

Haunted Houses, Ghosts & Demons

Introduction

There is a massive interest in haunted houses and ghosts these days. Hollywood constantly churns out big-budget horror movies, reality television shows follow real-life ghost hunters, and almost everyone has (or knows someone who has) experienced an unexplained encounter with an evil spiritual force.

This study is going to expose the real identity of ghosts and their habitations, teach about demons, show how to avoid getting them, and most importantly, how to be free of demonic squatters.

My intention is not to glorify the 'dark side' but rather to expose and educate. Many Christians are bound by an unnecessary fear of ghosts and ghouls when they don't need to fear at all. Jesus has come to set us free indeed, not to be bound by fear of the bogeyman! Also many Christians have an unhealthy interest in demons, blaming them for everything and looking for them everywhere. Let's get balanced folks.

Demons

Many excellent books have been published on demons by renowned men and women with decades of practical experience. The following is a brief overview.

What are they?

Demons can be described as evil personalities without bodies, or spiritual beings at enmity with God. They are able to influence people through thoughts and senses, in varying degrees from oppression to possession.

The Greek word for demon is 'Daimonion' and means:

- A spirit, a being inferior to God, superior to men.
- Evil spirits or the messengers and ministers of the devil.¹

The Bible also calls demons, evil or wicked spirits among other names.

*¹²For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)***

Where did they come from?

There are various opinions about the origin of demons, and I will cover the two most widely accepted.

Origins of demons: Fallen angels

The most common and accepted belief as to how demons originated is...

- They were originally created as angels by God.
- An archangel called Lucifer led a rebellion against God, along with one third of all the angels.
- They were cast out of Heaven to earth.
- Lucifer became Satan, and his angels became demons.

*¹²"How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.' ¹⁵But instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. **Isaiah 14:12-15 (NLT)***

¹⁷When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"

¹⁸"Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning! ¹⁹And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰But don't rejoice just because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered as citizens of heaven."

Luke 10:17-20 (NLT)

³Suddenly, I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail dragged down one-third of the stars, which he threw to the earth. **Revelation 12:3-4a (NLT)**

⁷Then there was war in heaven. Michael and the angels under his command fought the dragon and his angels. ⁸And the dragon lost the battle and was forced out of heaven. ⁹This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. **Revelation 12:7-9 (NLT)**

Origins of demons: Spirits of the Nephilim

A more obscure belief as to the origin to demons is that they are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim.

¹When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. **Genesis 6:1-4 (NIV)**

The Greek word "Nephilim" literally means 'fallen ones'. Some scholars (i.e. Chuck Missler) believe that since the Nephilim were half fallen angel and half human, their spirit could not be redeemed or 'born again'. Therefore, when they died they became bodiless parasitic entities, roaming the earth until judgement-day seeking humans if possible to be their hosts. In other words.. demons.

Whatever the true origin of demons, one thing is certain, they are supernatural creatures under the dominion of Satan, and are absolute enemies of God and God's people.

What do they do?

We know that Satan's purpose is to rob, kill and destroy.

¹⁰The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness. **John 10:10**

It is obvious that spiritual forces in allegiance to Satan will have the same ambition. Demons are degenerate, corrupt beings, intent on preventing, distorting and destroying people's relationship with God. They will attempt to achieve this by any means necessary. I believe one of their most effective weapons is deception, just like their leader...

⁴Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. **2 Corinthians 4:4**

Where are they going?

In Matthew 24 Jesus teaches about the final judgement, and tells us very clearly where demons are going.

⁴¹"Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his demons!' **Matthew 25:41 (NLT)**

The eternal destination of all demons is hell. That's why hell is so horrible. It wasn't originally intended for humans!

Where do they live?

¹So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the land of the Gerasenes. ²Just as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet him.

³This man lived among the tombs and could not be restrained, even with a chain. ⁴Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to control him. ⁵All day long and throughout the night, he would wander among the tombs and in the hills, screaming and hitting himself with stones.

⁶When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him. He ran to meet Jesus and fell down before him. ⁷He gave a terrible scream, shrieking, “Why are you bothering me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? For God’s sake, don’t torture me!” ⁸For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

⁹Then Jesus asked, “What is your name?”

And the spirit replied, “Legion, because there are many of us here inside this man.” ¹⁰Then the spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. ¹¹There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. ¹²“Send us into those pigs,” the evil spirits begged. ¹³Jesus gave them permission. So the evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of two thousand pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake, where they drowned. **Mark 5:1-13 (NLT)**

This Biblical account shows that demons can inhabit three places:

- **People.** The man was possessed by many evil spirits.
- **Animals.** Jesus allowed the demons to enter the herd of pigs.
- **Places.** The demons begged Jesus not to send them to a ‘distant place’.

Ghosts

The well known New Zealand clairvoyant, Jeanette Wilson, amazes her studio audience by talking to their deceased ‘loved ones’ and giving opportunity for them to say their final ‘good-bye’s to those on the other side. A recent newspaper article stated...

When Jeanette Wilson was first aware she could talk to the dead, she thought someone had dropped LSD in her coffee... “I started seeing spirits in the room, there were 64 business people in the room and I started to see more than 240 spirits as well... She began talking to the spirits who told her things about people that she could not have known otherwise.”²

The dictionary defines a ghost as being the spirit of a dead person, especially one believed to appear in bodily likeness to living persons or to haunt former habitats.

Are there such things as ghosts? Absolutely, but definitely not as defined by the dictionary! Ghosts cannot be the spirits of dead people because the Bible teaches that after death comes the judgement.

²⁷And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so also Christ died only once as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again but not to deal with our sins again. This time he will bring salvation to all those who are eagerly waiting for him. **Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT)**

I believe that ghosts are demons in disguise. If Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light, surely it would be an easy thing for a demon to disguise itself as my late great aunty.

¹⁴Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. **2 Corinthians 11:14b**

Familiar Spirits

Demons that pretend to be the spirits of the departed, are known as ‘familiar spirits’.

Sorcerers or necromancers, who professed to call up the dead to answer questions, were said to have a 'familiar spirit'... Such a person was called by the Hebrews an 'ob', which properly means a leather bottle; for sorcerers were regarded as vessels containing the inspiring demon... The word 'familiar' is from the Latin familiaris, meaning a 'household servant', and was intended to express the idea that sorcerers had spirits as their servants ready to obey their commands.³

Clairvoyants, mediums etc. supposedly call up the spirits of our dearly departed. They communicate with them, and sometimes become channels for them to speak through. These spirits seem to be genuine as they recall many intricate details of their lives that only the deceased person could know.

This may all be an ingenious demonic conspiracy to deceive the masses into believing a lie, and 'familiar spirits' are successfully deceive millions of ignorant people. The truth could be the following...

Let's say that a demon had inhabited my great aunty for years. When my great aunty died, the demon would probably have left her body searching for another human host in which to reside. Knowing that demons are hell-bent on deceiving mankind, that demon could easily pretend that it is the ghost of my dead aunty, because it would know intimate details of her life, having lived in her for many years. A medium could call up the spirit of my great aunty, and instead get the demon disguised as my great aunty. This demon in disguise would then tell all those interested that she is happy in heaven, that there is no such thing as hell, that everyone who is good lives happily ever after etc. No one would doubt that it is my great aunty because it would know everything about her, and give an excellent performance!

Other unexplainable phenomena

Could it be that demons are responsible for other unexplainable phenomena?

- **Multiple Personality Disorder**

MPD is a rare psychological disorder in which a person has two or more distinct personalities, each with its own thoughts, feelings, and patterns of behavior. The personalities often are direct opposites and dominate at different times, with abrupt transitions triggered by distressful events or memories. Each may be entirely unaware of the other but aware of unexplained gaps in remembered time.⁴

Considering the Biblical account of the man inhabited by thousands of demons, MPD could easily stand for Multiple Possession by Demons!

- **Reincarnation**

The dictionary defines reincarnation as the rebirth of the soul in another body. Perhaps the reality of reincarnation is not the rebirth of the soul into another body, but the transference of a familiar spirit into another body? For example, it would be a simple thing for familiar spirit of a deceased deli-lama to enter a young boy and reveal to him the knowledge of his former inhabitant, making the world believe that the boy is the reincarnation of the dead deli-lama.

- **Repressed Memories**

Repressed memories (memories so traumatic, that they are repressed, or forgotten) are usually discovered by placing people under hypnosis. Hypnosis is so dangerous because by being hypnotised, a person willingly relinquishes control of their subconscious. Demons take advantage of this vulnerability and take up residence, planting a range of deceptive memories, such as alien abduction, former-life experiences etc.

*During hypnotic sessions, the counselee is in a mystical altered state of consciousness in which the rational mind recedes. Christian researchers of occult phenomena have often noted that while in **any** kind of altered state of consciousness, the person may become prey to demonic influences.⁵*

- **Alien Abduction**

The characteristics of demons and aliens are so similar that it cannot be a coincidence.

Demons in disguise

When studying paranormal phenomena with a 'demons in disguise' point of view, everything makes perfect sense! Remember, demons want to rob kill and destroy. They are intent on taking as many people with them to hell as possible, and the easiest way to do so is through deception.

²⁴*For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great miraculous signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones.* ²⁵*See, I have warned you.*
Matthew 24:24 (NLT)

Haunted Houses

Haunted houses are real. There is too much evidence to suggest otherwise. The following is an account of a famous haunted house case.

The Enfield Poltergeist case made headlines in 1977. The strange activity seemed to center around the daughter of Peggy Harper, a divorcee in her mid-40s. It started on an August night. Late at night, Janet, aged 11 and her brother Pete, aged 10, complained that their beds were 'jolting up and down and going all funny.' As soon as Mrs. Harper got to the room, the movements had stopped – as far as she was concerned her kids were making it all up."

But things got progressively more bizarre from there. Shuffling noises and knocks on the wall were followed by a heavy chest of drawers sliding by itself across the floor. Mrs. Harper promptly got her children out of the house and sought the assistance of a neighbor. "The neighbors searched the house and garden but found no one. Soon they also heard the knocks on the walls which continued at spaced out intervals. At 11 p.m. they called the police, who heard the knocks, one officer even saw a chair inexplicably move across the floor, and later signed a written statement to confirm the events."

Several people were witness to the events that occurred in the following days: Lego bricks and marbles were thrown around the house, and were often hot to the touch. In September of that year, Maurice Grosse of the Society for Psychical Research came to investigate. "Grosse claims that he experienced the strange happenings – first a marble was thrown at him from an unseen hand, he saw doors open and close by themselves, and claimed to feel a sudden breeze that seemed to move up from his feet to his head."

Grosse was later joined in the investigation by writer Guy Lyon Playfair, and together they studied the case for two years. "The knocking on walls and floors became an almost nightly occurrence, furniture slid across the floor and was thrown down the stairs, drawers were wrenched out of dressing tables. Toys and other objects would fly across the room, bedclothes would be pulled off, water was found in mysterious puddles on the floors, there were outbreaks of fire followed by their inexplicable extinguishing."

*The case became decidedly unnerving when the spirits revealed themselves – through Janet. Speaking in a deep, gravely voice through Janet, the spirit announced that his name was Bill and had died in the house – a fact that has been verified. The voices and the phenomenon have been recorded on tape and film, and Playfair has written a book about the case called *This House is Haunted*.⁶*

I have prayed through houses by the invitation of owners where strange things similar to the above story have happened. The typical haunted house scenario of doors opening and slamming, lights going on and off, things going bump in the night etc. The spiritual culprits responsible are 'poltergeists' (German for 'noisy ghosts').

Demons are attracted to sinful practises, places where witchcraft has been practised and places/objects that have been dedicated to Satan, so it is obvious that many demons would reside in such places. I have read that demons congregate where people have died in a malicious way. This would explain why nearly all haunted houses have a sordid story attached to them. Also, where do the demons of a person go when they die? Just as it was attached to the person, could it be also attached to the residence of that person?

Our authority in Christ

Every genuine Christian does not need to fear haunted houses, ghosts and demons at all. In fact, demons are scared of any Christian who knows their authority in Christ!

¹⁷When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"

¹⁸"Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning!" ¹⁹And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰But don't rejoice just because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered as citizens of heaven." **Luke 10:17-20 (NLT)**

¹⁵And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. ¹⁶Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. ¹⁷These signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name... **Mark 16:15-17a (NLT)**

A policeman has no real authority as himself, but while he is on active duty, wearing his uniform or displaying his badge, he carries the authority of the entire police force! It is exactly the same with us as believers. We have no authority to cast out demons by our own authority, but as Christians we carry the authority of all of Heaven! No wonder demons flee! Sadly though, so few Christians really understand the authority they have in Christ. It is like a policeman running from the bad guys because he doesn't understand the authority he represents. So many Christians live in fear and bondage and let the enemy walk all over them, simply because they do not realize that they have authority in Christ!

Not too long ago, I came across a true story about five college students who decided that they were too smart and too sophisticated to believe in evil spirits or ghosts or anything of the sort. They went out to a certain location near their school that was supposedly "haunted," and they made fun of whatever spirits were present in that place. They ridiculed them, and challenged them, and dared them to make their presence known. They thought it was all so much fun. Unfortunately, though, these students did not belong to Jesus. They figured that those who believed in him were just as foolish as those who believed in evil spirits. Because of their unbelief, they were not protected by the Blood of Christ, and the demons of that place apparently decided to take them up on their dare. Within six months of their visit to the "haunted" are, all of those college students had dropped out of school. Friends who knew them said they had become paranoid and fearful. They talked about strange things happening to them – about hearing voices, and seeing disembodied spirits and feeling that their lives were in danger. Basically, those young men went into hiding. Goals and dreams were abandoned. They had learned a very important lesson about the reality of the supernatural world, but they had learned it at a very great cost.⁷

There are many people who think they have authority, but do not, because they aren't genuine Christians.

¹¹God gave Paul the power to do unusual miracles, ¹²so that even when handkerchiefs or cloths that had touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and any evil spirits within them came out.

¹³A team of Jews who were traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus. The incantation they used was this: "I command you by Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" ¹⁴Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. ¹⁵But when they tried it on a man possessed by an evil spirit, the spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul. But who are you?" ¹⁶And he leaped on them and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and badly injured. **Acts 19:14-16 (NLT)**

We are in a battle, and we must realise that the enemy won't surrender without a fight.

¹⁰A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. ¹²For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

¹³Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. ¹⁷Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere. **Ephesians 6:10-18 (NLT)**

How to become demonically infected

The following give far-from-exhaustive instructions on how to get demons.

- **Practice deliberate sin**

²⁷*and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:27 (NIV)*

The word 'foothold' in Greek can mean real estate, or an inhabited place.¹ When we practice deliberate sin we give Satan real estate in our life and give him legal access to wreak havoc! Every time we choose to practise sin, we mark off another boundary line of property given to the enemy in our life. He takes up residence there and there is nothing we can do about it, unless we truly repent and take back ground. This is the only way.

- **Own objects attributed to Satan and witchcraft**

Just as deliberate sin can give demons legal access, owning objectionable objects, or objects dedicated to demonic forces can give demons legal access also.

- **Entertain yourself with things glorifying the devil**

Hollywood is currently releasing an average of three big-budget horror films every month. That's almost one a week! It is no accident that the entertainment industry is churning out horror movies, television shows glamorising witchcraft, and satanic computer games in phenomenal numbers.

- **Don't forgive**

²¹*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"*

²²*Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. ²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' ³⁰"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³²"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." **Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)***

We all know that Jesus' parables always showed a spiritual truth. The spiritual truth of these verses is if we refuse to forgive someone, God will allow Satan to torture and torment us! Anyone involved in deliverance ministry will be quick to tell you that unforgiveness is one of the main reasons why people don't get delivered and find freedom and victory. They will also tell you that unforgiveness opens the door to demonic torment in one's life! These examples show in reality the truth of this parable.

*...And when I forgive him (for whatever is to be forgiven), I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, ¹¹so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are very familiar with his evil schemes. **2 Corinthians 2:10b-11 (NLT)***

- **Sleep around**

Just as bodily fluids are exchanged during sexual activity, demonic inhabitants can also be exchanged. The difference is that one can be alleviated by so-called 'protection' the other cannot. Sex is so much more than a physical act. It is very spiritual also, and must be saved for marriage!

¹⁶And don't you know that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one."¹⁷ But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

¹⁸Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. **1 Corinthians 6:16-18 (NLT)**

- **Receive a generational hand-me-down**

Just as we receive our physical attributes from our parents, we can also receive spiritual 'hand-me-downs' from them.

- **Dabble in witchcraft**

The numbers of people participating in witchcraft and paganism has risen 140 per cent between 1996 and 2001. The celebration of Halloween is now only second to Christmas in popularity.

⁹"When you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. ¹⁰For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling or sorcery, or allow them to interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, ¹¹or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. ¹²Anyone who does these things is an object of horror and disgust to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these things that the LORD your God will drive them out ahead of you. ¹³You must be blameless before the LORD your God. ¹⁴The people you are about to displace consult with sorcerers and fortune-tellers, but the LORD your God forbids you to do such things.

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 (NLT)

Why is God so firm on the practice of witchcraft? Because He knows that it is a foolproof way to become bound by demonic forces. There are many seemingly harmless and culturally acceptable practices that are demonic in origin and must be avoided like the plague. For example, horoscopes, acupuncture, yoga, Tarot card reading and various wholistic healing methods to name just a few. Do research on the origins of our culture's in-vogue alternative trends and practices. We can never be too careful.

- **Experience a traumatic ordeal**

Experiencing a traumatic incident can sometimes open the door to demons. For example, a person who suffers a terrifying ordeal can become vulnerable and home to a spirit of fear.

- **Practice other religions**

¹Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons. **1 Timothy 4:1 (NLT)**

It is no secret that by practicing other religions people willfully open themselves up to and even welcome demons to inhabit them. Using Mormonism as a example, it is interesting to note that Anton LaVey's Satanic Bible calls the God of the ghouls 'Mormo' and his followers 'Mormons'.⁸

- **Use hallucinogenic drugs**

A fact that not many people know is that the Greek word which we get the word drugs from (pharmakeia), is the same word used by the Greeks for witchcraft and sorcery!⁵

Pieces of furniture assumed grotesque threatening forms... A demon had invaded me, taken possession of my body, mind and soul... I was seized by the dreadful fear I was going insane... I was taken to another world, another place, another time... Was I dying? Albert Hoffman, inventor of LSD, recalling the world's first LSD trip in 1938.⁹

*One trip with LSD can mar a mind for life... Seven per cent of LSD experiments never return to normalcy and have to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals... It appears to open a doorway into the unconscious of the mind that never completely closes.*¹⁰

- **Become hypnotised**

The dangers of hypnotism has already been mentioned. It is no coincidence that our culture promotes and displays as pleasurable almost everything that attracts demons, and we must be educated and aware of Satan's schemes!

¹⁰*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.*
John 10:10

How to evict demonic squatters

When we get a viral infection, we have become exposed to the virus in some way, and if we are not immune, we becoming infected by the virus. Some people are more vulnerable than others because of physical strength, health etc. When we become infected, our body works at combating the virus, and many times succeeds in overcoming and destroying the virus, but sometimes, we need to get medical help from a doctor who will prescribe us medicine to evict the virus from our body.

The same applies to demonic squatters. Because we have allowed ourselves to become vulnerable to demonic invasion (by being involved in the things mentioned in the previous section), many times a demon takes up residence within us. In many cases we can effectively fight against and evict demonic forces on our own, but sometimes we need help from others to help us get free.

Here are some ways to get free.

- **Repent (and confess)**

To repent means literally to turn and walk in the opposite direction. Many people are sorry for what they have done, but they don't turn away from it.

¹⁶*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.*
James 5:16 (NLT)

A lack of repentance is a major reason why demons won't leave. They have a right to be there. Remember the foothold analogy.

- **Renounce**

To renounce something means to reject and leave it completely, in actions and in words. It is similar to repentance but more aggressive.

- **Release (forgive)**

Contrary to what many people believe, forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling.

- **Remove (yourself or objects)**

An evidence that we have truly repented and renounced something is removing it completely from our lives. We may need to remove ourselves from the practice, or remove objects from our life.

¹⁷*The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored.*
¹⁸*Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices.* ¹⁹*A number of them who had been practicing magic brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars.* ²⁰*So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.* **Acts 19:17-20 (NLT)**

The most important thing for us to do is pursue, develop, and cultivate a relationship with God! If we become close to God, demons will eventually get so agitated that they will leave of their own accord.

- **Resist**

Demons don't usually leave without a fight. It's like a hermit crab getting pulled from it's shell. We must become aggressive and resist their attacks.

⁷*So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.*
James 4:7 (NLT)

- **(Get) Radical**

We cannot be half-hearted in our efforts in finding freedom. We must be radical and do whatever is necessary to get free. Sometimes that will involve much prayer and fasting.

²⁵*When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Spirit of deafness and muteness," he said, "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!"* ²⁶*Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy lay there motionless, and he appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd, "He's dead."* ²⁷*But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.*

²⁸*Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?"*

²⁹*Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer [and fasting]." **Mark 9:25-29 (NLT)***

Remember as genuine believers, Christ has given us authority in His Name. Much of the above ways to find freedom will include prayer in the Name of Jesus.

Demon FAQ

- **Can Christians have demons?**

Christians cannot be possessed, as possession implies total ownership, and Satan does not have ownership of Christians, God has. Christians can however be 'demonised' which means having a demonic force reside in or around them. The most common cause for this is that before people give their lives to Jesus, they have accumulated demons which still reside in them after they are born again. That is why it is important for new believers to receive teaching on demons and how to get rid of them.

- **Is all mental sickness attributed to demons?**

Just as all physical sickness is not demonic in origin, we cannot attribute all mental sickness to demons either. We must be wise in our zeal and not do emotional damage by demon-hunting when in fact the reason is emotional/mental instability, or hormonal imbalance. It has been proven that some medication can cause hallucinations that appear to be demonic, when there are no demons involved.

- **Should I pray through my house?**

Definitely. We do not know what has gone on in our places of residence before they are ours. It may have been home to a witch's coven!

- **If I am delivered, will the demons come back?**

⁴³*"When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none.*

⁴⁴*Then it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and clean. ⁴⁵Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation." **Matthew 12:43 (NLT)***

If a non-Christian gets delivered of a demon, then judging by the above verses the demon will definitely come back with its friends. Christians need not worry, if they are pursuing a relationship with God and filling themselves with Him and His ways. Christians who have been delivered of demons but choose to reject God (backslide) can be in grave danger of becoming re-inhabited by their demonic parasites, becoming greatly afflicted, much worse than before.

Conclusion

¹³*You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. ¹⁵In*

this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ. Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT)

In conclusion, I have included a prayer by the late Derek Prince. He and his wife prayed this prayer every day of their lives.

Declaration of Confidence in God's Protection

No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper and every tongue, which rises against me in judgement, I do condemn. This is my heritage as a servant of the Lord and my righteousness is from You, O Lord of Hosts. If there are those who have been speaking or praying against me, or seeking harm or evil to me, or who have rejected me, I forgive them. Having forgiven them, I bless them in the Name of the Lord. Now I declare, O Lord, that You and You alone are my God, and besides You, there is no other – a just God and a Saviour, the Father, the Son and the Spirit – and I worship You! I submit myself afresh to You today in unreserved obedience. Having submitted to you, Lord, I do as Your Word directs. I resist the devil; all his pressures, his attacks, his deceptions, every instrument or agent he would seek to use against me. I do not submit! I resist him, drive him from me and exclude him from me in the name of Jesus. Specifically I reject and repel: Infirmity, pain, infection, inflammation, malignancies, allergies, viruses, and every form of witchcraft. Finally, Lord, I thank you that through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham whom You blessed in all things: exaltation, health, reproductiveness, prosperity, victory, and God's favour. Amen.¹¹

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