

Why Christians Cannot  
Have  
Nor  
Be Possessed by Devils

Curtis Hutchinson

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## **Why Christians Cannot Be Possessed by Devils**

Let's Scripturally look at why Christians cannot have devils or be possessed by devils.

The question of whether a Christian can "have devils" (be demon-possessed or inhabited by demons) must be answered by looking carefully at what the Scriptures say about the Believer's union with Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the victory of Christ at the Cross.

### **1. The Believer Is the Temple of the Holy Spirit**

When a person believes the Gospel, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within them permanently.

#### **1 Corinthians 6:19**

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

A temple is a dwelling place of God. We are God's as we see in this Scripture. WE are not our own, nor are we the enemy's possession. The New Testament never presents the Believer as a place where God and devils dwell together.

Paul makes the incompatibility very clear.

#### **2 Corinthians 6:15–16**

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God.

The argument is straightforward: Christ has no fellowship with Belial (Satan). Believers are the temple of God. Therefore, demons cannot inhabit the temple where

God dwells.

## **2. The Stronger One Has Already Taken Residence**

***Jesus taught that when the stronger one enters a house,  
the former power loses control***

### **Luke 11:21–22**

When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:

But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

At Salvation Satan loses his claim as Christ becomes the rightful owner and The Holy Spirit indwells the Believer. This is the result of the victory of Christ at Calvary.

### **Colossians 2:14-15**

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

***The Cross removed the legal ground Satan had over the sinner***

## **3. Christians Can Be Oppressed, But Not Possessed**

The Bible does show Believers experiencing temptation, oppression, and attack, but never demon possession, but the promise of our God is that He will establish His people in Righteousness and oppression, and fear and torment will be “FAR” from them.

### **Isaiah 54:14**

In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

Some examples are Satan Opposing Believers.

### **1 Peter 5:8**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The devil walks about seeking whom he may devour, but he is outside, not inside. Satan Influences thoughts.

### **Acts 5:3**

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Even here the language speaks of influence upon the heart, not indwelling. There is also the reality of spiritual warfare.

### **Ephesians 6:12**

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. The Believer wrestles against, not houses, these powers.

## **4. The Spirit of God Guards the Believer**

The New Testament teaches that the Believer is kept by the power of God.

### **1 Peter 1:5**

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

### **1 John 4:4**

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

### **1 John 5:18**

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.

The definition of the phrase, “toucheth him not” is defined as properly to attach oneself to that is to touch, which here we are told that the wicked one cannot do that.

***The indwelling Spirit is greater than any demonic power***

## **5. The Real Issue Is Faith in the Cross**

Even though a Christian cannot be inhabited by devils, Believers can still experience spiritual defeat when they stop trusting from the heart the finished work of Christ. When Faith moves away from the Cross, the flesh becomes active, Satan gains influence and oppression increases. But the solution is always the same.

### **James 4:7**

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

Submission to God happens through Faith in Christ and His sacrifice, where Satan was defeated. Therefore, we know that Christians cannot have devils because they are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19**

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not

your own?

Christ and Belial cannot dwell together (2 Corinthians 6:15–16).

## **2 Corinthians 6:15-16**

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Christ has conquered Satan through His Cross.

## **Colossians 2:15**

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. The Spirit of God lives within the Believer.

## **1 John 4:4**

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

***Demons may attack from without but cannot inhabit within***

The Cross of Christ is the decisive victory that removed Satan's claim and placed the Believer under the authority and indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

We can now look at why the early church never taught "deliverance ministries" for Christians, and how the New Testament consistently points Believers back to Faith in the Cross instead of demon-casting among each other. To understand why the early church did not practice

“deliverance ministries” for Christians, we must examine what the New Testament actually shows concerning Believers, demons, and the work of Christ at the Cross.

## **1. Demons Were Cast Out of the Lost - Not the Church**

Throughout the ministry of Christ and the apostles, demons were cast out of un-Believers, never out of those who were already Saved and part of the body of Christ.

Some of the examples during the ministry of Jesus are as follows:

### **Matthew 8:16**

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

### **Mark 1:34**

And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

These people were not yet born again, because the New Covenant had not yet been established. After the Cross and Resurrection when the church began in Acts, the same pattern continued.

### **Acts 5:16**

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Again, these were people being brought to the apostles, not members of the church needing demons cast out of them.

## **2. The Apostles Never Taught Christians to Seek Deliverance**

If Believers could be inhabited by demons, the apostles would have taught Christians how to remove them. But let us look at the instructions given to the church. The solution given is always Faith and growth in Christ.

### **Romans 6:6**

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

### **Galatians 5:16**

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

### **James 4:7**

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

The answer is never casting demons out of Believers, deliverance sessions or identifying “spiritual spirits”, but instead, the answer is ALWAYS Faith in Jesus Christ and His Sacrifice which brings the Believer into submission to God and walking in the Spirit.

## **3. The Cross Removed Satan’s Authority**

***The reason Christians cannot have devils is because the Cross legally defeated Satan***

### **Hebrews 2:14**

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

### **Colossians 2:15**

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The word “spoiled” means disarmed and stripped of authority. At the Cross, Christ removed the legal ground Satan had over those who believe.

## **4. The Holy Spirit Now Lives in the Believer**

*At Salvation, the Spirit of God takes residence in the Believer*

### **Romans 8:9**

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

### **1 Corinthians 3:16**

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

The temple of God cannot simultaneously be a dwelling place for demons as Paul emphasized this Truth.

### **2 Corinthians 6:16**

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

## **5. The Real Battle Is the Flesh - Not Demons Inside Us**

The New Testament repeatedly teaches that the Believer's struggle is primarily with the flesh (the Sin Nature).

### **Galatians 5:17**

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

This is why many people mistake the flesh for demons, but the Bible points us to the Cross as God's guaranteed and only solution.

### **Romans 6:11**

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Victory comes through identification with Christ's death, not through casting demons out of Believers***

## **6. The Devil Works Through Deception**

Instead of indwelling Believers, Satan primarily works through deception and influence.

### **2 Corinthians 11:3**

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

### **Ephesians 6:11**

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Notice the word wiles, meaning schemes, deception, strategies. The enemy works by trying to move our Faith away from Christ and His Cross. The early church did not teach deliverance ministries for Christians because the Scriptures show demons were cast out of un-Believers, not the church. The apostles never instructed Believers to seek

demon deliverance. The Cross of our Savior defeated Satan and removed his claim over Believers.

### ***The Holy Spirit dwells in every Christian***

The Believer's struggle is with the flesh, not demons inside them. Therefore, the New Testament solution is always and exclusively Faith in Christ and His Cross. This alone brings the understanding of our union with Him in His death and allows us to walk in The Spirit. The Cross of Christ is the Believer's victory.

Let us now also look at the few Scriptures people commonly misuse to claim Christians can have demons and examine them carefully in their proper context. This study of Scripture will clear up much confusion on this subject. When these passages are examined in their context and in the light of the finished work of Christ, they do NOT teach that Believers can be inhabited by devils.

#### **1. The "Seven Worse Spirits" Passage**

##### **Matthew 12:43-45**

43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, 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.

Some claim this teaches that demons can return to Christians but notice the key fact which is that the house is empty. It is not filled with the Spirit of God. The context is

unbelieving Israel rejecting Christ. A true Christian is never “empty.”

### **Romans 8:9**

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

***A Believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit; therefore the “empty house” cannot refer to a born-again Christian***

## **2. Judas, and Satan Entering Him**

### **Luke 22:3**

Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

Some use this to claim Satan can enter Believers, but Judas was not a true Believer. Jesus said plainly told us so.

### **John 6:64**

But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

Then He identified Judas.

### **John 6:70**

Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Judas followed Jesus outwardly but never truly believed.

## **3. “Satan Filled Your Heart” – Ananias and Sapphira**

### **Acts 5:3**

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Some claim this proves Satan can inhabit Believers. But the phrase “filled your heart” in Scripture refers to influence, not possession. For example:

### **Luke 6:45**

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

The heart can be influenced by sin, fear, pride, or deception without being demon possessed. Peter did not cast a demon out of Ananias; instead, God judged the deception.

## **4. The Thorn in the Flesh**

### **2 Corinthians 12:7**

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Some say this proves a demon was inside Paul, but the text says the messenger buffeted him, meaning struck or harassed from the outside. This aligns with the broader teaching of Scripture that Satan opposes Believers externally.

### **1 Peter 5:8**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

## ***Satan walks about, not within***

### **5. Deliverance in the Gospels**

Some point out that Jesus cast demons out of many people and suggest Believers may need the same, but we must remember something important which is that the New Covenant had not yet begun, nor had The Holy Spirit come yet to permanently indwell Believers until after the Cross.

#### **John 7:38-39**

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified).

Before Calvary, people could be influenced or inhabited by demons because the Spirit of God had not yet taken permanent residence in Believers.

### **6. The Strong Biblical Statement**

The New Testament gives a clear doctrinal line.

#### **1 John 4:4**

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

#### **2 Corinthians 6:15-16**

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

## ***The Spirit of God does not share His temple with devils***

**The real danger for Christians** is not demon possession but moving their Faith away from the Cross of Christ where it cannot, nor will it ever work. When that happens the flesh dominates, deception increases and oppression can dominate and increase, but the answer for this bondage is always the same.

### **James 4:7**

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

Submission to God comes through Faith in Christ and His finished work at Calvary, where Satan was defeated.

Let us now look at something which is of the upmost importance which is the difference between the Sin Nature and demons, because many things blamed on demons are actually the Sin Nature working when one's Faith is not anchored in the Cross of Christ. This distinction clears up a tremendous amount of confusion in the church if Scriptural Truth is accepted concerning it. Understanding the difference between the Sin Nature and demons is very important. Many things that Christians blame on demons are actually the Sin Nature operating when Faith is not anchored in Christ and His Cross.

### **1. The Sin Nature Lives in the Flesh**

When a person is Saved, the Sin Nature is not removed, though its dominion is broken through the Cross.

### **Romans 6:6**

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

The phrase “body of sin” refers to the Sin Nature that operates in the flesh. Paul explains this struggle clearly.

**Romans 7:17**

Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin (The Sin Nature) that dwelleth in me.

**Romans 7:20**

Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin (The Sin Nature) that dwelleth in me.

Notice Paul did not say a devil dwells in me. He said sin (The Sin Nature) dwells in me.

**2. The Flesh Opposes the Spirit**

The Believer experiences an internal conflict, not between demons and the Spirit, but between the flesh and the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:17**

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

This is the internal war inside the Believer. The flesh seeks independence from God and produces works of sin as it opposes the leading of the Spirit.

**3. Satan Uses the Sin Nature**

While the Sin Nature is within the flesh, Satan works from the outside, attempting to exploit the Sin Nature.

**Ephesians 2:2-3**

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Notice the two elements which are the prince of the power of the air which is Satan working externally and the lusts of the flesh and the Sin Nature within. Satan tempts and deceives, but the Sin Nature provides the internal pull. Most today would rather blame the Devil than accept the responsibility of holding fast to the Cross of Christ through Faith to keep the Sin Nature rendered powerless. Another reason many blame the devil for their sinful issues is because they think it excuses them.

#### **4. Victory Comes Through the Cross**

God's solution for the Sin Nature is the Cross of Christ.

##### **Romans 6:11**

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Believer must reckon (count it to be true) that the old man was crucified with Christ and the Sin Nature no longer has dominion.

##### **Romans 6:14**

For sin (The Sin Nature) shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Grace is God at work through the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit only works within the framework of Faith in Christ and what He accomplished at Calvary.

#### **5. When Faith Moves Away from the Cross**

If a Believer moves their Faith away from the Cross, the Sin Nature can begin to dominate again because there is no other object of Faith than that will allow The Holy Spirit to benefit and affect us with the benefits of Christ.

**Romans 12:3**

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

**Galatians 5:2-4**

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Faith in anything other than the Cross of Christ is actually us trusting in SELF.

This will without fail result in bondage, frustration and defeat in our conditional experience. Paul described this condition.

**Romans 7:24**

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

But the answer immediately follows.

**Romans 7:25**

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

***Deliverance comes through Christ and His finished work, not through casting demons out of Believers***

**6. Walking in the Spirit**

When Faith remains in Christ and His sacrifice, the Holy Spirit produces victory.

**Galatians 5:16**

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

The Spirit produces the fruit of Christ's Life within the Believer and the difference is very clear in Scripture. The Sin Nature exists in the flesh and produces sinful desires but was judged at the Cross.

Demons operate externally as they tempt and deceive but cannot inhabit Believers. The Believer's victory is always found through Faith in the Cross of Christ, where the power of sin was broken and Satan was defeated.

Let us now look at why the Bible never tells Christians to fight the devil directly but always points us back to the Cross of Christ as the place of victory. This truth connects deeply with Romans chapters 6–8, which we have been learning for many years. The Scriptures reveal that Christians are never told to fight the devil directly. Instead, the Bible continually points Believers back to the victory already accomplished through Jesus Christ at the Cross.

**1. The Victory Was Won at the Cross**

The decisive battle against Satan was not given to Believers to win.

***The Battle is The Lord's and It was won by Christ Himself***

**1 Samuel 17:47**

And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

***By Himself Purged our Sins***

**Hebrews 1:3**

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

We see this promise of Christ overcoming the enemy in the very first mention and promise of The Redeemer.

**Genesis 3:15**

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This first prophecy of Redemption pointed to Christ crushing the serpent's head. That victory occurred at Calvary.

**Colossians 2:14-15**

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

At the Cross, Satan's authority was stripped by Jesus Christ and his legal claim over sinners was removed as Christ

triumphed openly over the powers of darkness.

## **2. Believers Are Told to Stand, Not Fight Anything but the Good Fight of Faith**

When the apostle Paul teaches about spiritual warfare, he never instructs Believers to attack Satan. Instead, he tells them to stand in the victory Christ already secured to be able to resist him.

### **Ephesians 6:11**

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

### **Ephesians 6:13**

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

### **2 Timothy 4:7**

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

### **1 Timothy 6:12**

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Notice the repeated instruction in Ephesians 6:11-13 to stand. This means to remain in the Faith, which is to remain in the Truth of the Gospel which is to remain in the victory of Christ.

## **3. Submission to God Is the Key**

The Bible gives a very simple instruction concerning the devil.

### **James 4:7**

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

The order is very important. Submit to God, resist the devil and he flees. Submission to God means Faith in His way of victory, which is the Cross of Christ. It doesn't mean anything else. When Faith remains in Christ and what He accomplished, Satan has no ground to stand upon. He can roar all day long every day, but through the Cross taken up and SELF denied, he has no grounds whatsoever.

## **4. Satan Works Through Deception**

*The devil's greatest weapon is not power but deception*

### **Genesis 3:13**

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Paul warned the church about the same danger.

### **2 Corinthians 11:3**

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Satan seeks to move Believers away from the simplicity that is in Christ. That simplicity is the message of Christ and Him crucified.

## **5. The Believer's Focus Is Christ**

Instead of focusing on demons or spiritual warfare, the New Testament repeatedly directs the Believer to look to Jesus.

## **Hebrews 12:2**

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

According to the Scriptures, we are told that if we are going to “See Jesus” or “Look unto Jesus” we are going to see Him as what He did for us on the Cross in this verse and one more.

## **Hebrews 2:9**

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

This is what we are to be looking unto and seeing instead of running around looking for devils among Christians. Victory is experienced when Faith remains anchored in who Christ is which is precisely what Christ accomplished at the Cross. Who He is, is what He did and what He did is who He is.

## **6. The Cross Keeps the Enemy as Defeated**

When Faith remains in Christ’s sacrifice, the Holy Spirit works in the Believer’s life, and where the Spirit is working, the flesh loses dominion and Satan loses influence, then the fruit of Righteousness appears. This is why Paul determined something very specific.

## **1 Corinthians 2:2**

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Christians are not called to fight the devil directly because Christ has already defeated Satan at the Cross. Believers

are instructed to stand in that victory because Scriptural submission to God causes the devil to flee and Satan's main weapon of deception becomes powerless. Faith must remain focused on Christ and His sacrifice because the Cross is where sin was judged, Satan was defeated and the Believer's victory was secured. And The Holy Spirit works continually within the boundaries of Faith in that finished work.

Let's look now at why Jesus never cast a demon out of one of His disciples and why that detail is very important to this subject. Looking carefully at the Gospels will reveal a very important truth to us which is that Jesus never cast a demon out of one of His disciples. This detail helps us understand the relationship between those who truly belong to Christ and others who belong to the powers of darkness.

## **1. The Disciples Had Weaknesses, But No Demons**

The twelve disciples had many weaknesses such as fear, pride, misunderstanding and even unbelief at times, which are all too familiar with us today also at times. Yet, Jesus never treated these struggles as demons that needed to be cast out. Peter rebuked Jesus and we see the following:

### **Matthew 16:22-23**

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Jesus did not cast a demon out of Peter. Instead, He corrected the influence of Satan upon Peter's thinking. This shows Satan can influence thoughts, but it does not mean a Believer is possessed.

## 2. The Disciples Struggled with the Flesh

The disciples often acted according to the flesh in pride and self-importance.

### Mark 9:34

But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

They functioned in fear at times.

### Mark 4:40

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

They would be found sleeping even in the hour of trial.

### Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Jesus identified the problem clearly which is that the flesh is weak. He did not say demons are inside you.

## 3. Judas Was the Only Exception

The only disciple connected with Satan entering him was Judas, but Judas was never a true Believer.

### John 13:27

And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

Yet Jesus had already said earlier:

### **John 6:64**

But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

And specifically, Jesus called him what he really was.

### **John 6:70**

Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Judas followed Christ outwardly but never truly believed. Even though he was sent out with the other eleven and used, there will also be others who were used and will confess, “Didn’t we do many good works, cast out devils and prophesy in Your Name, but Jesus said that He will tell them, “I never knew you, you workers of Iniquity.”

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

This is where we need to come right out and admit that many who are claiming to be Christians today and claiming they have a devil just might not be a Child of God at all. “Not everyone who says unto Jesus, “Lord, Lord” is going to enter the Kingdom of heaven. That is just a reality. Some folks have kids who just aren’t Saved but claim they believe, so the parents start saying they must have a devil. They might be possessed, but if so, they are not Saved by the Blood of Christ Jesus.

#### **4. The Disciples Cast Demons Out of Others**

Jesus gave the disciples authority over demons.

##### **Matthew 10:1**

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.

But notice something important which is that they cast demons out of others, never out of one another.

#### **5. The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

After the Cross and Resurrection, something even greater happened. The Holy Spirit came to permanently dwell within Believers.

##### **John 14:16-17**

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;  
17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

***Once the Spirit came to dwell in them, the disciples became the temple of God***

#### **6. The Temple Cannot Be Shared**

Paul later explained this clearly.

##### **2 Corinthians 6:15-16**

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The Believer belongs to Christ and is indwelt by the Spirit of God; therefore demons cannot dwell within them.

**The Real Issue** in the Christian life is not demons living inside Believers, but whether our Faith remains anchored in Christ and His sacrifice. When Faith remains there The Holy Spirit works as the flesh is subdued and Satan loses his influence on the Believer. This is why Paul determined to preach one central message.

### **1 Corinthians 2:2**

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Looking further into the Scriptures we need to look at the difference between Satan entering Judas and Satan asking to sift Peter. That contrast in Luke 22 reveals a great Truth about the security of those who truly belong to Christ. The contrast between Judas and Peter in Luke 22 reveals a profound Truth about those who truly belong to Christ and those who do not.

### **1. Satan Entered Judas**

The Scripture says plainly:

#### **Luke 22:3**

Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. Later we see the same thing again.

### **John 13:27**

And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

This shows direct satanic control, but the reason is very important. Judas never truly believed. Jesus had already said earlier:

### **John 6:64**

But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. Then He identified Judas.

### **John 6:70**

Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Judas followed Jesus outwardly, but his heart was never truly yielded in Faith. There are many who are in this same deceptive and sinking boat today.

## **2. Satan Asked to Sift Peter**

Now notice the completely different language used concerning Peter.

### **Luke 22:31-32**

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Several important truths appear here. Satan had to ask permission. He could not simply enter Peter as he did Judas, but don't forget that Judas didn't even have permission as a devil to go do what he did without first being told to go do it quickly by Jesus.

### **John 13:27**

And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

This shows Peter belonged to Christ. The attack on Peter was external. Satan wanted to sift Peter, meaning to shake him violently in testing. This refers to the trial Peter would face when Jesus was arrested.

### **3. Christ Interceded for Peter**

Jesus said something very powerful.

### **Luke 22:32**

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

And after Peter's failure, Jesus said:

"...and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

***Peter would recover because his Faith was real***

### **4. Peter Fell, But Was Not Possessed**

Peter denied Christ three times.

### **Luke 22:61-62**

61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Peter's failure was serious, but it was not demon possession. It was fear working through the weakness of the flesh.

Later Jesus restored Peter.

## **John 21:17**

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

## **5. The Difference Between Judas and Peter**

The contrast is very clear.

<b>Judas</b>	<b>Peter</b>
Satan entered him	Satan asked to sift him
Never truly believed	Truly belonged to Christ
Betrayed Christ	Denied Christ but repented
Was lost	Was restored

This shows that Satan can attack Believers, but he cannot take possession of them.

## **6. Christ Still Intercedes for Believers Today**

***What Jesus did for Peter continues today for all Believers***

## **Isaiah 53:12**

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

## **Hebrews 7:25**

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Because of Christ's finished work and His Living now as our continual intercession, the Believer is kept by the power of God. The contrast between Judas and Peter shows that Satan entered Judas because he was not a true Believer. Satan could only request permission to test Peter. Christ interceded so Peter's Faith would not fail. Peter's fall was due to the weakness of the flesh, not demon possession. Christ continues to intercede for all who belong to Him. This again points us to the central truth of Scripture which is that both the Believer's victory and security are found in Jesus Christ and His finished work at the Cross.









CrossWay Church Queen City, Texas

610 Hwy 59 - 75572

YouTube Channel – Curtishutchinson316

Pastor's Email – curtishutchinson@att.net