used to refer to the devil's authority. Though still "prince and power of the air" he is a lesser authority, defeated by Jesus, and subject unto Him. The secret of victory over Satan is to recognize his defeat, and though he still has great power, he cannot touch us unless we sin or unless God permits. Of Job, it was said, that God had placed a hedge about him and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side. Satan could not touch Job who feared God, who hated evil, and was upright! Not until God gave permission, could the devil afflict Job. And this, my friends, was before the victory of Calvary! How much greater is our victory with the Holy Spirit to help us as we plead the blood of Jesus over his every attack,

When Jesus died on the cross, He purchased us with His own blood. There is an invisible "no trespassing" sign on every saint. Paul writes, "Ye are not your own, you are bought with a price!" We repeat--Satan has no right to attack you if you are born again and living for Christ. As we read in I John 5:18, "We know that whatsoever is born of God sinneth not; but he keepeth himself, and THAT WICKED ONE TOUCHETH HIM NOT!" Did you hear it? If born again, we are God's property, and THAT WICKED ONE TOUCHETH US NOT!

This should become one of the favorite verses of every Christian. For Satan has no right to touch us, if we are saved and not continuing the practice of sin! Are you saved?

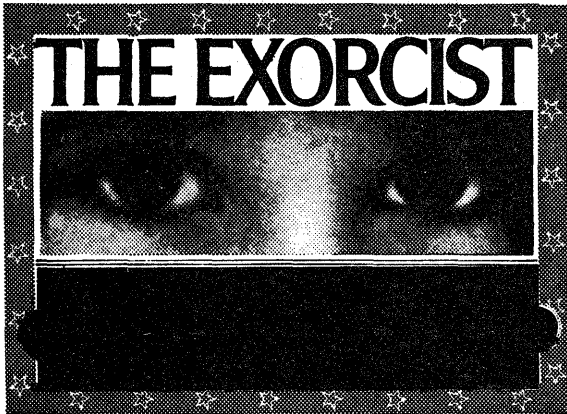
Do you know of this victory over Satan? To His disciples, our Lord said, "I give you power over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you!" (Luke 10:19)

If not, trust Christ today and receive this power in your life! Amen.



—Shanks in "Buffalo Evening Express"

Demons at Work Today!



(#965)

I wonder how much concern there is for a film--THE EXORCIST--which glorifies Satan.

Paul Scott, a hard syndicated columnist, calls this motion picture, the most explosively dangerous film ever produced in the U.S. He reports powerful and strange reactions to those who view a 12-year-old girl being exorcised on the screen.

Scott claims the film will trigger an epidemic of persons wanting to be possessed by the prince of darkness. He cites 80 documented cases where persons, after reading the book, became possessed. What is happening to people who see the film production, is beyond description.

The Rev. Jamie Buckingham, a Baptist minister, has also authored several books which are best sellers, like RUN BABY RUN--the story of Nicky Cruz. Buckingham relates hearing from those who had seen the film that all were under severe satanic attack.

He relates how in a restaurant he heard snatches of conversation from people who had been to see the film. Their conversation centered around Satan....for they had been to see this film. He reports how a 3-second preview of the film came on the screen in a certain theatre and the audience gave a standing ovation to this picture which glorifies the devil.

Experts say it will be Hollywood's biggest money maker. Newspaper, including our local St. Petersburg TIMES, gave lots of free publicity to a picture that finds people standing in line to see the works of Satan. Some who see it pass out, others become nauseated, and no doubt, many become actually possessed by demons as they live the scenes enacted on the screen. No doubt, this is one of the most damnable concoctions of evil ever portrayed and the obscenities and filth shown and heard, I'm told, are unbelievable.

Buckingham writes: "As a watchman on the wall, I'm blowing a trumpet to warn you the enemy is approaching. We are commanded to resist the devil, not glorify him. Stay away from this film!"

Johnny Carson, on his TONIGHT show, I'm told, admitted he did not sleep the night he saw the movie. The NEW YORKER magazine says it would be sheer insanity to allow a child to see it.

In the film, THE EXORCIST, the actual story relates to a 14-year-old boy who was possessed by demons. First, there were strange noises in the house. Then the mattress on which the boy slept began to shake at night, so violently, he was actually thrown out of bed. Claw-like scratches began to appear on the boy's body although he lay there motionless in plain sight. Each time this happened, he would double up in pain and utter a fearful howl.

At length, he was taken to a university for the formal ritual of exorcism. It took several husky seminarians to hold down the youth who spit forth obscenities and committed unspeakable acts and fought with super-human strength.

When priests read the exorcism rite in Latin, to their amazement, the youth answered back at them in scholarly Latin. When another language was used, the boy would answer fluently in the same language. The exhausting struggle to release the young man from demonic possession took six weeks during which time the priest performing this ritual lost 50 to 60 pounds.

Gradually, the boy came back to normal and was restored to his family.

During the filming of THE EXORCIST, there were bizarre happenings reported. The actor (who was killed by a demon in the film) died a week after the death scene. The girl who played the part of the possessed girl in the film had her grandfather die during the first week of the picture which delayed its production. Likewise, the man who acted the part of the exorcist had a brother die soon after he arrived on the first scene. An actual house, built for the set, burned down with no apparent cause even though it had been guarded. Others who had anything to do with the filming of the picture had similar tragedies as the carpenter who cut off his thumb, and the gaffer who accidentally cut off a toe. Reels of tape turned up missing and others had frames containing strange images that were not visible at the time of production of the film.

We might point out that not everyone can take it upon themselves to cast out demons. In Acts 19, we read of exorcists which took upon themselves to cast out devils in the name of Jesus; for the demons do respond to Jesus' name, and obey commands in His name.

In verse 14 of Acts 19, we read of seven sons of one whose name was Sceva who commanded the evil spirits to leave, saying: "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." We read: "And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" And the man in whom the evil spirit was, leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

My friends, we are dealing with an unseen foe who, when in possession of a person, can make that individual violent. Many crimes committed today are the work of demons in control of that person. Likewise, in mental hospitals it may require several persons to hold down one who is usually a calm, weak individual. This, too, may be the work of demons, having great strength.

But if we are children of God, and there isn't sin in our life, we can command in the name of Jesus that the evil spirits leave.

I recall hearing firsthand of a minister with cancer. Another servant of the Lord came and prayed for him, rebuking the demon of cancer to go in Jesus' name. When he uttered this prayer, a cat in the room went wild and the door had to be opened to let the cat out. But the minister was healed of the cancer when the demon was cast out.

We must remember that God has given His disciples power over unclean spirits to cast them out. Our Lord said to His disciples, "I give you power over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Indeed, there is power in the name of Jesus.

I might relate an incident that happened only recently. I was parked in my car at a red light waiting for it to change. Just then a man came and opened the door of my car and placed both his hands around my neck. Without being afraid I simply rebuked the devil in the name of Jesus. That quickly, he unclasped his hands and ran. I believe the man was under the influence of alcohol which gives demons greater opportunity to work.

When you get in your car and start out you need to plead the blood of Jesus Christ. For you do not know who may be in the car coming toward you. It may be a man possessed of devils who, if possible, will ram your car head-on, for Satan's work is to kill, harm and destroy.

The conflict with Satan is very real. Only by coming to know the power of Jesus Christ, and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit can we be immune to and victorious over the devil.

Just to show you the power that the devil has, we would quote 2 Tim. 2:26, which reminds us that there are those who are caught in the snare of Satan, "taken captive by him at his will."

Think of it!

This, I believe, accounts for children being possessed or oppressed by the devil. In the Bible you read of a father who brought his son to Jesus. The father related how the boy was a lunatic, and sore vexed: "For oftentimes he falleth into the fire and into the water," said the father.

Even the disciples were helpless to cast out the demons, so when our Lord rebuked the devil, and he departed from him, our Lord said: "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." (Matt. 17:14-21)

Several years ago, MOODY MONTHLY ran a series of articles on "Demons Today." William Young began the series by saying: "If you do not believe a Christian can be possessed, controlled, or dominated by demons, then you could not possibly be aware of any grip they might have on your life." He went on to suggest: "The paralyzing effect upon your thinking along this line only facilitates their entrenched themselves deeper into your life."

The author of this series of articles lists Satan's attacks as "oppression, obsession, and possession."

Could it be that many are oppressed today who do not know it? For instance, do we think of our sickness as an oppression of Satan? Luke, who was a physician, wrote under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that when Jesus was on earth, He went about doing good and "healing all that were oppressed of the devil."

Whom did Jesus heal? We would say that He healed the sick, while Doctor Luke replies that our Lord healed "all that were oppressed of the devil."

We understand the Greek word for "oppressed" used here means "to exercise harsh control over one; to exercise dominion against one."

This is why in our praying we must exercise faith in coming against sickness and disease, or whatever our oppression may be.

"Obsession" is another word to describe the progress of demon activity today. The word means to vex, or harass.

The Scripture speaks of those who were vexed with unclean spirits. Surely, we can see this vexation today in the flood of filth in movies, books, magazines and bill boards where nudity and sex are used to play upon the minds.

How many today allow their minds to dwell on situations and circumstances contrary to the Word of God and the will of God. There are many obsessed today, including some Christians--believe it or not. The obsession may be that of worry, fretting, a complaining spirit, vain imaginations, evil thoughts, impure thoughts, anger, harshness, suspicion, fanaticism, irritability, critical spirit, spirit of revenge, fear, greed, impetuosity, contention, impatience, severity, pride, sensitivity, frustration, heresy, conceit, and jealousy--just to mention a few.

Remember how the disciples went through a village of the Samaritans, and they would not allow our Lord to enter. So the disciples, James and John, said to the Lord, "Wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?"

Jesus turned to His disciples, saying: "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of!" And the Lord rebuked them.

Similarly, when we find ourselves occupied with thoughts that we should not be thinking, we must rebuke the devil. When vexed by Satan, speak openly to him, saying: "Satan, I rebuke you in Jesus' name. You have no power over me. I plead the blood of Jesus who bought me at Calvary, and I'm His eternal possession."

Yes, you have to remind the devil that he has no right to oppress you if you are a child of God. In 1 John 5:18, three things are said about those who are born of God: first, he that is born of God does not practice sin for Christ has changed his heart and he no longer desires to sin; second, he that is begotten of God keepeth himself. That is, we do not go to places where sin might entice us nor do we yield to temptations that give Satan an advantage in our lives. Finally, it is stated: "And that Wicked one toucheth him not."

Hallelujah! Satan cannot touch you if you are God's property. Remember how Satan could not attack Job because the Lord placed a hedge about him, his property, and all he possessed! That's the best insurance any man can have. Remember, that took place before Calvary when Jesus purchased for us this right to be free from Satan's oppressions and vexations.

Does this mean that a person can arrive at a state where the devil doesn't bother him?

Indeed not. The devil will come in various subtle ways to tease or torment us, but we must ever remind him that we are God's property, purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that he has no right to oppress us.

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," declares James; "Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you."

The secret to victory over the devil is to BE right, by trusting Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Then LIVE right so the devil can't attack you. As Paul writes: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Then DO right. Do those things that please the Lord.

How we need to heed this message today and refuse to let Satan hold sway in our lives. We must resist the devil by

turning from all that is wrong, and following only that which is right. If Satan has a hold on us so that we cannot resist his attacks, let us fast and pray, rebuking him in Jesus' name.

Do your children behave strangely? Do they react to love with hate? Instead of punishing them, maybe we should be praying for them, rebuking the power Satan holds over them. Reprimanding has its place, but rebuke is the Bible principle to exercise defeat for the devil and victory for all who are oppressed, obsessed or possessed by him.

During World War II there were signs which appeared which said, "Know your enemy!" So, today, we need to know our enemy and be able to defeat him. Our enemy is Satan, and we read how when Jesus died on the cross He defeated him that had the power of death, that is the devil. (Heb. 2:14)

One day soon, we believe, our Lord will come again and forever we shall be delivered from all oppressions of our enemy. Until then, we need to fight the good fight of faith, looking for and hastening the day of God, praying He will come quickly.

For our Lord hath said, "In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."



KING SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR

psychic phenomena

The NATIONAL ENQUIRER, in an exclusive interview with Billy Graham, asked him about the film - THE EXORCIST, and others like it being produced by Hollywood.

Replied Graham: "Anyone who exposes himself to the Devil, even in a movie, is exposing himself to real danger.... Demonic possession, the theme of this movie, is not make-believe. It is a reality. Meddling with demons," said Graham, "can unleash supernatural forces that man alone cannot handle. It makes no difference if you believe in God, have faith or have no beliefs at all...everyone is vulnerable."

Graham mentioned a psychiatrist friend who is seeing new patients constantly whose troubles can be directly traced to their having seen films such as the Exorcist. "They report recurring nightmares and problems they never had before."

Leighton Ford, an associate of Graham's, likewise asserted: "People can get all caught up in discussing demon possession and never notice that little by little they are losing sight of the true and living God. They can reach the point where they have no interest whatsoever in the Bible, the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. And Satan will take many more victims by quiet subversion than by frontal attack," he notes.

TIME magazine, in a report on the Psychic Phenomena, relates unusual happenings at home and abroad.

In Russia, for instance, there is an evident increase in what might be called the art of black magic. One, whose name is Ninel, which is Lenin spelled backward, appears on stage and is capable of causing objects to float in mid-air.

In India, a yogi spreads his body on a bed of nails without apparent injury.

Most amazing, perhaps, is Uri Geller, former Israeli nightclub magician, who seems to have the power to bend objects with his mind. He has also been able to reproduce drawings sealed in an opaque envelope, and correctly called the upper face of a dice in a closed box - eight times in eight tries.

What's the explanation?

After reporting on the psychic game, the magazine reminds its readers of a verse in Leviticus that forbids meddling with the spirit world. For we read: "Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them." TIME, Mar. 4, 1974.

Of unusual concern today is the subject of "demon possession." Paul Harvey, in his newspaper column (3/2/74), wrote, "Demoniac possession of humans is not something Hollywood invented. It is quite as old as the Old Testament. Jesus exorcised demons." Mr. Harvey concluded by noting: "Most of the world's religions assume that God and the devil struggle for degrees of possession of each of us until each of us surrenders himself to the will and the ways of one or the other.

Well, to whom have you yielded...to God or Satan?

To yield to God brings salvation when we accept the truth of the Gospel as revealed by the Spirit who brings to our inner consciousness the message of Christ's death on the cross for our sins.

Some might suppose that salvation is merely a matter of belief, but apart from the working of the Spirit of God, there cannot be divine revelation leading to the experience we call "the new birth" or "regeneration."

A verse to prove this might be I Cor. 2:14 which tells us: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Why is it that not everyone accepts the Gospel and is saved? Is it not because they may not want to receive it for it involves turning from sins in which they delight, or a way of life with which they have become accustomed?

On the other hand, for anyone who wants to be saved, all he needs to do is to sincerely come to Christ in repentance and faith. For we read, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13)

If a person will honestly confess his need of salvation, acknowledging that he is a poor, lost sinner, he can be saved this instant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, if a person simply rejects God's love and mercy offered in Jesus Christ, he then opens his heart to Satan to be his servant, and ultimately will spend eternity with the devil and all of his evil host. God never planned that hell be made for man. It was made for Satan who proudly resisted the authority of the Almighty. Man by his own choice, and by rejecting Christ, chooses his own destiny.

That's why it is important when you hear a message such as this to open your heart and pray that Christ will come to dwell in your heart and life by His Holy Spirit!...Why not do it NOW?

In I Cor. 15 we read, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures."

Now we might ask - is a person saved by merely believing the facts concerning Christ's birth, death and resurrection?

The answer is NO. You can observe Christmas in recognition of Christ's birth. You can observe Good Friday in recognition of His death. And you can attend services on Easter Sunday like some do once a year...and yet be without salvation.

Then how are we saved?

The answer is very simple. We must accept the facts of the Gospel, for they are important, but we must recognize that Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins. As the Holy Spirit shows us our sinful condition and we repent and turn to Christ in simple child-like faith, we are saved. So not only is there recognition of the facts of the Gospel, there must be the action of the Spirit of God in revealing these facts to us which results in our regeneration.

Proof of what we have just said is found in II Thess. 2:13 where we read... "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

Did you hear it?

Our salvation is two-fold. There must be a belief of the truth. But there must also come the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit which happens when we receive Christ as Saviour and Lord. What a wonderful, glorious reality to know that God himself comes to possess us once we yield our all to Him. By yielding to Satan, we are possessed by Him. You have a choice to make.

Evidence that our salvation is the work of God's Holy Spirit might be indicated in such Scriptures as Phil. 2:12b-13. Here we're told to "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling." That's our part. Incidentally, the Bible tells us that the very demons believe in God and that they fear and tremble. That's more than some people who have no fear of God. They use His name in cursing and swearing without regard to His sovereignty.

"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling," says this Scripture, reminding us, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Did you know that as you yield your all to Jesus Christ, He will begin to work out His will in your life? What a great salvation!

Briefly, let's look at the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

First, we are born of the Spirit. (John 3:8) Our Lord said to Nicodemus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit."

You can't see the wind. But you can see the results of the

wind in blowing the leaves of a tree, or unfurling the flag. So it is with the work of the Holy Spirit. You can't see the Holy Spirit working in a life but you see the transformation - drunkards made sober, harlots made pure, and lives changed.

After we've been converted, we need the Holy Spirit to lead us. Romans 8:14 tells us: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Have you ever gone to a strange city and you did not know where to go? Your friend then came and found you at a restaurant or service station and you followed him to his home. So the Holy Spirit has been sent to lead us through life to our Heavenly home.

Now, the Holy Spirit wants to be closer than that. It's wonderful to follow your friend to his house but in the heavy rush of traffic, and with the changing lights, you could find it

So let's suppose your friend finds you and then he comes and sits in your car and shows you the way to his home. Isn't that better than to follow him?

The name given the Holy Spirit by Jesus is the Comforter. In the Greek it is the word PARAKLETOS, meaning "one called alongside to help."

The Bible says that if we know the Holy Spirit is leading us, we know we are God's children. Praise the Lord! But now we learn that the Holy Spirit is alongside every believer. He is closer than our dearest friend. He is our comforter in time of sorrow and bereavement. He is our strength in time of human weakness.

Let's suppose you are driving to your friend's home. He is sitting there beside you giving you the necessary instructions to find your way to his house without difficulty. But you may encounter a detour, or the night is dark, and it is raining and suddenly you go into a ditch. Or you go past the street where you were supposed to make a turn.

What's the solution to your problem?

Listen closely. Your friend is sitting by you. He has given you ample information for you to arrive at his home safely. But you still have trouble. What can you do? You can let him take control of your car - let him get behind the wheel.

Let's suppose he is a policeman. He's an excellent driver and knows the city backwards and forwards. For him it is an easy chore to get you safely to His house without difficulty. Just trust all to his care.

Beloved, that is the work of the Holy Spirit. He not only wants to lead you, and sits close beside you. He wants to take the helm. He wants to get behind the wheel of your life. He never makes any mistakes. If only you can learn to depend upon Him completely!

In Ephesians 5:18 we read, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

You watch a drunk man and you will find that he does strange things he would never do if he were sober. So a man under the control of the Holy Spirit does those things that please the Lord who has control of his life. The fruit of that life is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Gal. 5:22) Those are traits uncommon to man. But when we are controlled by God's Spirit, we should be different - loving, gracious, and kind.

In the Garden of Gethsemane our Lord prayed, "Not my will but thine be done." It is when we pray this prayer and mean it with all of our heart that we are sanctified.

In Hebrews 10:9 we read: "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God." And in verse 10 we read, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

When Jesus died on the cross, he not only paid for our sins; he also purchased us by the shedding of His precious blood. We are not our own when we come to Christ. But we must willingly surrender our life to Him. We must yield our body to Him.

Hear me. Every believer is called upon to make this decision to surrender all to the will of God. We do this in a once-for-all dedication.

By making a decision for Christ, we receive Him as Saviour, but it takes the total surrender of the will to bring about our sanctification.

Remember again our text - "God hath chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

Is that possible? you ask. Can we be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Read the next verse: "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." Hallelujah!

Are you ready for our Lord's Return? Have you trusted Christ as your Saviour and Lord? Is He in control of your life? Have you yielded all to Him?

Why not now make this decision? Or if you have prayed and asked the Lord to save you, why not give Him full control of your life? Pray this prayer: "Dear Holy Spirit, come and cast out every evil power that possesses me and fill me with your love and power. Come to dwell in fulness in my heart and life. I turn from every sin to find forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ. And I yield my body to be your temple. Dear God, come and take control of my life and dwell in fulness within me. Sanctify me - body, soul and spirit, and keep me ready for your coming. Amen.

Indeed, be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON- POSSESSED?

A psychiatric social worker relates working in a large state hospital. One of his patients was an intelligent, 30-year-old man. This patient spent at least ten years of his life in some of the best treatment facilities in the country but to no avail. In fact, he steadily grew worse.

The tragedy of the case was that he openly professed faith in Jesus Christ and would weep for joy when sharing in the Word, in singing, and in prayer. However, this social worker learned that after he would leave the hospital, the patient would go into a rage, calling him profane names, and trying desperately to harm himself. His condition grew so serious that he was fitted with a football helmet, strapped to his bed, and the bed bolted to the floor.

For a while the visits were discontinued and prayer instead was made for his recovery. Yet, the man became so despondent that he later returned and again would read the Bible to him. On one occasion he felt constrained to command the demon to leave. He writes: "Though the words I spoke were almost inaudible, the reaction was immediate. Never had I witnessed such a gnashing of teeth, screams of profanity against Christ, and evil facial expressions." The social worker reported how the patient was strapped securely to his bed; yet his body became rigid and raised more than a foot above the bed suspended in mid-air. The change in the patient became so violent that the social worker left the room.

He sensed the Holy Spirit quickening him to return. This time the demon-manifestation did not dismay him. He commanded the demon to leave in the Name of Jesus, and then returned to his office.

He writes: "From that day forward, this man was completely free of that demon and the violent behavior. Not only that, he took his Bible and went throughout the hospital to staff and patient alike, praising God for his deliverance. Subsequent hospital investigations attested to the miraculous deliverance from demons.

Rev. Clem Humbard, in one of his timely sermons, has stated: "A great percentage of believers today are bound by the Devil. In some area of their life they are affected by the Devil. The erroneous teaching that demons have little or no activity toward the child of God is without Scriptural foundation, for just the opposite is true." Says Humbard, "It is not true that demons cannot oppress, obsess, and possess believers...they do."

How important then that we stress the need of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Luke 11:24 we read: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

Let me ask you, have you ever seen someone make a profession of faith in the Lord only to become a worse sinner than he had ever been before?

The Word of God cautions us to make certain of our salvation - to make our calling and election sure. Again we're warned, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (I Cor. 10:12)

It's not reformation that saves us; it's regeneration. We need to be transformed by God's Holy Spirit and made new.

It's not turning over a new leaf; it's a new life lived in the power of Christ who comes to dwell in the believer.

We have been emphasizing the need of being sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit. This is God's formulae to be protected against demon possession. Then as we walk in the light of His Word, in obedience to His Will, we can know of daily protection against the forces of evil. It is when we walk in disobedience and yield to sin that we invite Satanic attack.

In order to be ready for our Lord's Return, we are challenged to this life of sanctification. In Heb. 12:14 we read: "Ever strive for peace with all men, and for that sanctification apart from which no one will see the Lord." (Weymouth trans.)

Did you hear it? We need to be sanctified in order to be ready to meet the Lord when He comes. Jesus is coming soon, and we fear that many will not be ready to meet Him.

The reason we believe many are not ready to meet the Lord is that they are living in spiritual defilement. To the church at Sardis our Lord said that it was those who had not defiled their garments who will walk with him in white: for they are worthy.

What defiles our lives? What about "worldliness?" In I John 2:15 we read: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

What about lukewarmness? Concerning the Laodiceans who were neither hot nor cold, our Lord is heard saying: "Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:16)

What about disobedience? While it is true that God hath not appointed us to wrath but to see salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, it is also true that for one who calls himself a believer to walk in known sin is to reap the harvest of the wrath of God.

Listen to that Paul writes. He's addressing Christians, saying: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." Then he warns: "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient."

Did you hear it? Here are sins which are common to many who call themselves Christians. May God help us!

The Apostle Paul continues: "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them." (Eph. 5:5-7)

What about bitterness?

James writes: "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door."

Are you carrying a grudge? Do you refuse to speak to one who is a believer? Do you have malice, enmity or hatred in your heart for a brother? Better get right with God lest you be condemned. Christ is coming. He is verily at the door!

What about unfaithfulness? Are we faithful stewards of that which God has entrusted to us?

In Matthew 25 the servant who hid his lord's money rather than to invest, it was told - "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."

What are you doing with God's money? Are you a faithful steward found investing in His work, or are you hoarding it away or burying it in real estate?

This steward who knew his lord's will and did it not is cast into outer darkness where there's weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Bible does not say a believer will be condemned to hell for unfaithfulness, but it does remind us that there will be a loss of rewards and serious consequences for those who fail to heed this message.

We read: "It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful." (I Cor. 4:2) It's not something optional what we do with talents and money entrusted to us. God expects us to invest wisely!

We might ask - What about the cares of this life? Could occupancy with duties and pleasure keep us from being ready for our Lord's Return? In Luke 21:34 we read: "And take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth."

How many are being fooled into thinking they can be ready for the coming of the Lord and still be living carelessly? Are we not reminded that if we have the hope of Christ's Coming, we will do something about being ready for that event?

As we read in I John 3:3, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Yes, if you're really looking for Christ to come, you're going to get ready. And you're going to be ready.

The way to be ready is to follow peace and holiness, forsaking worldliness, walking in obedience, on fire for God, faithfully serving Him, and not allowing the cares of this life to hold you down.

How can we be ready for our Lord's Return? "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7)

That's how we can be ready for Christ's Coming - by knowing Him as our Saviour, and allowing Him to be Lord and Master of our lives. For remember He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON POSSESSED? (# 964)

The NEW YORK POST has noted that the kidnaping of 19-year-old Patricia Hearst closely resembled the plot of BLACK ABDUCTOR, a novel of politics and pornography, published in 1972. In the book, an heiress-coed named Patricia is held for ransom by a racially-mixed group of radicals in America's "first political kidnaping."



PATRICIA BEFORE KIDNAPING SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

The NATIONAL OBSERVER reports kidnapings such as the daughter of the Randolph Hearsts and Editor Reg Murphy of the Atlanta Constitution, is bound to increase. "Social scientists, law officers, and psychiatrists foresee the wave of international terrorism, particularly kidnappings, getting out of hand unless something is done immediately."

Psychiatrist David Hubbard of Dallas, Texas, has advocated kidnaping be made unprofitable so as to deter kidnapers. Says Hubbard, "I believe that Congress must pass a law against an airline or family paying a ransom or attempting to meet any demand."

(Incidentally, we suggested this at the time of the Lindbergh kidnaping, and Lowell Thomas read our suggestion on the air. For if it became illegal to pay ransom monies, it would halt the rash of demands we are witnessing today. Perhaps it's too late for action as a precedent has been established of yielding to such pressures.)

The Rev. K. Neill Foster observes: "There is a way to restrain kidnapers in the future. It is the death penalty faithfully and justly practiced." Notes Foster, "It is twisted justice indeed which overlooks the blood of the victims and weeps for the criminals. The Hearsts' cruel predicament in San Francisco is a direct result of America's retreat from capital punishment."

Dr. Gerald Ellison, of London, says: "There is too much evil all around us, and I am convinced that the spread of anti-religious feelings and black magic practices are to blame."

The Rev. Henry Cooper, famed as one of England's experienced exorcists, notes: "Evil is much more prevalent today than it has been in the past, and I feel its presence has a great deal to do with people who are dabbling in the black arts. Dabbling in this type of thing opens the door to evil," he noted. "Evil manifestations in our everyday life are becoming very common."

The book and the film, the EXORCIST, are examples of dabbling in the darkness of Satanic activity.

Cooper, a British clergyman, says: "I'm getting calls from all over the country for advice on how to combat the forces of evil, and I'm glad that the church is now recognizing the tremendous growth of evil throughout the country and is appointing people like myself, who are experienced exorcists, to help fight it."

Cooper says when he gets complaints of demonic possession or of the infestation of a building by evil spirits, he discusses it with the minister or person seeking his advice. If there's a rational explanation, he may refer the case to a doctor or psychiatrist. If there is not a medical explanation, he conducts what he calls "an exorcism ceremony."

Satanists will always be on the losing side, says Cooper. "We who have God have powers beyond the powers of evil. We know how to seek out and destroy the powers of darkness," but Cooper warned, "Evil will continue to grow as long as people experiment with black magic and play at conjuring spirits."

Demon possession is a very real experience and no one should play with Ouija boards, go to fortune tellers, or dabble in the occult.

Recent publicized incidents report invisible forces throwing things around, setting objects on fire, and breaking windows.

For example, in December of 1972, a premedical student attended a birthday party at his girl friend's home. A snow storm was raging, so he was invited to spend the night. A bed was made up in the living room. He reported that within seconds of retiring he was asleep, but awoke around 4:30, jarred by a loud crash. The storm had now abated and by the moonlight he could see a vase lying smashed on the floor. It was then that he noticed the cat on the dining room table, and he figured it had knocked the vase over. Turning to go back to sleep, he heard the cat let out a shriek, her back arched stiffly, her tail straight up, and every hair standing on end. Then off to the side of the room a hammer appeared in midair. No one was holding it. Suddenly, it went hurling across the room and smashed through the window. By this time, the family was aroused and as they stood and watched, the hammer reappeared and smashed through glass and wood as it flew back into the room.

"We didn't wait to see where it went," says this student. "Dressed only in pajamas, I ran barefoot to the car with the others right on my heels. We drove to an all-night diner and sat in there until dawn, shaking and bewildered by the frightening experience." Upon returning, they found every downstairs window broken and every piece of china, glass and crockery in the house smashed. Lying on the floor of the dining room was the hammer.

What's the explanation?

Are there demons? Do they possess people?

Man is a being made up of body, soul and spirit. With our spirits we are capable of being possessed by either God or Satan. By receiving Christ as our Saviour, having confessed and repented of sin, we receive of His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit desires to come into our body and take up His abode as a vital, living person of the Godhead who gives life, comfort, guidance and strength. This is the blessed privilege granted only to those who are children of God.

Among the evidences of the Spirit's indwelling in your life is that of the fruits of the Spirit--love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, faith....As a Christian these should be in evidence, and as you cultivate these traits and tenden-

cies, you will find them providing you with a healthy, happy, fruitful life that glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in a parable that no man putteth new wine into old bottles else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

What our Lord was saying is this--that you cannot have the Holy Spirit of God indwelling your life unless and until you are cleansed from your sin. You must ask Christ to save you, forgive you of your sins, with a desire never to do those things you know to be wrong. When you sincerely repent of your sins and trust the Saviour, you will experience a transformation in your life we call "the new birth," or "being born again." Or, as we read in 2 Cor. 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

It is when we become new in Christ, having trusted him as our Saviour and Lord, that the Holy Spirit comes wanting to indwell us with His fulness. He is typified as the new wine coming into new bottles. Or, as in the days of old, they used bottles that were made out of the skins of animals, so the picture our Lord gave was of new wine being placed into new wineskins. So, simply stated, God wants to dwell by His Spirit in the body of believers which is typified by placing new wine into new wineskins.

What exhilaration comes to the person who is drunk with wine. This, too, describes the believer in Christ who is filled with the Holy Spirit. And may I say, if you are not a joyful Christian, it may evidence a lack of the Holy Spirit's fulness in your life.

The Scripture says: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5:18.

As I see it, the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit wants to live in our bodies as His home--to indwell us. Concerning the Holy Spirit, our Lord said that the world cannot receive Him, but to His disciples, He says: "He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:17)

An interesting observation is the word our Lord uses for the Holy Spirit. He is called in the Greek text, the PARAKLETOS, meaning "one called alongside to help."

Listen, the Holy Spirit is alongside every believer. He is the One who is urging you to live for Christ, to do His will, to be obedient to the still small voice as He brings the Word of God to your conscience.

Remember, the word Jesus used of the Holy Spirit -- THE PARACLETOS--refers to one who is alongside to lead, guide and comfort. It is when you open your heart and life to Christ in obedience and surrender that the Holy Spirit comes in to control your life.

This is pictured in the parable of our Lord as "new wine being put into new bottles."

Now our Lord taught that it is possible to be void of the Holy Spirit following the cleansing of our hearts, which then allows for Satan to come and put into the hearts of believers sundry lusts, even perversions, envies, jealousy, strife, seditions. That's the work of Satan through his evil host. His greatest work is often among church members. Instead of the unity of the Spirit, there may be bickering, quarreling, back-biting, gossip, character-assassination and slander.

Let me read to you Luke 11:24-26, where Jesus declares: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

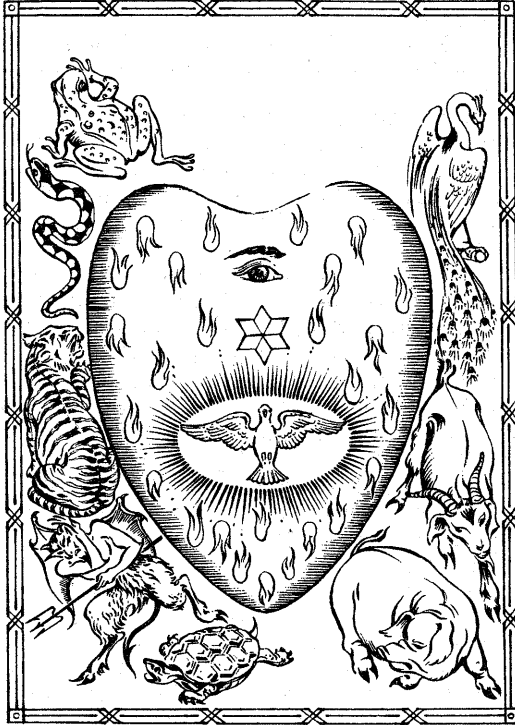
We might ask, Is it possible that some Christians may be demon possessed?

I've read many articles which say, "Positively not." But the late Dr. Raymond Edman who was president and later chancellor of Wheaton College, replied saying: "Theory says No, but facts say Yes." Said Dr. Edman, "I have known true Christians who were truly demon possessed and who were delivered in answer to prayer given in the name of the Lord Jesus."

If you discover traits or characteristics in your life that do not exemplify the true child of God, this may be evidence of a form of possession. The Bible says: "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetousness, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Have you known those who call themselves Christians to lie, and steal and practice immorality? Let me tell you, according to the Word of God they are not genuinely converted, or, they are possessed or oppressed by evil spirits.

Hear me, today! There are those who profess to be Christians who give evidence of undergoing severe attacks of the enemy. And don't think this is unusual. This is the devil's work; and all are subject to his attacks. The secret is in knowing how to resist the devil and to yield to the blessed



Spirit of God Who comes to control your life if you'll let Him.

At Pentecost, Peter preached: "Repent, and be baptized, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Today, we hear preached an easy-believism in some circles which demands no repentance, and hence there is a shallow faith, and the Holy Spirit's presence and power is often lacking in the life.

What's the secret to receiving the Holy Spirit's fulness in your life? Peter says: REPENT!

Again, in Acts 5:32, Peter is preaching and he mentions the Holy Ghost "whom God hath given to them that obey Him."

You ask, Isn't the Holy Spirit received by faith when you trust Christ as your Saviour?

Yes, the Holy Spirit is received by faith, but also upon conditions of repentance and obedience that must be in evidence in the life.

We hear much about eternal life and eternal salvation which the Bible tells us about. But may I point out that the only reference to eternal salvation in the Scriptures that I know about is linked to obedience. In Hebrews 5:9, our Lord is referred to as the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

The question we leave with you today is this: Are you walking in obedience to the will of God and the Word of God? If so, the Holy Spirit should be your comfort and guide, and Christ should be your Lord. The Bible says, "No man can say that Jesus is Lord save by the Holy Ghost." 1 Cor 12:3

Jesus who died to save you wants to be Lord and Master of your life. When you surrender your heart to Him, and yield your body to the Holy Spirit, you will know the joy of a transformed life, an empowered life. Remember, this transformation comes through your faith in Christ, having repented of sin, and obedience to the Word of God through the power of His Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, if walking in disobedience, why not repent of sins in your life and turn from wrong-doing? That's difficult, but the Bible says: "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (Gal. 5:24).

Have you crucified the flesh? Is Christ in control of your life? Is the Holy Spirit indwelling you?

Crucifixion is painful. But with this death-to-sin attitude, and death-to-self experience, you can have the joy of knowing the fulness of the Holy Spirit, and Christ's coming will be a joyful anticipation rather than a frightening realization.

We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. By inviting Christ into our heart and life, and through yielding totally to the will of God as revealed in His Word, we can know the fulness of the Spirit and know that we are ready for the soon coming of our Blessed Lord.

For, remember, He hath said: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONS

Don Basham, in his book, *DELIVER US FROM EVIL*, discusses the right of the believer to cast out spirits that may possess us.

Basham relates how an elderly couple had an encounter with evil spirits following a church service they had attended. The wife suddenly felt irritable. In fact, she became angry with her husband for no apparent reason. She went into the bathroom and breathed a word of prayer. All of a sudden the husband heard strange sounds coming from the bathroom, and he rushed in to find his wife choking as though she had swallowed a chicken bone. Although she could scarcely talk, she uttered this command: "Tell me your name," and it did. It called itself "Pride."

The wife commanded this spirit to leave in Jesus' name. And she related how it came out with a regular screech, after which she felt wonderful.

Could it be that believers are possessed by spirits of pride, of fear, or lust? Can we be set free by commanding these spirits to leave in Jesus' name?

The Scriptures do remind us of our right to "resist the devil and he will flee from us!" So it would appear both sane and Scriptural to audibly speak the word of our deliverance. If possessed by a spirit of hate, we might say: "In the name of Jesus, I renounce the spirit of hate that possesses me. I cast you out." It may be necessary to repeat this command several times until something happens.

It must be remembered that the Greek word for "spirit" is "pneuma," "breath" - (air in motion - wind), so you may find deliverance comes with a yawn or the exhaling of air. In more serious cases of possession there may be a sensation of choking, coughing, or screaming.

In any event you can be calm in the assurance that the Lord wants you to be delivered from any spirit that oppresses you.

It's good to quote I John 5:18 which reminds the devil that he has no power over you if you are a child of God, and not yielding to any known sin. You are God's property. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And if you are walking in obedience to the Word of God, the enemy has no right to oppress or possess you.

We read: "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

Remember, Satan, "that wicked one," has no right to touch you unless you yield to sin. You are bought with the precious blood of Jesus, and covered by the blood which is your protection from the evil one.

However, we sometimes use the illustration that if you are addicted to tobacco, you are inviting cancer into your body. So if you want to be free from cancer, you must give up smoking. The lust demon may have to be cast out that created a desire for tobacco and the cancer cells commanded to die.

Cancer cells are malicious enemy cells within the human body. And as Jesus commanded the fig tree to wither and die from the roots, you have the power in Jesus' name to command the cancer that afflicts your body to "wither and die." It must be a continuous attitude until the cancer is gone. For Satan is in a struggle in which death is his lethal weapon wherein he would seek to destroy you. But we read how the Lord defeated him that had the power of death, that is the devil so that you need not suffer defeat. You can be victorious over death from the hand of the enemy unless you have committed a sin "unto death." (I John 5:17)

In I John 5:17 we read, "All unrighteousness is sin; and there is a sin not unto death."

For instance, the Corinthian who was guilty of gross immorality was delivered "unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of our Lord Jesus. (I Cor. 5:5) If this man did not repent, he may have died of a heart attack, or cancer may have afflicted his body and there would be no use praying for him.

On the other hand, if he did repent, then the sentence of death might be lifted. There is evidence from II Corinthians 2:6-7 to indicate that this man did repent and was forgiven.

Again, on account of partaking of the Lord's Supper unworthily (I Cor. 11:30), there is evidence of premature death resulting. As Paul writes: "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."

The promise of long life is extended to those who honor their father and mother, so it could be assumed likewise that early death may come to those who fail to heed this admonition.

In other words, there may be reasons for our afflictions, and it is not just a matter of casting out an evil spirit; it also may require the rectifying of a wrong.

For instance, while in a revival, the pastor and I visited in a home where the woman was suffering on her back with an affliction. During the visit this sister confessed to her pastor that she had been talking about him behind his back and she wanted his forgiveness. Do you know that before that day ended, she was raised up from her bed! Deliverance may be the result of making a confession rather than having demon spirits cast out. No wonder James writes: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." Confession is the way of dealing with the sin problem when we have offended God or wronged our brother. And it may clear up physical problems as well were we to follow God's formula in this prescription offered by James.

Another case of one who offended God might be given. In a meeting that I once held, there was a large, rather heavy-set woman in the audience. After the service I spoke to her about her relationship with the Lord. Suddenly she fell to the floor in a dead faint. That afternoon I had been studying the work of demons, so subconsciously I knelt beside her and rebuked the devil in the name of Jesus. Just that quickly she came to her senses, saying: "What am I doing here?" She picked herself up and proceeded to relate a pathetic story of how she had several children who were mentally retarded. Then later she had a child that was perfectly well but who died after being hit by a car. This lady testified to being a Sunday School teacher, even active in the church, but when this child was taken, she became angry and bitter with God. "I raised my fist to heaven and demanded of God why He should take my son," she lamented, and ever since I've been subject to these blackouts." So we prayed with her as she sought forgiveness for this grievance which she carried. This is an example, however, as to how Satan may possess us when we yield to pressures and blame God for our problems.

We might wonder about Job's wife who urged her husband to curse God and die. Augustine referred to her as the "devil's accomplice," and Calvin called her "an instrument of Satan." Did Satan attack her as he did her husband? Or as Matthew Henry put it - was she spared oppression so long as she was a "troubler" or "tempter" to him?

As the Apostle Paul testifies of being aware of Satan's devices, so we need to be informed concerning his operation, and be prepared to combat his every attack. (II Cor. 2:11)

Another true incident we might relate happened when I was pastoring a church and was invited by one of the men in my congregation to go and pray for his father who was seriously ill at the time.

As we went into his room and stood around the bed, his son suggested we have prayer. He began his prayer by saying: "Lord, we know that this affliction is of the devil." No sooner had he said this than his mother, who was standing by the bed, swooned to the floor. I happened to look up at the time to see the most awful expression upon her face as though she was physically being attacked.

What power the devil must have when he can attack the saints of God who are arrayed in warfare against him. This sister quickly stood to her feet, and we resumed our praying but all of the time sensing that we were in a conflict with the enemy.

How wonderful to be victorious over the devil! Recognizing our rights and privileges, we can rebuke him and he must flee. We can resist him and he will leave. His power is nullified as we pray in Jesus' name and exercise authority over his evil host.

An illustration comes to mind of physical attacks that I suffered in times of extreme nervous tension. Especially in the early days of radio broadcasting, I would return home and find it difficult to relax. Sometimes I would retire and fall asleep only to awaken with trembling sensations such as I would suppose a person goes through during a nervous breakdown. I would ask my wife to pray for me and it calmed me tremendously, but I was greatly distressed over these attacks. When traveling, the drinking water would affect my digestion and I again suffered these stomach spasms.

It was later that I heard from a radio speaker that we had power in the name of Jesus to rebuke the devil who oppresses us. So the very next time that I had one of these attacks, I boldly opened my mouth to say: "Satan, I rebuke you in Jesus' name. You have no power over me as I'm covered by the shed blood of Jesus." Just that quickly the vexation ceased and I have not been bothered with such tremors since, even though my work schedule became heavier and tensions often increased. It seemed as though the Lord then showed me that there were attitudes of behavior that brought on these oppressions, which if overcome and the Holy Spirit could be in control, there would be victory over Satan's vexations.

When seriously ill with an inflamed shoulder resulting from a bursitis attack, it became necessary to have an operation. The shoulder healed but symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis persisted. Later during a time of prayer and fasting, I experienced a tremendous healing and have not been plagued with the symptoms since, except for an occasional flare-up when Satan again is seeking to make an attack. During those times I find it necessary to use heat treatments while wrestling against the evil one. But, praise God, He is always victorious. The Psalmist would remind us, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." (Psa. 34:19)

While there are many illustrations that might be given of how we can be victorious over the devil, one more example comes to mind. Having gone to a barbershop, I noticed growths appearing on my head like warts. And when combing my hair, these would tear off and seem to spread.

One day I felt strangely led to place my fingers on as many of these as possible. And as Jesus spoke to the fig tree, so I spoke to these warts and commanded them in the name of Jesus to wither and die. The next day I began to find them disappearing, falling off like scabs fall off when a sore is healing.

Again there was praise to the Lord for discovering the power God has given to us over afflictions and oppressions of the body.

Friend, there is power in the name of Jesus. No wonder the commandment forbids the use of the name of the Lord in vain.

When your name is called, you take notice and listen. So the Lord listens when His name is called. He hears every curse word when His name is taken in vain. Think of it.

On the other hand, He hears the sinner's cry. For we read, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

If you are not saved, why not call upon Him today? Trust Him now as your Saviour. Believe that He died on the cross to forgive you and free you from your sins.

Then live for the Lord each day. And when Satan seeks to tempt or oppress, just remember the power we have over him in Jesus' name. The devil has no right to us when we are children of God and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Just make sure you're living wholly for the Lord, or Satan will surely try to take advantage of human weakness or sin in your life and seek to oppress you. If you find you are oppressed, command in Jesus' name that the oppression cease. Remember, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (Jas. 4:7)

This is largely the secret of victory. If necessary, prayer and fasting will also accomplish much in giving you freedom from your many vexations. If addicted to drugs, tobacco and alcohol, it may be necessary to follow the admonition of our Lord to fast and pray until deliverance comes. (Mk. 9:29) (See Isa. 58:6-9a)

Through the Holy Spirit we can find victory over lust, fear and pride, and whatever spirit may oppress us. We don't need to be in bondage to sin and Satan, for Christ died that He might "redeem us from all iniquity." Praise God! (Tit. 2:14)

So, keep looking for His Return and keep ready! For our Lord hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

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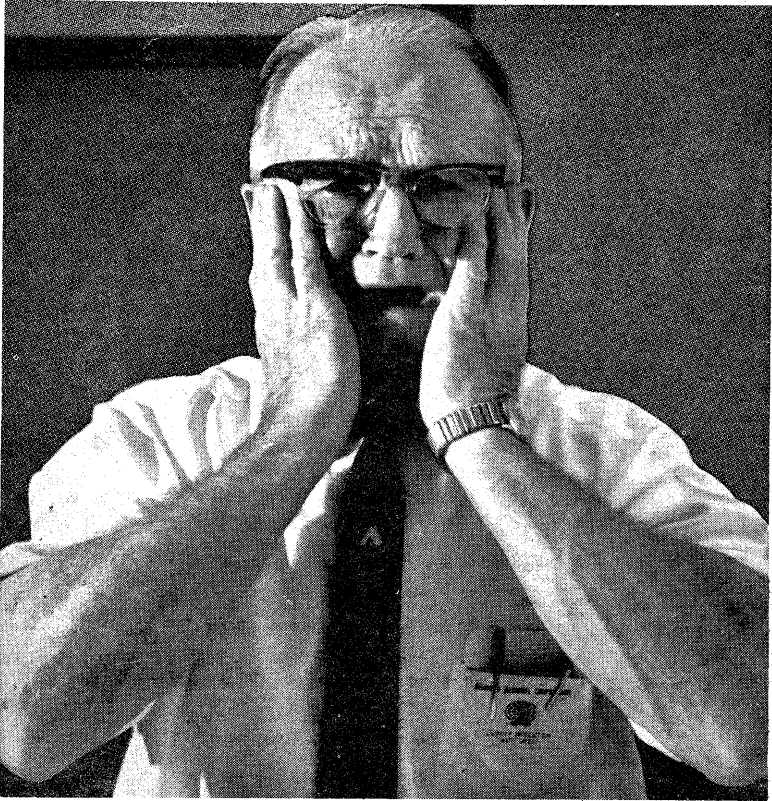
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MENTAL DEPRESSION - THE WORK OF DEMONS?



A psychologist has testified: "Mental disorder and nervous tension, though as old as humanity, have never been so frequent as they are at the present time." He estimates that doctors in America prescribe a billion tranquilizing pills a year.

NEWSWEEK magazine states: "There is evidence that DEPRESSION is spreading most rapidly among the nation's young people. The use of mood drugs," according to this magazine, "is seen as another sign of this spreading epidemic."

Dr. Robert Litman, co-director of the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center, observes: "Most drug-taking is in reality self-medication for depression." Litman comments concerning the estimated 50,000 to 70,000 suicides in the U.S. annually saying, "As many as half occur among persons suffering from depression."

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 125,000 Americans are hospitalized each year with depression, while another 200,000 are treated on psychiatrists' couches or in physicians' offices. Another 4 to 8 million are in need of help but don't know it!

Dr. Nathan Kline of New York's Rockland State Hospital similarly states, "A lot of depression is unrecognized."

Depression has been diagnosed by physicians since the days of Hippocrates, who called the illness melancholy. While there are those who are ill with depression, it is true that everyone has high and low moods at times. A grief reaction to a serious loss is a normal part of the human condition. "But when the mood swing is exaggerated to the point of impairing function, or grief is prolonged for months at a time, the diagnosis is depression. Yet the true nature of the illness continues to elude even the most astute psychiatric investigators." Notes NEWSWEEK, "Psychiatrists actively debate whether depression is the result of outside stress or arises from faulty body chemistry, or is a combination of both psychic and physical forces. And they disagree as to whether depression is simply the dark end of the spectrum of mood that begins with the ordinary blues, or is, in fact, a mixed bag of separate diseases."

If suffering from mental or emotional depression, here are some Scriptural suggestions for recovery:

First, get squared away with the Lord.

Psychiatrists are learning that sin in a person's life may produce a guilt complex which causes many of our emotional problems today.

The Bible says: "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest,...There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." (Isa. 57:20-21)

However, for the person who finds forgiveness through the pardon offered in Jesus Christ, there comes release from guilt which brings peace to the troubled spirit.

So, the first step in finding release from depression is to trust Christ as Saviour and Lord. Confess your sins to Him. I John 1:9 reminds us: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Seek to make amends for the wrongs you have done. Ask forgiveness of those whom you may have hurt or offended. Return stolen property. Make restitution where possible. Clear your conscience before God. Follow the admonition which says: "As much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (Rom. 12:18)

Zacchaeus is an example of one who not only believed in the Lord but got squared away with Him. Following his conversion, he told the Lord, "If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." We read where our Lord replies: "This day is salvation come to this house."

We question whether we are genuinely converted if we owe unpaid bills which we don't intend to pay, and which should be paid, or if we fail to return stolen goods. On the other hand, we prove we mean business when we do all that is within our power to get right with our fellowman as well as with the Lord.

Then, cast all your cares upon the Lord for He careth for you. (I Pet. 5:7)

God doesn't want you to worry about your problems. Too often we make mountains out of molehills. Family quarrels are often the result of a small insignificant happening highly magnified. Make an issue out of the faults and failings of others and the result will be pain and heartache which we carry. Instead we should cast these cares upon the Lord. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." (Heb. 10:30) Don't ever carry a grudge, but commit everything to God.

A Payday is coming when the Lord will arrest and punish all offenders who do not get right with Him. This is what the Scripture means which says: "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after." (I Tim. 5:24) If a person doesn't get right now, he will have to stand judgment later.

So when someone mistreats you, or gossips about you, or treats you unfairly, simply smile, turn the other cheek, and walk the second mile, leaving the results with the Lord.

A third way to overcome depression is to occupy your time with helping others.

A gospel song says: "Look all around, you'll find someone in need. Help somebody today." Think of the joy you could have by helping others. It will not only take your mind off your own problems but will encourage your own spirit as you help others.

In fact, the Apostle James writes: "Pray one for another, that ye may be healed." Now think that one through. When praying for others, does it produce self benefits? When recuperating from a serious illness some years ago, I did find personal benefits resulting from visiting those who were suffering worse afflictions and praying for them. Or, if awakening in the night, instead of tossing on the bed as you think of your own self, begin praying for others. You'll find prayer will not only help those for whom you are praying; it will help you.

In the fourth place, may we suggest you train your mind to think on the goodness of the Lord.

Isa. 26:3 states: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee."

What a prescription!

May we suggest in your Bible reading that you underscore those verses that give you comfort, courage, and consolation. Then when your heart is troubled, you can thumb through your Bible and those verses will again stand out with a message

just for you. Particularly the Psalms can be meaningful for anyone subject to loneliness, testings, fears.

The importance of mind-training is emphasized in Philip-
pians 4:2 where we read: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever
things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever
things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things
are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be
any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Emotional problems should be greatly eased or even disap-
pear as we recount the goodness of the Lord, and think on
His mercies instead of our miseries.

In the 5th place, may we suggest one of the ways to over-
come depression is to eat the right foods at the right time.
It could be that the foods we eat may affect our emotional
behavior. Those with poor eating habits often have digestive
problems which in turn affect one's disposition.

Eating before retiring or enjoying pastries and sweets can
cause physical disturbances which, in turn, affect our emo-
tional stability. Everyone is constructed differently, but we
can't help but believe that proper diet does produce better
mental and emotional attitudes.

In the 6th place, we might propose that we try to learn the
secret of contentment. The Apostle Paul, who went through
every kind of adversity, could say: "For I have learned, in
whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11)

In our day of prosperity there are many discontented
individuals who are unhappy because they don't own the most
modern home, or don't have the latest furnishings, or who
don't drive the newest car. While not condoning poverty or
laziness, we do believe that if this country has another eco-
nomic collapse, it will be those on a limited income who will
survive, for they have learned to adjust to their standard of
living.

John the Baptist urged those in his day, saying: "Be con-
tent with your wages." (Luke 3:14) Paul preached: "Having
food and raiment, let us be therewith content." (I Tim. 6:8)
Again in Heb. 13:5 we read: "Be content with such things as
ye have..." So you see the Bible does emphasize contentment
which is simply finding peace of mind in the midst of every
kind of circumstance.

In the 7th place...seek to cultivate a pleasant disposition.
Learn to laugh at your mistakes and smile at your troubles.
That's difficult, I know, but it's in keeping with the Scriptures
which remind us - "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."
(Prov. 17:22)

Surely a cheerful spirit will affect one's whole outlook on
life. Besides, it's cheaper to smile than to buy anti-depres-
sant drugs on the market today.

While there is much on Television that is objectional, and
is a time-waster in keeping Christians from reading their
Bibles, yet there can be value in watching programs that

might be considered "educational" and which help keep one from thinking about himself.

By way of illustration, I recall how following an operation, I could not sleep at night. Even sleeping pills had little or no effect. And if the thought entered my mind that I might not be able to sleep, that was sufficient to keep me awake. What should I do? We did not have a television set, so I felt it might be helpful to find one. I then picked out several programs, mainly quiz-type productions, and after watching these for about an hour, proceeded to retire. As I closed my eyes, I would let pictures form of what I had just seen, and it wasn't long before I had trained myself to fall asleep.

An elderly person should find a hobby or do something that gets their mind off of themselves. Especially if they lose their mate, do they need to keep their minds occupied lest they brood over the loss of their loved one. While we have the Lord to help us, and the Bible to comfort us, there are times when we need the added therapy of something to occupy our minds beside that of thinking about ourselves.

In the 8th place, we need to claim victory over all of the oppressions of the enemy. If depressed, we may be the target of Satan's attack and we need to have on the whole armour of God to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Eph. 6:12)

Luke, who was a doctor, reminds us that when Jesus was on earth, He went about healing all who were oppressed of the devil. (Acts 10:38)

So we would recognize that many of today's ills are brought on by forces that attack the physical body and oppress the mind. And it would appear that God doesn't want His children to be oppressed by Satan, and, for that reason, our Lord wants to give us the victory over these evil forces.

Our Lord told His disciples, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19) What a tremendous promise!

Again our Lord has reminded us, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth..." (Matt. 28:18)

So we can be victorious over the devil through weapons the Lord has given us, even giving us power over our thoughts and imaginations which may be used by Satan to vex us. As we read in II Cor. 10:4, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself, against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

In times of oppression it is our thoughts and imaginations that may run wild. And yet, God has made provision to keep our thoughts and our imaginations in subjection to Jesus Christ.

Another weapon against the devil is the name of Jesus. How many times we have read of those undergoing some kind of attack, and, when they voiced the name of Jesus, they were released from harm. The devil may not want to release his hold, but he is subject to the name of Jesus. If confronted by a rapist, or a robber, we can say - "Satan, I rebuke you in Jesus' name." If Satan is in control of these individuals, he must respect the worthy, matchless name of Jesus.

The same is true if a person is possessed by a spirit of depression. You can speak audibly to this evil foe, saying: "Thou spirit of depression, I cast you out in Jesus' name. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit to whom I am yielding my all, and you have no power over me."

Now you must make sure you do belong to the Lord Jesus. You have given your heart to Him so that the devil does not have any right to possess or oppress you.

Here then are secrets we share with you in order that you may find victory over your depression. Especially as we come to the close of this age and witness accelerated demonic activity, do we need all of God's power available to the believer today.

Remember, we are in a warfare with Satan. He is ever out to oppose us, and even to destroy us if he can. As our Lord testified, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

As Jesus spoke the Word to Satan which resulted in his defeat, so we need to resist the devil by memorizing Scriptures such as we have quoted in today's broadcast, and remind Satan that he is a defeated foe. At Calvary our Lord defeated him that had power to oppress and afflict us. As we read in Heb. 2:14b, "Through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Did you hear it?

No need to be in bondage when Satan is defeated and there is deliverance.

Today let us rise up in the power God has given us over the devil and defeat every oppression and depression. The devil, knowing his time is short, is doing all he can to oppose the children of God.

Satan knows our Lord is coming soon. Then those who are left behind will be subjects of his kingdom when Antichrist rules the world. So it is absolutely important to maintain our confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ and stand against his every wile.

"And be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

