

SIN AND SPIRITS

The demonic involvement in sin

Glen C. Robertson

Permit me to relate a few experiences:

1) During praise and worship in church one Sunday as a teenager, I was standing, worshipping, with my eyes closed, when I suddenly sensed a spirit in front of me. I opened my eyes and saw that, while the pew ahead of me was fully occupied, there was an unoccupied seat right where I sensed the spirit. I knew that the spirit was demonic, because it had an evil, fleshly feeling to it, almost as if it were a dog,¹ so I rebuked it in Jesus' Name (quietly, so as to not disturb those around me; anything out loud is loud enough to be heard by a demon). And of course the demon immediately left, as the Name of Jesus, in the mouth of a born again Christian, has all power over satan and his demons.² However, it's not every day that one experiences such a

¹ In ancient Egyptian religion, the dog-faced god Anubis or Inpu, was their demonic 'god of death.'

² All that's necessary to gain power over satan and his demons is to resist them; just don't accept them! A simple, "The Lord rebuke you, satan! In the Name of Jesus, go!" is sufficient to make them leave! (Say it out loud to ensure they hear you; a simple quiet whisper is sufficient. The spoken Word of God created the world, and by it, Jesus performed His miracles; it is all-powerful.) They quite possibly will attempt to return; just resist them again, both in word and in your heart! But don't try talking with them; they're far older and therefore wiser than you are; just tell them to leave, in Jesus' Name. And don't insult them; we are not permitted to insult principalities and powers, whether physical/earthly/political or spiritual, good or evil (II Peter 2:9-22, Jude 8-19).

Matthew 10:1 The BIBLE

1 And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Luke 10:17-20 The BIBLE

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy Name.

18 And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 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.

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Thus, Jesus reminds His disciples that He had given them all power over satan and his demons, whom Jesus had seen evicted from heaven (Revelation 12:1-11), and that the child of God's power over demons is a simple thing, nothing difficult, nor is it anything to get excited about; rather, the wonderful thing is that the child of God has a home waiting for him in heaven! It's been said, "The Christian has all power over the devil and his demons; if a Christian is oppressed by the devil it's only because he wants to be!"

James 4:7-8 The BIBLE

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.

blatantly explicit manifestation of a demon so, fascinated by this experience, I, in effect, willed it back; my disappointment at it's having left was sufficient permission for the demon to return. And, of course, given the opportunity, it returned (demons CANNOT dwell in or at a location they are forbidden to by a child of God, but readily do take advantage of any opportunity given to them to be there)! Realizing what I had done, I naturally repeated my demand, and it left. However, I am ashamed to admit that I ended up quickly allowing it to return. And it did. Once more, I rebuked it and it again disappeared. I cannot remember whether the second time was the last, or whether I in effect permitted it to return a third time, but I soon came to my senses, and finally completely denied it permission to return. After the church service I told my mother, a mature Christian, what had happened, and she told me that during the service she had sensed an evil presence and had felt compelled during the rest of the service to withstand the evil, and pray in tongues. She said, also, that her friend had inexplicably felt a deep anger against the pastor during the service, which, she too, had to resist. Demons can indeed read our mind; it is not solely a Divine ability, reserved only to God. Scientists are now able to read thoughts, and to even record them, using encephalographical medical devices and steadily-improving computer interfaces. Thoughts are merely coded electrical impulses. So since thoughts are so physical, readable by man, and not known only by our Heavenly Father, they are of course accessible also to angels and demons. Satan and his demons know when we love sin, and they know the sin that we love; they can SENSE it. And they jump right on it and use it! So even David, who had the anointing and Holy Spirit upon him, recognized the need to pray:

Psalms 51:10 The BIBLE

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Our Heavenly Father expects us to not only keep from sinning, but to also HATE sin. Even mere enjoyment or acceptance of sin invites a demonic presence and involvement in our life. In fact, it is a vicious circle: temptation to sin is both a result, and a cause, of demonic influence. Jesus' temptation to sin in

(While every Christian has this complete power over Satan and his demons, the power is given only to Born-again Christians! Anyone else attempting to take authority over the enemy risks great harm to themselves!

Acts 19:13-20 The BIBLE

13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

16 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.

17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Spiritual forces (both Godly and ungodly) are the most powerful forces in existence; playing around with them is the stupidest thing a person could ever do! Before I began to write this sermon, and throughout, I prayed our Heavenly Father's protection; Satan always stands in opposition to such messages and attempts to sabotage them).

Jude 1:9 The BIBLE

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

the wilderness is a classic example of this: it was both the result of satanic temptation, and it begged for acceptance of satanic control.

Matthew 4:8-9 The BIBLE

8 Again, the devil taketh Him (Jesus) up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship Me.

So because considering sin is the result of a sinful heart, and encourages demonic influence, even considering or taking pleasure in sin requires repentance. And often it necessitates our rebuking satan. When we realize that our mind is beginning to drift into sinful thoughts, or our heart is finding pleasure in sin, we need to quickly catch ourself and ask our Heavenly Father to both forgive us, and to not merely purify our thoughts, but also to purify and change our heart, as all sin comes from the desires of the heart. And if we later find that our heart or mind is again taking thought or pleasure in that sin, we need to recognize the satanic/demonic source, and to say, out loud, but quietly if we are with others, "the Lord rebuke you, satan. In Jesus' Name, get lost!" or something similar. While the exact wording used isn't important, it is important to use the Name of Jesus, as our power over the devil and sin comes only through the use of Jesus' spoken Name, and HIS power.

Luke 10:17 The BIBLE

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy Name!

In response to His three temptations from satan Jesus also, each time, quoted out loud to satan a verse of Scripture that spoke against that particular temptation. And if Jesus Himself found that necessary and effective in overcoming the temptations of satan, how much more us, His children! So search the Scriptures, and find verses that speak against those particular sins that satan tempts you with, and quote one of them out loud when you are tempted! That's what Jesus did!

- 2) I have found, as I have grown closer to my Lord over the years, that, if I permit my mind to wander into impure thoughts, that that very night, when I am asleep, I will receive a demonic visitation. That night I will be awakened by a knocking, as if on the wall, or on the door; a demon will be asking permission to enter.

Genesis 4:7a The BIBLE

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door... .

It will be merely a knocking, or it will even be other manifestations I won't describe and dwell on in this sermon. When I awake I may or may not feel any demonic presence, but I will be very conscious of the evil presence that I have just been subjected to, much as one is jolted to attention by almost stepping on a snake. And I will be in no doubt of the reason for the visitation (my sin). Of course, like any Christian, all I have to do is to rebuke the demon in the Name of Jesus, and I'm rid of the enemy. So I do so, and I'm immediately able to return to sleep; I have gotten rid of the enemy, and he has no ability to enter my place: I have invoked the Name of Jesus! But, at the same time, I also must repent of my sin, and I make sure to do that before I return to sleep!

Other times after which I have received similar knocking visitations have been after performing exorcisms, either of people or of places, or merely been in the presence of a possessed person or an aboriginal earth- religion prayer. After an exorcism, also, I will often be awakened by a knocking, by a demon who has followed me home and seeks a place to take up lodging. Jesus described this:

Matthew 12:43-45 The BIBLE

43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places,³ seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself 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. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Demons crave a home. But the Christian has ALL power to resist them, and to deny them entry and dwelling place.

Matthew 8:28-32 The BIBLE

28 And when He was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God? art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?

30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.

31 So the devils besought Him, saying, If Thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

32 And He said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

(But when demons request permission to enter after something like an exorcism their knocking can sometimes also be heard *by others*. While I was still young and living with my parents, my mother, who was close to her Lord, once complained the morning after I had performed an exorcism on a possessed home,⁴ that I had brought home demons from the exorcism, as they had awakened her, knocking. As she was the spiritual matriarch of the home they were asking her, instead, for permission to enter.⁵)

³ It is no coincidence that the centre of sin in the USA, "Sin City," (Las Vegas, Nevada) is located in a desert, a "dry place." Similarly, the desert Okanagan Valley of Canada's Province of British Columbia is replete with stories told by the local indigenous people of spirits throughout that desert valley; when I pastored there my family and many of the families in my church suffered the attacks of demons. Similarly, the desert-dwelling Bedouin of the Middle East speak of the spirits that inhabit their desert.

⁴ Demons can possess homes much as they can possess a person; these are what are commonly said to be the, "ghosts," of, "haunted houses," etc. They are not the supposed disembodied spirits of the dead. And because they are often (or always?) familiar spirits, they can masquerade as any dead individual, pretending to be their spirit. Scripture says:

II Corinthians 5:6-8 The BIBLE

6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

There is no so-called, "Purgatory," that concept is merely Roman Catholic (nonchristian) fantasy; Scripture says the opposite. The dead go immediately to either heaven or hell (Luke 16:19-31, 23:43).

⁵ The home's spiritual authority is intended by God to be the man (I Timothy 2:12). However, his wife, also, can take authority over malign spiritual forces, especially if her husband has not claimed power over them, or has

In other words, when I have allowed myself to sin, when I have allowed my mind to wander into the impure, my Heavenly Father has used the particular ability He has given me, the ability to sometimes sense the presence of spirits, to rebuke me! At these times God has dropped some of the, "insulation," that He usually gifts to us, an **IN**ability to sense spirits (which He gives us so that we are not kept in a state of fear by seeing the spirit world around us), so that I am able to see demonic activity. Actually, more accurately, it is at the time of my sin that my Heavenly Father has shown me what routinely happens when we sin! So it is apparent that when we even so much as THINK of sin, simply lusting in our heart, we thus invite into our life, and perhaps into our very family, and our home, a demon's presence. We invite a demon to come in and find resting place. We invite demonic oppression (demonic attack from outside) or even demonic possession (demonic dwelling in our home, or even in US!)

We see this kind of thing illustrated very graphically in the Bible:

I Samuel 16:13-14 The BIBLE

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.

In I Samuel we read how the covering, protecting Spirit of God, Who had dwelt on Saul since he had been anointed king (I Samuel 10:6-10) was now taken from him,⁶ because of his rebellion and sin against God, now enabling an evil spirit to trouble/oppress him. We are told elsewhere also during this time

failed to take Spiritual authority and responsibility in the home. God won't leave a Spiritual vacuum, but will use whomever is available to accomplish His purposes (Matthew 21:15-16, John 11:47-52). His Word will not return to Him void or unsuccessful (Isaiah 55:11).

II Timothy 1:5-7 The BIBLE

⁵ When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

⁶ Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

⁶ As Jesus had not yet been raised from the dead (this would happen hundreds of years later) and therefore the New Testament had not yet started, the Holy Spirit could not dwell *within* a person, *permanently*, enabling them to be Born Again; the Holy Spirit could only dwell *on* a person, *temporarily*, so the Holy Spirit *could* indeed be removed from a person. But now, in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit has been sent to dwell *permanently in* the child of God (John 16:7-14, John 20:22). So fear not! If you are Born Again, the Holy Spirit *cannot* and WILL NEVER be taken from you; your salvation is assured!

Romans 11:29 The BIBLE

29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

2 Corinthians 1:22 The BIBLE

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the guarantee of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:13 The BIBLE

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:30 The BIBLE

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

that God sent an evil spirit to attack Saul (see the I Samuel Scripture references, following). The idea of 'an evil spirit from the Lord,' can be confusing until we look at these passages in the light of 1 Samuel 16:13-14, quoted above. God didn't send the evil spirit to oppress Saul; God simply removed from Saul the presence of the Holy Spirit, enabling an evil spirit to take the Holy Spirit's place, dwelling on Saul (Oppression) or even in Saul (Possession). The protection of the Holy Spirit and God's angels had kept demonic presence and influence from Saul. Even now, God doesn't *send* evil spirits, but He may *remove from a person His gift of insulation, of concealment* (which had protected him from seeing and being terrified by the spiritual world), thus enabling the sinner to now see, or experience, the presence of the demon(s) wanting access to him! (In Saul's case, God's removal from him of the Holy Spirit enabled to take place the attack by the familiar spirit, the demon that had been hovering around, ready to pounce on him and make him miserable... and to incite him to murder.

I Samuel 16:16 The BIBLE

16 Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

I Samuel 19:9-10 The BIBLE

9 And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

The Apostle Paul spoke of this:

I Corinthians 5:2-5 The BIBLE

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Any spirit, whether God (the Holy Spirit) or satan and his demons, who wishes far greater influence in our life than he already has must get our permission. A person must give a demon permission by either consciously and/or verbally doing so, or simply by sinning, whether or not they fully realize the full consequences of their sin. Jesus Himself tells us that He stands at the door to our heart and knocks:

Revelation 3:20 The BIBLE

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3:20 refers both to salvation and to the "Infilling of the Holy Spirit," a second experience after salvation, often referred to as the, "Baptism in the Holy Spirit." In this Second Experience we give God far greater control over us than we gave Him at salvation, and He both makes us far more like Him than we were before (the, "Fruit of the Holy Spirit" - Galatians 5:22-25), and He gives us abilities to do miraculous things by the power of the Holy Spirit ("Spiritual Gifts" - I Corinthians 12:8-11), because of the greater permission we have given Him in our life. This experience of giving God greater control is mirrored by satan, the great counterfeiter, in the form of demonic, "Possession," the concept of which we are well familiar with. And this is the ultimate danger of sinning: that, in giving satan increased power in

our life through increased sin, we risk giving him permission for demonic Possession, whether or not we realize we are doing it! Sometimes a person makes a conscious decision to now give satan permission to enter him in greater measure and Possess him. Sometimes he is possessed by becoming involved in such things as fortune telling. And sometimes a person becomes possessed simply by merely giving himself over to a steadily increasing amount and degree of sin, little realizing that he isn't merely devoting himself more to sin, but actually devoting himself, more to satan! satan accomplishes Possession sometimes blatantly and obviously by his victim's conscious surrender to him. But more often he accomplishes it in subtle and gradual steps, by managing to induce his victim to indulge in ever greater amounts of sin.

So, in other words,

- 1) When we sin we simultaneously invite DEMONS into our life, and into our home; they piggy-back in, on the backs of sin.
- 2) We don't even have to sin to welcome demons into our life, and into our home! Our mere *acceptance of their presence* is sufficient to permit them to enter and to stay! And they *know* our attitude toward them; they can *feel* it! And they rush in!
- 3) Have you ever noticed how, after you have sinned, you might from then on have a taste and a desire to commit that sin again? You have permitted demonic temptation, and that is what is happening!

So, what do we allow into our life, and into our home? What do we allow to come in via TV, videos, music? Do we realize that, when *merely allowing* the presence of sin in our lives, we welcome demons? Demons piggy-back in on the backs of sin. Sin is not merely between us and another. Sin isn't even just in our own mind. Sin invites demons ... to come in and oppress or even possess, and to tempt us to continue in that sin! When we watch, and therefore permit into our life a horror movie or a show depicting demonic possession we are permitting into our life the presence of demons. When we permit sin of any kind entrance into our home and into our life we invite demons and their torment and temptations to sin. Such things aren't mere entertainment; they may be fictional, but if they depict reality, and we allow them to have place in our life, we allow the presence of demons.

When we sin, no matter what kind of sin, we resist the Presence and influence of our Heavenly Father, and we permit the presence and sin of satan and his demons. And we permit demons to tempt us in this area (whatever it is), from now on. They watch us; they know our weaknesses. They know what we permit.

James 1:13-15 The BIBLE

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted (by satan and his demons), when he is drawn away of his own lust (for anything at all), and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Sin involves more than just ourself; it involves an entire committee, consisting of God the Father, us, the Holy Spirit and God's protecting angels, and satan and his angels (and the people we hurt by our sin). When we sin we push away, to varying degrees, the Father, and the covering and protecting presence of the Holy Spirit and His angels, and we permit the presence and influence of satan and/or his tempting

familiar spirit assigned to us, and potentially others, also⁷ (unlike God, satan isn't everywhere; he is only a fallen angel. Where he is not present he must rely on the evil work of the demons who follow him).

Because the child of God is indwelt by the Spirit of God, he is automatically protected from satan and his evil angels/spirits/demons (same thing).

Psalms 34:7 The BIBLE

7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

Hebrews 1:14 The BIBLE

14 Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

This will never be taken from the truly born-again Christian. But we can grieve the Holy Spirit, and push away, to a certain extent, the Presence of God, by our sin.

Ephesians 4:30 The BIBLE

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Just how far we can push God away, and welcome the presence, influence, and torment of satan and his demons, depends on how close we are to God. But this is not something to chance. Pursue God out of *love* for Him, not out of *fear*!

II Peter 1:10-11 The BIBLE

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So keep yourself pure and holy, in mind and deed. Accept only the Presence in your life and in your home of God and His ministering angels. Fear not. Be at peace. You have all power over the enemy. Jesus said so.

Mark 6:49-50 The BIBLE

49 But when they saw Him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:

50 For they all saw Him, and were troubled. And immediately He talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

⁷ **Matthew 12:43-45 The BIBLE**