

## Demonic Spirits

Demons, or evil spirits, are created spiritual beings who fell from heaven with Satan and who are under his control. Like humans, they possess intellect and will. They take up residence in living creatures, including humans, where they are allowed to dwell or into which they are sent. They have no power or authority of their own; they must take orders from elsewhere. They will obey whoever commands them, that is, Satan, their boss; Jesus, Satan's boss; or Christians in the name of Jesus.

*“When an evil spirit, or demon, has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but it finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’. When it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there. The last state of that person is worse than the first.” (75)*

Demons, or evil spirits, are generally regarded as hostile to God and to human beings and therefore evil. They may be the cause of bad influences such as disease and mental distress on human beings. They can attach to a personality either through traumatic events, even in pre-birth or early life, or willfully through involvement with occult practices such as Ouija boards, witchcraft, card laying, and horoscopes. Whatever part of you is not under the willing control of Jesus and his holy Spirit is open to the control of Satan and his spirits. Thus you can be afflicted with or oppressed by, but not possessed by, an evil spirit, even if you are a Christian, because of previous influences.

However, if you submit your will to Jesus, you have the same authority he has over evil spirits, all sickness and diseases, and all other destructive forces of this world. You can be delivered of them by a mature Christian, or cast them out of yourself, after you confess (agree with God that it is wrong), renounce (firmly reject) them, and repent of (actively turn away from) any opening you gave to them. You must also forgive whoever may have opened you up to their influence, including especially yourself. Then, in the name of Jesus and by his precious blood, command them to leave you.

*“I have given you the power to ‘tread upon serpents’ and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy, and nothing will harm you.” (76)*

*“These signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons. They will speak in new tongues. They will pick up snakes, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them. They will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (77)*