



This morning I am going to talk to you about the most controversial topic with regards to spiritual warfare. That topic is demonic possession.

Demonic possession is a very serious spiritual condition. It is a condition in which the spirit of a man or a woman becomes one with one or more demonic spirits.

The result is a person cannot control themselves. That person cannot stop themselves from doing evil. They are slaves to sin.

The worst cases of demonic possession occur in persons that find their identity in the demonic spirit. That person cannot control themselves and they do not want change. They find their glory in their shame.

We currently live in a world that is filled with people that cannot control themselves. In the church, we tend to agree with the contemporary explanations for the condition of these people and their solutions. Billions of dollars are being spent by people and our society every year to try and help people that cannot control themselves.

Certainly, there are people that are suffering from mental and behavioral problems due to physiological defects, disease, and other biological problems. Unless these persons experience a miracle, they are going to continue to suffer from this damage the rest of their lives. They need an incredible amount of TLC by their families or by others that care for them.

But, based on the world view of Jesus and what Jesus taught His disciples, multitudes of people cannot control themselves because they are suffering from demonic oppression.

The gospel accounts are filled with stories of people who are demonically oppressed. It was normal for Jesus to confront demons in people. In Acts 10:38, Peter preached to a gentile names Cornelius, his family, and friends. In His sermon, Peter summed up the life and ministry of Jesus this way.

[Acts 10:34-38](#)

[34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.](#)

[35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.](#)

[36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ — He is Lord of all —](#)

[37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:](#)

[38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.](#)

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In Acts 26, the apostle Paul shares the testimony of His conversion to king Agrippa. In his account, he said Jesus spoke to him about the mission he had for him. Jesus described the mission this way.

Acts 26:17-18

17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

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We tend to have a preconceived idea about who is suffering from demonic possession based on certain stories in the bible. In these stories, a demon spoke through a person.

There are many more stories of demonic oppression in the bible in which the evil spirit never spoke in a strange voice through the person.

- King Saul (1 Samuel 16:14)
- The lying prophets of King Ahab (1 Kings 22:22)
- King Sennacherib of Assyria (2 Kings 19:7)
- The false prophets of Israel (Zechariah 13:2)
- The unclean spirit in a child (Luke 9:37-43)
- The mute man (Matthew 9:32-33)
- Peter (Mark 8:33)
- Judas Iscariot (Luke 22:3-4)
- Ananias (Acts 5:3)
- The girl with a spirit of divination (Acts 16-16-18)

Satan did not speak in a strange voice through every person he controlled.

What is common in every story of demonic oppression is the person could not control themselves.

Do you feel that way? If you were honest, would you describe yourself as a person that cannot control yourself.

- Attitude (anger, anxiety, arrogance)
- Appetite
- Actions

Proverbs 25:28

28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.

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Jesus said this about Satan's agenda.

John 10:10a "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy."

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Jesus said this about His agenda

John 10:10b-11 " I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

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You must be willing to change shepherds to gain freedom from Satan's power and control.

Why should you choose Jesus to be your shepherd?

Jesus loves you and gave His life for you.

- Through His life, Jesus defeated the devil. (Matthew 4:1-11)
- Through His death, Jesus disarmed the devil. (Revelation 12:9-12)
- Through His resurrection, Jesus delivered the power you need to defeat the devil. (Acts 1:8)

Will you believe upon Jesus and follow Him?

There are sinful things in your life that you enjoy.

Do not allow those temporal pleasures to cause you to reject Jesus as your shepherd.

You have many friends that are oppressed by the devil. Do not allow those friendships to cause you to reject Jesus as your shepherd.

There are many people in the church that cannot control themselves and are oppressed by the devil.

Do not allow the injuries you have suffered from those people or the hypocrisy you see in those people to cause you to reject Jesus as your shepherd.

Will you believe upon Jesus and follow Him?

For those of you in the church that are oppressed by the devil and you cannot control yourself, something is wrong in your faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised His church freedom from Satan's control.

[John 8:31-36](#)

[31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.](#)

[32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."](#)

[33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"](#)

[34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.](#)

[35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.](#)

[36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.](#)

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What is wrong with your faith in Jesus?

Did you come to Jesus with the wrong agenda?

- You came because of your parents or friends?
- You came because you only wanted to escape God's judgment?
- You came because you wanted temporal blessings?

If you want to be free of demonic oppression, you must come to Jesus because you see your need for a new shepherd and a new life!

Even after you come to Jesus with the right agenda, there are things you need to learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ that are important to spiritual warfare.

But those weapons of warfare will be meaningless to you if you have not come to Jesus because you see your need for a new shepherd and a new life.

Will you believe upon Jesus and receive Him as your shepherd? Will you ask Him to give you a new life?