

Home Invasion

1 Samuel 16:14-23; Luke 13:10-17; Acts 5:1-11; Romans 8:18-227

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Cases of possible demonic possession of genuine believers
- Short review of our study of spiritual warfare
 - Ephesians 6:12-- *"we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*
- Meaning of "demon possession"-- home invasion, not ownership

Home Invasion

A. THREE CASE STUDY of possible DEMONIC INVASION of Believers

1. The Case of Saul, the first king of Israel--

- 1 Samuel 16:14-23-- *"But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, 'Surely a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.' So Saul said to his servants, 'Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.' Then one of the servants answered and said, 'Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.' Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, 'Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.' And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, 'Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight.' And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him."*

a. The Case Described

1) A "distressing or evil spirit" from the LORD?

2) Saul attempts to kill his music therapist, David

- 1 Samuel 18:8-12-- *"The Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, 'They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?' So Saul eyed David from that day forward. And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So, David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, 'I will pin David to the wall!' But David escaped his presence twice."*

b. The Case Probed

1) Was Saul a genuine believer?

a) He was indwelt by the Spirit when anointed king.

- 1 Samuel 10:1-9-- *"Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: 'Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance? When you will have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, 'What shall I do*

about my son?’” Then you shall go forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will meet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands. After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you. You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do.’ So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.”

- b) Because of disobedience, Saul lost his kingship.
- 1 Samuel 13:8-9-- *“Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. So, Saul said ‘Bring a burnt offering and peace offering here to me.’ And he offered the burnt offering.”*
 - 1 Samuel 13:13-14-- *“You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. For now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”*
 - 1 Samuel 15:8-9 -- *“He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.”*
 - 1 Samuel 15:22-23 -- *“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”*
- c) When David was anointed king, he was indwelt by the Spirit; but the Spirit departed from Saul.
- 1 Samuel 16:13-14-- *“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.”*
- d) Presence of the Spirit along with the “changed life” is evidence that Saul was a genuine believer.
- 1 Samuel 10:9-- *“when he turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart”*
- e) Parenthesis: Does this mean if we disobey God that the Spirit will depart from us?
- Romans 8:9 -- *“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”*
 - John 14:16-17 -- *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

2) Was the demon’s work internal or external?

2. The Case of the Doubled-up Woman

- Luke 13:10-17-- *“Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, ‘Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.’ And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, ‘There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, but not on the Sabbath day.’ The Lord then answered him and said, ‘Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?’ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitudes rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.”*

a. The Case Described

- 1) The cause of her disability was a “spirit of infirmity” that is further identified as a work of Satan.
- 2) The relationship of demons with physical, mental illness??

b. The Case Probed

- 1) Was this woman a genuine believer?
 - a) She is found in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
 - b) Her first natural response after her healing was to glorify God.
 - c) Jesus calls her a “daughter of Abraham”
 - Luke 19:9 -- *“Today salvation has come to this house because he also is a son of Abraham.”*
- 2) Was the demon’s work internal or external?
 - Luke 4:35 -- *“rebuked him, saying, ‘Be quiet and come out of him.’ And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him.”*

3. The Case of Ananias and Sapphira

- Acts 5:1-11 -- *“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter asked her, ‘Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?’ She said, ‘Yes, for so much.’ Then Peter said to her, ‘How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!’ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carry her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.”*

a. The Case Described

- 1) Early church sold their possession to meet pressing needs.
- 2) Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold property, reported one price so as to look like they gave their all, but held back part for themselves. In essence, they lied to the Holy Spirit.

b. The Case Probed

- 1) Were they genuine believers?
- 2) Was the demon’s work internal or external?
 - Ephesians 5:18 -- *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”*

B. THREE OBJECTIONS to possible DEMONIC INVASION

1. **How can the Spirit of God and a demon occupy the same person spatially?**
2. **How can the Spirit of God and a demon live in the same person relationally?**
 - a. Logical Syllogism
Major Premise: God cannot dwell with evil.
Minor Premise: The Spirit of God dwells in every believer.
Conclusion: Therefore a demon cannot dwell in a believer.
 - b. Problem: The Spirit of God does dwell with evil.—Romans 8 and the three “Groaners”
 - 1) Creation groans because of man’s sin and the curse placed on it.
 - Romans 8:18-22-- *“For I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”*
 - 2) We groan because we live in sin-cursed bodies.
 - Romans 8:23-25 -- *“Not only that, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”*
 - 3) The Spirit of God groans because He dwells in bodies with evil present in them.
 - Romans 8:26-27-- *“Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now, He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*
3. **How can someone who belongs to Jesus be possessed by a demon?**
 - a. Demons cannot possess a believer.
 - 1 John 5:18 -- *“We know that whoever is born of God does not sin (that is, habitually, continually sin); but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”* The *“wicked one does not touch”*
 - John 20:17a -- *“Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father.”*
 - b. But demons can invade and temporarily control a believer.