

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

KNOWING YOUR ADVERSARY

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PART 2: DEMONIC MANIFESTATION

When I attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 1969, there was a common consensus among the professors that demons did not exist. I was told that Jesus was a child of his time and did not know any better than to be superstitious like the rest of the people. We were told to ignore any teaching in the New Testament that spoke of devils; instead, we were to explain to our congregations that demons do not exist and Jesus didn't know any better.

People on the other side teach that devils are the cause of all things and therefore people are not responsible for their actions. Some of these people become obsessed with demons and spend all their time chasing and talking about them.

What should a Christian believe concerning devils, demons, and evil spirits? To answer that question, we must first decide what we believe about Jesus.

HOW SHOULD WE VIEW JESUS?

If we side with the professors at the seminary, we are stating that Jesus was only a man when He walked on this earth and there was no divinity in Him. Labeling Jesus "a child of His time" destroys His divinity, and if that is true, He could not have been sinless and paid for the sins of mankind on the cross.

If we accept the New Testament account that Jesus was born of a virgin, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that He was God incarnate in a man's body, there is no way that we can negate what Jesus taught and did as recorded in the New Testament. **John 1:1-4; 10-14**

We should take note that after Jesus was resurrected, He spent 40 days with His apostles. Logic would therefore dictate that if Jesus had gaps of knowledge prior to the cross, those would have been corrected by His resurrection. **Acts 1:1-3**

Furthermore, when the apostle John was taken up into heaven some 60 years after the resurrection, the resurrected Jesus would have corrected things and recorded it in the Book of Revelation, but that never happened. **Revelation 1:10-19**

My conclusion is that the New Testament is a true record of what Jesus said and did while He walked on this earth for three and a half years. Jesus did not take the devils with Him to heaven, nor did He send them to hell, therefore the same devils active during the ministry of Jesus are still with us today. Devils do not die but humans do, and when a person dies, they find another victim and ride him until he dies.



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Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil; therefore, as his disciples, should we not do the same thing? **Acts 10:38; 1 John 3:8**

Is not this what Jesus commanded his disciples? **Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1; 10:1-2, 9, 17-21; Mark 16:15-20; Matthew 28:18-20**

MENTAL HEALTH

On January 19, 2012, ABC News released a disturbing report on the state of mental health in America.

One in five Americans experienced some sort of mental illness in 2010, according to a new report from “the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.” About 5 percent of Americans have suffered from such severe mental illness that it interfered with day-to-day school, work or family.

Women were more likely to be diagnosed with mental illness than men (23 percent of women versus 16.9 percent of men), and the rate of mental illness was more than twice as likely in young adults (18 to 25) than people older than 50.

About 11.4 million adult Americans suffered from severe mental illness in the past year and 8.7 million adults contemplated serious thoughts of suicide. Among them, more than 2 million made suicide plans and about 1 million attempted suicides.

Nearly 2 million teens, or 8 percent of the adolescent population, experienced a major depressive episode in the past year. The research defined a major episode as at least a two-week period when a person is depressed with a loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities, while also experiencing at least four of seven symptoms defined in the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

DEFINITION OF DEMON INFESTATION

In looking at the biblical accounts of people suffering from demonic possession or oppression, it becomes clear that the loss of mental capacity to make rational decisions and physical illness are indications that there is some kind of disturbance caused by demons, evil spirits or devils.

Is it possible that a large percentage of mental illness in the world is caused by devils?

EXAMPLES OF DEMONIC MANIFESTATION

Let's begin to look at examples of demon manifestation when Jesus walked on the earth and see how He dealt with each situation.

After Jesus had healed a man with leprosy, spoken healing into the servant of the Roman Centurion and healed Peter's mother-in-law from a fever, the entire region was stirred up and people brought in those who were sick and those who were plagued by devils. Jesus healed the sick and cast out the devils. **Matthew 8:16-17**

Encountering a man that was possessed by a devil, Jesus did not hesitate to cast the devil out. **Matthew 12:22-23**

Jesus cast out a devil from a girl. **Matthew 15:22-28**

Jesus cast out a tormenting devil from a boy. **Matthew 17:14-21**

There was a man who lived in the cemetery and was highly demonized. **Luke 8:26-39**

PREACHING, HEALING AND CASTING OUT DEVILS

During Jesus' three and half years of ministry, He did not build an organization, but selected a core group that He trained in four activities. **Matthew 10:1, 7-8**

- 1. Preaching the Gospel** (Can be done in the flesh)
- 2. Healing the sick**
- 3. Casting out devils**
- 4. Raising the dead**

It is important to note that preaching the Gospel is the only thing that can be done in the flesh, everything else has to be done in the supernatural.

Since a large number of churches in the United States and Europe do not move in the Holy Spirit, they are not going to attempt to heal the sick, cast out demons and certainly would never think about raising a dead person back to life.

MOVING IN THE SUPERNATURAL

A Christian must be baptized in the Holy Spirit to move in the supernatural. **Acts 1:4-8**

The believer must also have a close personal walk with Jesus. **John 15:1-5**

Do you love Jesus? **John 14:15**

If you are going to be true to Jesus, you should do what Jesus did and more! John 14:11-14

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?