

## Signs Shall Follow Them

**Mark 16:15-18** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

**Hebrews 2:4** God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

**Will follow** – as in collectively. The body of Christ.

### What is the purpose of these signs?

- According to the above Scriptures - To validate the Gospel.
  - Also see **Matthew 11:2-5** And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them."
- To show love to the hurting
  - **Matthew 14:14** And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.
  - **Matthew 15:32** Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."
  - **Mark 1:41** Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."
  - **Ex – My dream**

We are not a **cessationist** church. We believe the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit is still for today and there is not a Scripture that I can find that says otherwise.

We are also not a **sensationalist** church. We seek after Christ, not the signs. The power is the Gospel

- **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
  - The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation – the Gospel is not signs and wonders
- **1 Corinthians 1:22-24** For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
  - We preach Christ crucified

## They shall cast out demons

**Mark 3:14-15** Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, <sup>15</sup> and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

- Cast out = Send away
- Where does the power come from?
  - **Matthew 12:28** But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- We can cast out demons by the Spirit of God.
- This is effective when the Kingdom of God has come upon us. Or in other words, when we are about the Kingdom, the spiritual, and not engrossed in the worldly, the physical.

- **Acts 19:13-16** Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." <sup>14</sup> Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. <sup>15</sup> And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" <sup>16</sup> Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

### **The 2 biggest questions:**

1. What is demon-possession?
2. Can a Christian be demon possessed?

### **Demon possession is a sliding scale.**

- The word used is daimonizomai which means to be vexed by a demon.
- This could include anything from falling into temptation to full possession.
- It is a demon act when the enemy tempts us. Jesus, when tempted in the wilderness had to send away (cast out) Satan.
- No one would ever say Jesus was demon-possessed. But He was still vexed (Irritated, distressed, or annoyed) by a demon and had to send him away.
- **So this could include:**
  - Giving in to temptation
  - Believing lies
  - Spiritual attacks
  - Physical attacks by a demon
  - Occult practices
  - Sickness
  - Mental illness
  - Full possession

### **Anywhere the enemy has a foothold, the enemy needs to be cast out of.**

- It comes down to permission. For there to be a foothold for the enemy, some form of permission must have happened.
- Think of it this way – If there is any control of any part of our life, then the enemy has a “possession” of it. Just like land, the enemy may try to possess it little by little.

## **So yes, a Christian can be demon-possessed.**

- But that does not mean that they have lost their salvation, or are foaming at the mouth. It means that a demon may have possession of some area of their life...

## **But we are not meant to live with the enemy in any way.**

**Deuteronomy 11:22-25** "For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do--to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him-- <sup>23</sup> then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. <sup>24</sup> Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. <sup>25</sup> No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.

## **Casting out demons is about Spiritual Authority.**

**Colossians 2:15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

**Hebrews 2:14-15** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

**Key point** – We should approach casting out demons from the viewpoint that they are already defeated!

**When we cast out demons, we are reclaiming what the enemy has encroached upon. The enemy has no place in the life of a believer.**

## Some guidelines:

- Demons are not deaf.
- Demons also cannot read your mind.
- Protection prayers are recommended. Jesus did not do this, but also Jesus had no flesh patterns and sin that creates opportunities for the enemy to get a foothold.
- Discernment is necessary. Do not proceed without discernment.
  - **1 Corinthians 12:7&10** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: (...) <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
  - **Note** – the gift is discerning of spirits. Not discerning God's will, or discerning my next move in life.
- Know your authority
  - **Acts 16:16-18** Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.
- It might get messy, but that is on them, not on us.