

Spiritual Warfare Ephesians 6:12

Part 1- Can A Believer Be Demon Possessed?



Ephesians 6:12 NLT

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians that we are fighting a spiritual battle. Understanding that, the question might arise, can a Christian be possessed by a demon? Quick answer “No” and we will cover the Biblical basis in this study. However, though Christians cannot be possessed by a demon, they can be Oppressed (Vexed) by demons. What is the difference between being “Possessed” and being “Oppressed” by a demonic spirit. Possession means to be completely controlled or owned by a demon. Oppression (Vexation) on the other hand means to be influenced or confused by demonic forces. A good Biblical example of demonic “oppression” of a believer is found in Mark 16 where Jesus tells Peter he is under the influence of Satan. This is same Peter that Jesus said “the gates of Hell shall not prevail against in Matthew 16:18. Peter was undeniably saved but still able to be Influenced (Vexed) by Satan even though he could not be overtaken (Possessed) by him.

21 From that time on Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Far be it from You, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to You!”

23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” Mark 16:21-23

Jesus is not speaking to Peter but the Demonic influence that is causing him to be confused concerning the Will of God. We see from the above referenced Bible passages that Peter has been promised that he is protected from possession in Matthew 16:18 but is said to be under the influence of Satan in Mark 16.

POSSESSION VS OPPRESSION

The Bible speaks concerning Demonic activity and humans mainly in two ways, “Possession” and “Vexation” (Oppression). The King James New Testament Bible mentions humans being “possessed” by demons fourteen times.

Mathew 4:24, Matthew 8:16, Matthew 8:28, Matthew 8:33, Matthew 9:32, Matthew 12:22, Mark 1:32, Mark 5:15, Mark 5:18, Luke 8:36 and Acts 8:7

The word "Possession" means to be under the control of a Demon. The Demonic force literally has full ownership of that person. A good Bible reference is found in **Mark 9**.

20 *And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.*

21 *And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.*

22 *And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.*

23 *Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believe.*

24 *And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

25 *When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.*

26 *And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.*

27 *But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.*

28 *And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?*

29 *And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.*

The demon had complete control over this young man. Jesus forces the spirit to leave the boy but even then, the demon does not leave without a fight. It causes the boy to convulse and collapse so that the on-lookers thought he was dead. Jesus takes him by the hand and allows him to stand in his healing. Jesus can cast out Demonic spirits from anyone regardless of if they are saved or not. The difference is, if you don't except Jesus as your savior the unclean spirit can re-enter because there has been no change of title. The dwelling has not been secured and the previous owner (Satan) still has access.

Mat 12:43 *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.

A few times the Bible uses the word “Vexed” instead of “Possessed” to describe demonic activity and humans. The word vexed means to Excite, Disturb. Molest and Confuse. It Does not mean to Own. A Christian cannot be possessed or owned by a Demonic spirit because **we are possessed/ Owned by God.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV

19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

We are Sealed by God.

28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing good with his own hands, that he may have something to share with the one in need.

29 Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

*31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, outcry and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4***

We cannot be removed from the protection of God.

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

*29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. **John 10***

What effect then does Demonic Influence Have on a Believer?

Though a believer cannot be possessed (Owned) by a Demon, there is still many ways we as believers can be impacted by their influence. As we shared in the scripture in Mark 16, The Apostle Peter under the influence of Satan, tried to convince Jesus **NOT** to go to the cross to save us.

All conflict among believers is a result of Demonic influence.

*For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the Churches of the saints. **1 Corinthians 13:33***

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

***14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

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

James 1

As Christians, when we do not live pure lives, it opens us up to be under demonic vexation. God does not force us to comply to his will. Even as a believer we have a choice to obey or not to obey. When we choose not to be obedient to God's word as a believer. It causes us to suffer internally and externally.

And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

Luke 12:47

When we live sexually impure lives we suffer the consequences that are produced from the act. We are still subject to "Soul Ties"

Don't you know that a man who does that becomes part of her body? The Scriptures say, "The two of them will be like one person."

1 Corinthians 6:16

We as Christians cannot be possessed with a Demon however, we can still lose our impact and ability to fully be used by God. We can also live unproductive and confused lives and be hindrances and stumbling blocks to the mission and will of God.

1 Corinthians 5:5

hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.