**THE PRACTICAL ASPECT OF DEALING WITH DEMONS**

**How thoroughly are you acquainted with the subject of demon activity? Are you among the saints of God who ignore the reality** of **demons and demonic activity? Do you \* believe that it is only superstition in heathen lands?**

**Would you know what to do if someone asked you to rebuke demons? Would you be able to understand what he is talking about? How would you deal with a person who is pos­sessed by a demon? Do you know or can you sense the presence of a demon? Are you able to detect demons influencing you or your loved ones? Are you able to recognize demon activity in your own personal life? Can you sense when you are prompted by a demon rather than the Holy Spirit? Do you clearly understand what is meant by the phrases "pleading the Blood", rebuke the Devil in Jesus' Name"? Do you know what a person needs after he has been delivered from demon power?**

**What are the qualifications for entering into this important phase of Christian warfare? What are the different aspects of Satan's program? What can we expect from Satan when we are engaged in the warfare of rebuking demons? How do we participate in dealing with demons? Is this activity against demons only for a few, or should this be part of the normal Christian experience? How can we help each other in the Lord's service in relation to this vital subject?**

**We can possess much land in the reaching and reclaiming of thousands of lives for Christ. This is possible by facing the formidable demons in the name of Jesus Christ, standing on the fact of the Blood of Jesus Christ, and depending upon the energizing power of the Holy Spirit.**

**The Bible is the only written authority from God that we can depend upon for truth, and that reveals the reality of Satan.and demons. The following *verses are a* few that reveal the reality and activity of Satan and demons: Ezekiel 28:11-18; Isaiah 14:12-14; I John 5:19;** 2 **Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:3-9;**

**Genesis 6:1-4; Leviticus 17:7; 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:9-12; and I Timothy 4:1. The Bible reveals that the Devil and demons are able to talk to God and man: Job 1:6-12; Matthew** 8:29; **Acts 19:15.**

**Throughout the church age the saints of God have believed in the reality of demon activity. Today we have the testimonies of missionaries, pastors laymen, Bible teachers and preachers. There are many Christians who are in full-time service, but are baffled by demon activity. It is because of the lack of practical knowledge in dealing with them.**

**To the average Bible believing Christian, including many Bible school students and graduates, this is a hush, hush subject. If you talk about demons, many Christians are skeptical, or they are fearful. What a great victory Satan is experiencing over many sincere Christians. We will never reach our full potential in winning souls to Jesus Christ until we believe in the existence and awful activity of demons against the saved and the unsaved, and definitely deal with them.**

**The Christian should meet certain conditions before he attempts to rebuke demons. As each brance of our Armed Services has certain conditions that must be met, so the Christian must realize the same fact for** each **phase of the spiritual warfare. There are at** least **four conditions that the believer should meet in order to engage in this phase of the warfare.**

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First, there must be a Spirit-filled life; that is, a life that is consciously, moment by moment,depending upon the Holy Spirit, in order that the believer might experience knowledge, guidance, and power (Ephesians 5:18). Second, the Christian, at all cost, must maintain an intense prayer life; he must know that he is reaching God (Psalm 77:1). The third qualification is very, very important. This mighty conflict calls for saints who are in constant communion with God. Too many Christians have a slip-shod, haphazard, dry, ritualistic devotional life. Only a strong devotional life can strengthen one and keep one strong for the terrible onslaught by demons.

The fourth condition--the knowledge of at least seven facts should be considered: his position in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), the person and control of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25), activity of Satan and demons (Ephseians 6:12), the helplessness and powerlessness of men (I John 5:19), the weakness and strength of self (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10), Col. 1:13; claiming the Blood of Christ or realizing the power of the Atonement (Revelation 12:11), and realising the authority given by Jesus Christ to rebuke demons (I Peter 5:9). The Christian must live and be as alert and as sensitive as a soldier moving through enemy-captured territory. This is the normal attitude of the believer in this phase of the warfare.

Satan has a program to destroy the human race from a psychological viewpoint. Never before in history have we seen such an increase of mental problems. There are not enough men in this field to meet the needs of the public. Sad to say, Christians are not exempted from this experience of mental trouble. Though they do have the Holy Spirit to depend upon for strength for daily living, may seem not to use that strength.

Much that is called disturbance actually is demon activity. However, there **is**

a difference between the two, and there can be a mixture of the two; futhermore,

each can be cart of the cause of the other. It takes much prayer and dependence upon

the Holy Spirit to detect demons. There are a few guidelines that will help to deter‑

mine their presence.

There may be a sense of unfounded fear when you are near the person or persons.

The person seems to undress you with their eyes and look through your body. There is

an inhuman look in their eyes that is actually frightening. The laugh or noise that

they can make will cause chills to run up and down your spine. They hate to hear the

mention of the Blood of Christ, sin, the Holy Spirit, Hell, and the name of Jesus Christ.

They will have the most difficult time saying the name of Jesus, or making a decision

about Jesus, even if they want to.

It is very agonising to watch a person struggle and fail to say that wonderful name, Jesus. You can detect demon activity in yourself. Shocking? Yes, but true! Prayerlessness, along with other phenomena, may be demonic activity. There may be an uncontrollable compulsion to speak, to sin, to have an inexplicable emotional outburst. There is, during prayer, or meditation, filthy, vile thoughts of Christ, someone of the

same sex, or opposite sex. There may be thoughts of violence. There may be a restless‑
ness that cannot be explained. You may experience a block and cannot start any project; and if you do, is it such a difficult task to finish? These are some of the guidelines you may use to test yourself.

We, as Christians, must realise that Satan is out to reach God by attacking the church. He has a hatred for the human race, in particular, he has an intense hatred for the child of God. Therefore, when we accent Christ as our personal Saviour, and ac­knowledge the Lordship of Christ, we can anticipate trouble from Satan. (I Cor. 5:5; I Tim. 1:20; II Tim. 2:26).

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I do believe that if the unsaved were instructed in the seriousness of the consequences of accepting Christ, less decisions would be made, but the quality of believers would be better. It appears to me that the church has been naive like American tourists abroad.

Many Americans hate to face the fact that America is hated by some nations; so, many Christians live as though they were not hated by Satan and demons. All the hatred displayed by men is just a shadow of the hatred that the satanic kingdom has for the human race and the church in particular. Let us not fool ourselves; Satan is out to destroy every race and the church in particular. Let us not fool ourselves; Satan is out to destroy every true testimony on earth. And YOU are included: His program is to destroy us at all cost. These seven words defined will give you some insight in the program of Satan for the mind. I wish that I had time to enlarge on each definition:

(1) Apprehension - painful agitation in the presence of anticipation of danger (Hebrews 2:14); (2) Opposition - hostile action against someone; (3) Oppression ­cruel exercise of authority (Eph. 2); (4) Obsession - evil spirit influencing the mind, person helpless; (5) Possession - actual control of the body, and faculties of the body; (6) Persecution - afflict, injure, harass, body-harm; (7) Deception ­deliberate twisting of truth to destroy (I Tim. 4:1,2).

Preparation is very important in any warfare. To enter into the activity of

dealing with demons need to have the alertness of battlefield conditions. You are God's co-laborer, we are to use the authority of Jesus Christ to demand a soul's release from demons. In attitude, we must know who Christ is, and your personal relationship with Him, before you dare to claim precious souls from demon power. To realize what you are up against, read Ephesians 6:12 in the Living Letters, The Paraphrased Epistles, Wuest on Ephesians, and the Amplified New Testament.

There are four facts that you must realize about Satan and demons -- facts which will give you courage and sanctified boldness: (1) Satan cannot uproot us and trans­plant us back into his kingdom (John 10:28); (2) Satan cannot dislodge us, if we trust in the eternal promises of God (Isaiah 26:7 (3) Satan cannot intimidate us, by making us dwell on past failures and sin, if we commune with God (Romans 8:31-39); (4) Satan cannot use us if we obey the Godhead Three (James 4:7).

Ephesians 6:10-18 is an excellent passage to know in your preparation. Keep your mind alert, and remember that though Satan is limited, he is also very dangerous. All that you do must be a deliberate and positive act of the will. You must depend upon the Holy Spirit for emotional clamness. In your heart you must maintain a consciousness of God's person, presence, ower, provision, and protection. All sin must be donfessed and dealt with thoroughly. Though demons may leave immediately, be prepared for a long siege, with much patience and prayer; it can be an all night struggle, or longer.

There are four emphases that must be considered. These are: the person, demons, the testing of everything according to the Word of God, and the conscious dependence upon the Holy Spirit. It should be an excellent help to read the twenty-eighth chapter of Clyde Narramore's book The Psychology of Counseling.

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There must be a prayerful, patient consideration for the person. It is im­possible to have a set approach that will work every time. Prayer is the foundation of this ministry. It is good to have two people work together; one can be a prayer-warrior, while the other deals with the person. Revelation 12:11: "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." Claiming the Blood, actually is the truth set forth in Colossians 1:13. On the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we are free from the penalty and the guilt of sin. Satan must be reminded of this fact. When demons are rebuked, we tell them that we know that Jesus Christ has given us the authority to tell them to depart from us or the person they are hand­ling. As we say this with faith in the God-entrusted authority, they will obey. You can pray silently and also rebuke the demons audibly or inaudibly while you are talking to the persrn. This *is* necessary if the person does not want to co­operate. But if the person will cooperate, you can deal with him about salvation, sin, guilt, fear of death, the Lordship of Christ, fear of demons, the Blood of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit--as the Spirit leads you. Remember, evil spirits respond to us in the authority of the name of Jesus, and not used as if His Name was a magic formula.

There are times when the demons will speak to you and refuse to leave. But as you talk to them and demand that they leave, they will eventually do so. You must command them in the Name of 'Jesus. Any number of demons can be in the person; ask if there are any others; you can demand that they reveal themselves. During and after deliverance, encourage the person to claim the promises concerning salvation and the Lordship of Christ.

After the person has been delivered, there must be a consistent follow-up ministry. How long? It depends upon the person's surrender to the Lordship of Christ. Demons will try to return and reclaim their former victim. The person must consciously refuse all solicitation from the demons. He must maintain a conscious dependence upon the Holy Spirit and a strong devotional life. "Scripture Union" has one of the finest devotional guides for the Christian. Saints should invite the person to have regular prayer, testimony, Bible study, hymn-singing, and good, solid, Christian FELLOWSHIP!

It is my prayer that God will use this article to strengthen the Christian

Church against our unseen enemy, and that many souls will be wontto Jesus Christ in world-wide evangelism. 0--that many Christians may be delivered from fear, ignorance, and the influence and activity of demons!

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