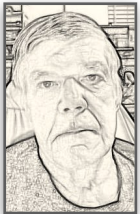


# An Old Prophet's Years Of Laments

Prophetic Insight 7/2/2024: How My Lord Revealed The Reality Of Demons



## God's Word authenticates the devil's reality

Not only do we live in a humanist-saturated culture there's a high probability that as you read this Lament you may think that I'm "off the wall" and that spiritual warfare has nothing to do with you. Or maybe your clergy person has convinced you, "Don't pay any attention about the devil." I'm writing this Lament because the Holy Spirit has made crystal clear in the Scriptures that the devil and demons and unclean spirits are indeed real. In James 4:7 we are commanded to submit to God and to resist the devil. Paul emphasizes in Ephesians 6:10-18 that we who love and trust our Lord Jesus are engaged in warfare against the devil and his demonic workers. But perhaps you're among the over 67% of Christians who don't believe the devil really exists. He's the master deceiver, and by giving way to this lie, you're serving his dark purposes, not those of my Lord Jesus. In your denial you are being held captive to do the will of the very one you're choosing to ignore (2Timothy 2:26). And my Lord and His inviolable Word confirm this.

**FYI:** In my next Lament I'll explore how demonic principalities and powers infused themselves into Christianity beginning in the 2nd century. The demonic powers which stand behind the *Queen of Heaven, Queen Jezebel spirit, Nicolaitanism, Hellenism, revisionism, and syncretism* have for centuries prevented Christians from obeying God's commands to resist and overcome the devil's schemes and works. In my almost 50 years of loving and serving my Lord Jesus, I've met fewer and fewer Christians who resist the devil's temptations. The proof is in Christian pollster George Barna's research: **There is no moral difference between Christians and unbelievers in this nation. The same sins rule them.**

Even fewer Christians take Jesus at His Word. They don't take the war *to* the devil and discover for themselves how powerful is the Name of our Lord Jesus. Testimonies of praise would pour from those to whom He has given this authority! You've likely heard little about how our Lord uses His own to free the captives from Satan's grip. So I'd like to share some personal testimonies (in a somewhat chronological format) of how the Spirit of our Lord trained me in this aspect of my journey in Him. I'm relating these experiences because without exception every genuinely born again person should have testimony of how the Spirit trained them in spiritual warfare. Then all of us can affirm, "*Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your Name*" (Luke 10:17). But if you're without testimony, you're spiritually oblivious—the way Satan wants you to be.

## The training process my Lord used to reveal the reality of demons to me

✓ I became a follower of my Lord Jesus after twice reading the entire Bible. Not only did I learn what was required of me to be genuinely born again. I also discovered the reality of the devil and his demonic minions. Satan and his servants are revealed in the Older Testament narratives of Adam and Eve, Job, David, as well as in the accounts of the devil and demons in the Newer Testament. These examples not only confirmed the reality of demons to me, but also God's command to me to resist and to effectively engage the demons both offensively and defensively in battle. I realized that these "spiritual hosts of evil" are a real issue for followers of Christ to know about.

I was perplexed that there was no pulpit instruction about another purpose for our Lord's first coming: "*The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil*" (1John 3:8). Completely overlooked in most Bible teaching was that the genuinely born again have been assigned to join our Lord in overcoming the work and demonic workers of Satan: "*And these signs will accompany those who trust: in My Name they will cast out demons...*" (Mark 16:17).

✓ I was stationed aboard a helicopter aircraft carrier when I became my Lord's follower and servant. On our first night of a 9-month deployment I was watching some sailors playing basketball on the hangar deck. A sailor walked up to me and asked, "Are you a Christian?" When I responded "Yes!" he handed me a book and said, "You're the one the Holy Spirit wanted me to give this to." The book was written by an ex-satanist who became a follower of our Lord Jesus. It was while reading the book that the biblical accounts about Satan and his demons became clarified for me.

✓ One of my shipboard duties was to stand watch in the Combat Information Center (CIC) at night. I often talked with a radar operator there. The son of a pastor, he could dance circles around me with his Bible knowledge. But even though he knew a lot about the Bible, I couldn't detect the Spirit of my Lord Jesus in him. One night after standing watch I was making my way back to my stateroom through darkened, red-lit passageways. All of a sudden I was plagued by evil thoughts that wouldn't stop. By the time I made it into my room I'd broken into a clammy sweat.

A few weeks later while worshipping and praying with some of the brothers in the ship's library, the man I stood watches with in CIC came in. Cursing loudly at us, his face abruptly contorted and a demon came out of him and stood between us. Having recently become a follower of Jesus and read about the power of His Name, I ordered the demon to leave "***in the Name of my Lord Jesus.***" The demon vanished through the wall next to me. With peace now filling his face, the delivered man told us about his life of drugs, divorce, homosexuality, demon worship. But what struck me the most was when he said he had satanic power to induce thoughts into people's minds. He looked at me and said, "Mike, do you remember when you left the watch two weeks ago?" He then described the specific images that had entered my mind. I told the others that what he'd described was true. And in light of the demon that had just manifested itself, we all felt we'd entered a new awareness of the demonic powers contending against us. (That was in 1977. Some years later a similar thing happened at a meeting of church elders I was asked to help. One of these leaders exercised demonic powers that robbed people of their thoughts. In this way he was able to sway others to do his bidding.)

The morning after the demonic encounter in the ship's library, a brother came to me. He told me that while he was praying for me the previous night, the Holy Spirit told him, "I'm going to use Mike Dowgiewicz to cast out demons." I told him what had happened in the library. He hadn't heard about it, and we were both in awe. (Together we who'd been in the library that evening reported to the two chaplains what had taken place there. One told us we were lying because the devil didn't exist. The other chaplain encouraged us to pray for the man so the demon wouldn't return (Luke 11:24-26).)

✓ Every time I encountered a certain navy chief onboard, he'd ask me questions about the Bible. Somehow this began to bother me. One evening I went to see him in his office. Sitting with him was another chief he'd gone through boot camp with; they'd served together throughout their careers. The chief who'd repeatedly asked me questions began to do the same thing again. It was then that the Holy Spirit told me to bind the demon in him. As I bound the demon "***in the Name of my Lord Jesus***" the demon showed up in the man's eyes. In an entirely different voice the man began to relate his years of adultery, but also about his mother's unwavering trust in Jesus. As soon as he mentioned her he yelled, "God could never forgive me!" and ran out of the office. As I was about to follow him, the Holy Spirit stopped me: "The man himself has denied Jesus." I turned to his friend who was already on his knees in fear. He said, "I've known him for 20 years and never knew I was listening to a demon speaking through him!" That night this man trusted in Jesus.

✓ We discovered there was a sizable satanist group on the ship. Over the next few months we encountered demonic counterattacks of all kinds as we waged war against the demons in the authority of Jesus' Name. In fact, our fellowship grew as a number of satanists were freed and then put their trust in our Lord.

✓ In 1978 I resigned from the navy to attend an interdenominational seminary. While doing a semester of field education at a congregation in Gloucester, MA the elders shared with me an insight about delivering someone from demons. As a group they had gone to evict the demon of sexual impurity in a man. But after much prayer and using the name of Jesus, they heard the demon laugh and refuse to leave. Leaving the room where the man stayed behind, they sought wisdom from our Lord. They soon realized that each of them was enticed by the lustful, sexual accounts the man confessed while they were trying to cast out the demon (see the warning in Galatians 6:1). Collectively they repented and then returned to the room. The moment they prayed ***“in the Name of our Lord Jesus”*** the demon fled.

✓ While at seminary Sue and I were riding with friends through Peabody, MA. As we crossed an intersection I could feel an overwhelming presence of demons all around me. I mentioned it to those in the car, and our friend responded that at that intersection we had crossed into Salem. (Salem is widely known as the eastern "training ground" for satanists even as San Francisco is the western training ground.)

✓ A neighbor, "Dan", also attended the seminary. Over a five-day period I helped him repair his car. During the process, parts we'd laid aside would inexplicably disappear. I would pray and they somehow showed up again. On the fifth day the repairs were complete. Then Dan piped up, "I was going to commit suicide last night. What stopped me is you. You are so dumb and yet every time you prayed, Jesus would answer. I just had to stay alive to see how this would all turn out."

Several weeks later Dan called and asked me to come to his home, cryptically saying, "They've found me." (His brother, who played in a well-known Christian band, was also there visiting.) Dan told me that after college he went to live in India to be discipled by a maharishi, a spiritual teacher of mystical knowledge. It was there that Dan was given power by Satan such that if someone came to him and gave their soul to the devil, they'd acquire fame and fortune. Dan went on to name two once very famous singers who were losing their popularity. They came to him and gave their souls to Satan—and their success then soared. Dan had left Satan's service several years before and had wanted to learn about Jesus, which is why he came to the seminary. The two singers had found Dan and wanted his help once again to revive their careers.

Realizing I had some doubt about his story, he handed me a letter from the US State Department. It seems that Dan had written them describing on what specific day the Russians would attack Afghanistan, December 24, 1979, and exactly the route they would take and the make up of their attack force. The letter from the State Department was a request for Dan to send them any further revelations on future events.

As a musician himself, Dan's brother then shared a poignant insight concerning Christian singers: "No one becomes famous in the Christian music industry unless they give their soul to Satan." I didn't follow up on what he said. But over time I began to recognize the increase in sensuality and sexuality being used by a number of Christian singers and even some worship leaders, along with the rise of divorce among them. (Beginning in the 1980s worship became a "god" unto itself with little concern for whether the worshipper was clean before God. Since Father won't hear the prayers of the unrepentant (1Peter 3:12), what makes anyone believe He'll accept their worship? On two occasions while visiting congregations, the Holy Spirit ordered me on my knees. He then told me to look upward, saying to me, "The sin in this congregation is so great that the singing here doesn't get past the ceiling. The Father refuses to hear it." I believe that this is occurring in far more congregations than you might think).

✓ The Holy Spirit had me leave the seminary mid-program for two years to take a position as Controller of Finance at a nearby Christian college. The president of the college was a big supporter of Young Life and allowed the group to stage a haunted house for Halloween on campus as an

“evangelistic outreach.” The school’s carpenter and plumber, the only two employees who regularly prayed with me, told me about the previous years the haunted house was used. They even took me to the grounds behind the campus where satanists offered up animal sacrifices on Halloween, and showed me the desecrations the satanists did to the chapel’s interior. Sue and I then enlisted the help of students to pray against this happening on the upcoming Halloween. A few days before Halloween the president suddenly cancelled Young Life’s use of the campus. (Several years later while serving at a retreat center in Connecticut I went downstairs and came upon a youth pastor discipling the teens to meditate and pray to a skull with a lit candle in it. I took the youth pastor aside to rebuke him but he didn’t want to hear. Then I went to his pastor a few days later, who responded, “We need to use whatever means we can to attract young people.” I warned him to no avail what God’s Word had to say (1Corinthians 10:20-22). One week later his newly built church building was condemned as structurally unsafe. It remained standing vacant for many years unused. My God is jealous and upholds His reputation.)

✓ While serving at the retreat center I was asked by a New England-wide ministry to counsel clergy and other religious leaders. That same year local television news reported that two thousand satanists were moving into Connecticut to “take the state for Satan.” (At that time it had the highest per capita income in the US because of its proximity to New York City.) Because of the pervasive division created by sectarian creedal theology and the denial by some clergy that Satan didn’t exist, I found it impossible to organize a united stand by congregations against the demonic intrusion. Subsequently major businesses went bankrupt, the working environment in many businesses became antagonistic, and the State went into a recession which caused many people to leave. The Wall Street Journal even wrote about the “mysterious strangers” bringing this about in businesses.

✓ One summer a young woman from Vermont came for a week on a personal retreat. When it came time for her to leave, her pastor was coming to pick her up. The Holy Spirit ordered me to protect the girl and not let her go with the woman, whom the girl clearly feared. As I refused to allow the woman to take her, Sue and the staff were in the room with me praying. The pastor grew increasingly agitated and then her tongue, seemingly split like a snake’s and several inches long, repeatedly shot out of her mouth at me as she glared in anger. The Holy Spirit told me I had authority to bind the demon and order the woman to leave. But I wasn’t permitted to evict the demon from her (for a reason I didn’t know). (In my next Lament I’ll tell you what the Spirit later taught me.) We helped the girl get back to her parents in Texas and be free of the occult “Christian” church.

✓ Prior to an upcoming Evangelical men’s retreat the Holy Spirit told me that I was to end the retreat with one of the elders facilitating communion. I asked “Bill” to do this, and gave him the directive I received from the Holy Spirit: “When you sense that everyone is ‘squeaky clean’ and free of unconfessed sin, then we can share communion together.” Gathered in our downstairs lounge Bill waited 45 minutes as the men intermittently confessed their sins. (A quarter of them confessed active adultery.) The last man, single and younger than the rest, admitted with tears that he was fornicating with a woman who was engaged to another man. I knew from the Holy Spirit that this guy was only acknowledging his sin; he had every intention of fornicating with her again.

I waited to see what the other men would do. One wrapped his arms around the young man and told him it was okay, “God forgives you.” I heard the Spirit say to me, “That man is not forgiven!” Then after a few minutes of silence someone else said to the young man, “You’re at the end of your rope. You’ve played games with the righteousness of God and even now you have no intention of stopping your fornication.” The young man nodded with a smirk.

I looked at Bill and saw that he was lost in the demonic dynamics which were unfolding in front of him. It was then that the Holy Spirit told me, “The same demon that was in Judas is in that young man. Go drive it out of here!” As I walked toward the young man, there was a demonic power of a

magnitude I'd never experienced before in delivering other people from demons. I could only get within three feet of him as I proclaimed, ***"In the Name of my Lord Jesus I order you out of this place!"*** With a shriek the demon flew upward out of him and through the ceiling. (Sue happened to be sitting in the upstairs lounge as the invisible demon flew screaming directly past her. She immediately jumped in surprise!) The young man fled the room, grabbed his stuff from the dorm and drove off. I found out a few days later that he was admitted to a mental institution.

As the men observed what was going on, awe and holy fear fell on them. I turned to Bill and asked, "Do you think we're all squeaky clean here now?" Bill nodded yes and then began to lead the men in the most precious sharing of the body and blood of Jesus they had ever experienced. (When unconfessed sin and demonic spirits are absent from your midst, the Holy Spirit shows up in ways that only the divine can do.)

### **A few final thoughts for you to consider.**

If you're interested in other accounts in which the Spirit of our Lord trained me to be used to free others, please read Practice 2 of ***Turning The Hearts Of Fathers To The Children***. He wants you to be trained too!

In my years of serving my Lord Jesus, Satan has made three attempts on my life that I'm aware of. The Spirit of our Lord forewarned me twice but He did nothing to stop them. I came to realize through these situations that my Lord Jesus wanted to see if I would absolutely, without fretting, trust Him even if it meant my life. There have been times when I left my home to minister that I'd hug my family wondering if this were the last time I would see them on earth. (I share this especially for men—individuals, husbands, and religious leaders. Many of the men over the years who asked me for guidance wanted only steps that provided personal benefit to them. They would pooh-pooh any counsel that demanded personal sacrifice. The self-serving attitudes of these men sickened me, yet they are predominant throughout Christianity. Their wives often get fed up and leave them. The military and the Bible taught me that our Lord uses men who are dead to themselves, a rarity in institutional Christianity as the spirit of Jezebel tightens its grip on it. In the next Lament I'll discuss this spirit's domination more fully.)

When Sue and I traveled doing Hebraic seminars in congregations, I'd go to the church building beforehand and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what demon(s) we'd be up against. Each demon operates differently as it entices congregants away from pure devotion to Jesus and His Lordship. I found over the years that if I discerned the specific demonic influences in the religious leaders (and usually there were from one to three demons), I was pretty certain which demons we'd encounter in the congregation. I don't go hunting for demonic spirits. But when they try to interfere with my service to my Lord Jesus, I evict them and or bind them ***"in the Name of my Lord Jesus"***.

One particular demonic tactic I've observed in deliverances is this. When the individuals who are delivered have no desire to serve our Lord Jesus or they refuse to live repentantly, the demons will return to the person's soul with greater evil (Matthew 12:43-45). Sometimes after the demons return to the person, they may wait quietly for long periods. Then when they do act, it is for maximum destruction, often shattering relationships and even trust in our heavenly Father.

I've shared my experiences with you not to give credit to myself, but rather to anchor for you that we who love and serve our Lord Jesus are up against demonic powers which His true followers should be facing down and overcoming by His authority. The Spirit of our Lord is prepared to help each of His followers use and experience the power of His Name so the freed can love and serve Him without hindrance from within. To win the spiritual battle we need POWER FROM ON HIGH! That POWER is found only in Jesus Christ! And those who've fought the spiritual battle can testify to the greatness of our Lord Jesus, something those who live in demonic captivity can't do.