

An Old Prophet's Years Of Laments



Prophetic Insight 5-7-2024: *Christians In Captivity Concede Defeat To Satan*

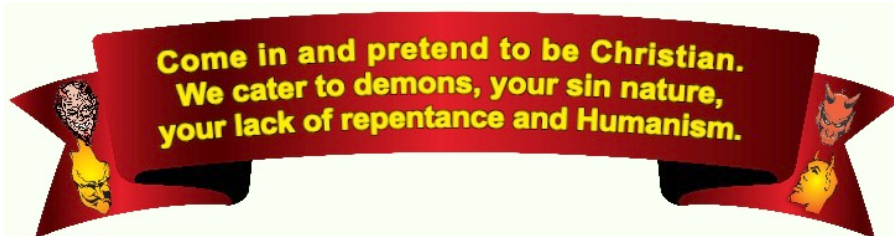


Mike: I'm saddened that I could have entitled this Lament "The War We Christians Failed To Fight." A key reason that Christianity at large has experienced such paltry lasting success over the centuries is this: the refusal and/or resistance to acknowledge the reality of the demonic enemies which New Testament writers in particular make crystal clear. It's the same reason why so many nations who were at one time evangelized are now considered "**post-Christian**"—including the United States. Not only have anti-Semitic theologians ignored or denied the reality of satanic activity which was confronted in the first century. They've also bamboozled Christians out of employing by faith the very power and biblical authority of our Lord Jesus's Name.

Because of these leaders' influence, Christianity at large has failed to stand united against Satan and his hordes. Demons keep billions in spiritual darkness, held captive by demonic dominion during the 2000 years since our Lord ascended. Seminaries continue to hatch new swarms of self-exalting, people-pleasing clergy who can't see past their Sunday morning service. And Christians individually and collectively are blind to the demonic opposition which Jesus gave them spiritual authority to defeat.

As we've carried out our Father's command to "**Free the captives!**", Sue and I perceive that demons have more sway within Christianity than these essential Bible truths: ♦our heavenly Father's purposes, ♦our Lord Jesus's rule, ♦the absolute need for the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment. Do you realize how many corners of institutional Christianity have become a demonic cesspool devoid of repentance? Paul's warning to Timothy is even more pertinent today: "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will *abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons*" (1Timothy 4:1). Do you find yourself disquieted at all by "Christians" who are comfortably complacent as captives of the devil? They can talk "Christian" lingo, but they have no edifying testimony of an interactive life with the Godhead.

It's grievous to us that so many congregations and ministries repeatedly fail to provide lasting spiritual freedom from demonic captivity. The power and authority of our victorious Lord haven't failed—yet His victory remains just words on the Bible's pages. Too many ministries feel they've achieved success if even a few followers of Jesus are "delivered" (and many of these soon turn back to the familiarity of their old bondage). Because the reality of Satan and his nefarious demons is dismissed as nonexistent, multitudes of Christians are deluded 🖐️by their own captivity to demonic influence, 🖐️by the inclinations of their own sin nature, 🖐️by their failure to live repentantly, 🖐️by their acceptance of Humanism and its 'me-first' values. These Christians likely just shake their heads at the account of the seventy our Lord sent out who returned to Him with joy saying, "**Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your Name!**" (Luke 10:1). Think how apt the sign below is for too many "Christian" homes and congregations. It should hang outside the front door to reflect what's found inside:



Are you among the 76% of deluded “Christians” who don’t believe the devil actually exists?

Don't find yourself denying what God's Word confirms to His people:

- *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand”* (Ephesians 6:10-13).
- *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (James 4:7).
- *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”* (1Peter 5:8).

Consider how freely Satan can operate when the vast majority of Christians don't even believe he exists no matter what the Bible says. These are the deluded ones within Christianity whom *“the devil has taken captive to do his will”* (2Timothy 2:26). The devil's captives are dispersed throughout Christianity today, enticing other Christians to tolerate and even practice sin until they become reprobate and captives too.



Don't think there's no one like that among your own Christian friends and relatives and people in your faith community. You need to be spiritually discerning of who you consider a “Christian”. For example, *if* your relationship with another Christian isn't helping you grow in Christ's likeness, or if that person doesn't love you enough to confront you when you sin, one or both of you is the devil's captive being used to entice others to tolerate unconfessed sin and resist repentance.

On page 5 of [**Lifebyte 15. Satan's Strategies \(Part 1\)**](#) is this true anecdote along with several others:

In a certain congregation the pastor's wife had a check in her spirit about a woman who'd been attending. Within a year of her arrival this woman had become head of the Sunday School program. The pastor's wife kept praying with uneasiness about this. During a time of congregational worship one Sunday morning she perceived a grotesque demon perched on that woman's shoulder. Horrified, she went to her husband and the elders and insisted they look into this. When they met with the woman, she admitted that she'd been sent into the congregation by satanists to water down the Sunday school curriculum. (You'll find another account of how easily demonic presence enters Sunday morning services on page 5 of [**Turning The Hearts Of The Fathers To The Children**](#). More links are at the end of this Lament.)

✦ The unseen world is a dynamic part of the lives of followers of Jesus. In our [**Certain of What We Do Not See**](#) video series we explore the overlooked or misunderstood realm of the unseen world around you. Since you can't see the Holy Spirit or angels or demons or even your sin nature, why is this topic important for you to understand? Because all spiritual victory and defeat in our lives is accomplished in a dimension which we can't see. Scripture reveals that our God created both the visible and the invisible world, and that He interacts with His creation. Have you ever considered, really considered, the countless ways that God, Who is Spirit, interacts with His creation, which is physical? We don't want you to live blind to what you can't see. Please use this video series *if* your only awareness has been in the physical world.

Can Christians be *demonized* versus being demon possessed?



Satan has made sure that the hideous thought of “demon possession” has spread throughout Christianity. And as the ultimate deceiver he has made sure that Christians over the centuries remained ignorant of or never used the authority they have to evict him in the Name of Jesus. Many Christian persuasions teach that “*Christians can’t be demon possessed!*” Certainly authentic followers of Jesus can't be "possessed" by demons. But they most certainly can be demonized!



Let me clarify an important Biblical difference between "possession" and "demonization". A specific Greek word is used in Scripture to describe the effect of evil spirits in the lives of individuals. Yet almost as a satanic ploy, it's often mistranslated as “demon POSSESSION.” For example, most translations state that “*many who were demon-possessed were brought to [Jesus], and He drove out the spirits with a word*” (Matthew 8:16). When Jesus was in the region of the Gadarenes, two men referred to as “*demon-possessed*” came to Him from the tombs (Matthew 8:28). And again, translators designate a man who was blind and mute as “*demon-possessed*” (Matthew 12:22). In each case, though, the word literally means *demon-influenced* but is inaccurately translated “demon-POSSESSED.”

There's a big difference between the two! Demon POSSESSION conjures up total demonic ownership and control that's more encompassing than the word really means. It indicates no free will on the part of the afflicted, which isn't the case in these passages. The more accurate rendering of this word is "demon-IZED". A demonized person may be afflicted, agitated, influenced or tormented in some way by a demon or demons with the emphasis more on degree of effect than on total possession.

As a quick review: Genesis reveals that God created humans with seven needs that He intends to be fulfilled His way. As we've described in our workbook *Demolishing Strongholds*, these include your need for dignity, authority, blessing and provision, security, purpose and meaning, freedom and boundary, and intimate love and companionship. Any time you try to meet these needs outside of God's ways, you are vulnerable to demonic influence. And be aware as a follower of Jesus that any area of your soul (your mind, will, emotions) in which you persistently deny access to the Holy Spirit by clinging to a sin you don't want to yield also makes you vulnerable for a foothold of demonic influence in that area of your life. Remember, you can repent at any stage of the process described below and return to the Holy Spirit's sole control and influence! The process for demons to afflict, agitate, influence and torment is similar to becoming a reprobate:

- 1) Satanic-inspired **THOUGHTS** are introduced into your mind. And yes, demons do speak. They sound just like the inner voice you hear in your head! These demonic voices oppress and discourage you, trying to get you to react to situations, circumstances or people in a way that's contrary to the character of Jesus and the commands of God in the Bible.
- 2) If you keep entertaining these negative thoughts, you'll develop tempting **EMOTIONS** about them.
- 3) If you don't resist these emotions, they eventually lead to **SINFUL ACTION**.
- 4) Continuing that sinful action causes you to develop a **HABIT**.
- 5) Once a habit is developed, a **DEMONIC STRONGHOLD** is built in your soul. It becomes the lens through which you filter all your thoughts, choices and feelings.

Since 1990 we've helped thousands of Christians experience spiritual freedom as they, in the Name of our Lord Jesus, evicted the demons which occupied their mind, will and emotions. Sadly, however, even though the demons were no longer present, many never replaced the

unChrist-like motivations and thought patterns induced in them by the demons with Christ-like motives and thoughts (see 2Corinthians 10:5). In so doing, they allowed the demons to return as our Lord Jesus warns: *“Then [the demon] goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first”* (Luke 11:26). We’ve sadly observed this pattern among friends and relatives who were once free but who failed to pursue Christ-like attitudes and motivations and live in His victory. For too many, their pursuit of worldly values and goals became even more intense.

There's a certain "comfort level" when you're around others who have the same demonic influence—even though none of you would attribute it to that! For example, when the “Overview Of Strongholds And Their Symptoms” from our book, [**Demolishing Strongholds**](#) was given out to congregations, most people in the faith community were beset by the same prevailing demonic strongholds. The same was true with married couples. And when we’ve given out the list to Christian businesses, many of the key employees have identified the same predominant strongholds. The overwhelming evidence has shown that the demonic spirits in the strongholds attract individuals to each other or make them feel very comfortable around each other. There’s an economy of operation for demonic spirits to do this. Fewer are needed to control the goals, activities, and values of families, congregations, and Christian businesses. Again, the symptoms may seem different on the surface, but the stronghold behind the symptoms is often the same.

If you love them, free them!

Please use the [**Demolishing Your Strongholds Online Form**](#) to discern if you are demonized in any area of your life that you haven't fully submitted to God. Forward a copy to family members and others you care about. Why would you leave them in captivity to demons when they could find full freedom to love and serve Jesus truly as Lord of their lives? Many strongholds are hidden behind a veneer of deception. Francis Frangipane wrote, *“**Once a person is deceived, he does not recognize that he is deceived, because he has been deceived.**”* Be careful! The spirit of deceit will do all it can to hinder you from recognizing the various demonic strongholds that influence and oppress you. We strongly recommend that you examine the stronghold of deceit very closely before you examine other strongholds. (You may also find our free online book and video series, [**Demolishing Strongholds**](#), extremely helpful in not only freeing yourself but also in helping others experience spiritual freedom.)

FYI: Demons do not constantly attack or agitate you even when you're entertaining disobedience to our Lord. Rather, they establish themselves and wait for opportunity so they can do massive emotional destruction in you. They want you to feel depressed and hopeless, especially in greatly doubting the love of our Lord Jesus and our heavenly Father for you.

“And these signs will accompany those who trust Me: *In My Name they will drive out demons*” (see all of Mark 16:17,18).

Sue and I have marveled how the **demon of deceit** has such a powerful influence to delude so many Christians by inhibiting them from seeking the power and authority of Jesus’s Name to bring lasting spiritual freedom. Ask yourself this. If evicting demons whether in yourself or in others hasn’t been a part of your Christian experience, you should find out if you’re inadvertently serving Satan instead of our Lord Jesus by your double-mindedness, doubt or unbelief. Consider how you might be denying our Lord Jesus but can’t feel the consequence of your failure: *“I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges Me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever disowns Me before others will be disowned before the angels of God”* (Luke 12:8,9). Any time you refuse to represent our Lord Jesus, including the

power He assures you in His Name to evict demons, you're denying Him. I strongly encourage you: Don't let yourself live bamboozled either by demons or by impotent, Christ-denying theology!

“You believe that there is one God. Good! The demons also believe— and shudder”

(James 2:19).

If you "believe" in God like the demons do—without the indwelling evidence of the Holy Spirit as validation—what makes you any different than they? Sue and I are not **“believers”**. For my part, I didn't start following our Lord by being academically taught the Bible and then told “to believe”. By Father's grace, after my second reading of the Bible from front to back I knew what my Lord wanted me to do as I repented and **yielded in trust** to His Lordship. Afterwards I was disciplined by three enlisted sailors who **trusted** in the authority of God's Word and were indwelt by His Spirit and applying His commands to their lives. I in turn helped Sue be a **“truster”** in our heavenly Father and Lord Jesus, in grateful love putting into practice what the Bible commanded us.

Demons don't have any problem with you being a Christian **“believer”** who accepts as academic fact what the Bible says. As long as you don't exercise the power as one of Christ's own to evict them in the Name of our Lord Jesus, you're no threat to them. And demons are well-aware of the false gospels which they induced deceived anti-Semitic theologians to adopt. Too many of these demonically inspired false “gospels” make becoming a “believer” their primary selling point. In contrast, the true Gospel that's contained in the New Covenant offers you the blood of Jesus as atonement for your sins and a life purpose of relational union with your heavenly Father in fulfilling His will as the indwelling Holy Spirit keeps transforming you. This is a life lived under the rule of our Lord Jesus with the Spirit's guidance and empowerment.

I'm not encouraging you to become obsessed with demons! But I do want you to be fully aware of their reality and fully assured of the Name of our Lord Jesus in evicting them so that you hear only from the indwelling Spirit of our Lord. We realize that this may be unfamiliar ground for you, so here are several links for further insight into demonic encounters we've experienced. The enemy is real, and the power of our Lord Jesus Christ in His defeat and victory over the enemy is mighty. Appropriate it by obedient trust!

- May 2001 Newsletter: Jesus versus the Queen of Heaven
- Page 4 of Avoid The Paralyzing Analysis Of The Scribes (Part 5)
- Saga 13, Kingdom Living Today Addenda
- Pages 9 & 10 of Lifebyte 28, Bearing Fruit For The Father