

## COUNSELOR'S EXAM 24

Is there any place in biblical counseling for casting out demons?

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## Views of the Origin of Demons

- Souls of departed EVIL people (Philo, Josephus, and some early Christian writers; it is also a heathen Greek view). Error: Bible declares that unsaved are in Hades (Lk. 16:23).
- Disembodied spirits of a PRE-ADAMIC race. There is no Scriptural evidence to support this view.
- Fallen ANGELS (Mt. 12:24, 26; 25:41; Lk. 10:17-20; Rev. 12:3-4; 16:13-14).

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## Types of Demons

- Those who still occupy positions in the HEAVENLIES (Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:13, 20; Is. 24:21; Rev. 12:7).
- Those who roam the EARTH (Mt. 8:28-32; 12:45; Mk. 5:1ff; Acts 8:7; 19:12-16; Js. 2:19).

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### Types of Demons

- Those who are currently shut up in the ABYSS, but will be released during the tribulation (Lk. 8:31; Rev. 9:1-2, 11).
- Those who were bound at the FALL, kept in chains until the final judgment (Jude 6; 2 Pt. 2:4).

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### Characteristics of Demons

- They are SPIRIT beings like angels (Matt. 8:16).
- They are LOCALIZED, not omnipresent; they are “fast,” but can only be in one place at one time.
- They are INTELLIGENT — they knew Jesus (Mk. 1:24); there are doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1).
- They understand GOD and His WRATH (Js. 2:19).

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### Activity of Demons

- They OPPOSE God, His angels, and His people (Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:13)
- They SUPPORT the work of Satan (Mt. 12:26-28, 43-45; Rev. 12:7)
- They INDWELL bodies (both human and animal; Mk. 5:1-13).
- They influence the MIND (Gen. 3:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; Js. 3:15).

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### Activity of Demons

- They DECEIVE nations (Rev. 16:14). Through miraculous signs they will deceive the nations at the end of the age to gather them for war against Christ. Cf. 2 Thess. 2:7.
- They DECEIVE people. Satan can tempt people and lead them astray (1 Thess. 3:5); demons work in unbelievers (Eph. 2:2).

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### Demon Possession

- Demon possession refers to a demon residing within a person and exerting control over that person's mind and body — even to the extent of strange and "supernatural" activity (e.g., Mk. 5:1-5).

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### Demon Possession

- Definition: "Demon possession means a demon residing in a person, exerting direct control and influence over that person, with certain derangement of mind and/or body. Demon possession is to be distinguished from demon influence or demon activity in relation to a person. The work of the demon in the latter is from the outside; in demon possession it is from within...."

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## Demon Possession

"...By this definition a Christian cannot be possessed by a demon since he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. However, a believer can be the target of demonic activity to such an extent that he may give the appearance of demon possession" (Ryrie).

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## Demon Possession

- Occurrence —
  - Demons existed prior to the time of Christ and the apostles (e.g., Dt. 32:17; Ps. 106:37).
  - Demons existed in Christ's day (Mk. 5:1-5).
  - Demons exist even now, and in the future will continue their evil influence (e.g., Rev. 16:14).

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## Demon Possession

- Occurrence —
  - Demons seem to be more likely to inhabit people who dabble with the occult (Deut. 18:10; Acts 16:16; 19:8-20).
  - Demons seem to be more likely to inhabit those who partake in IDOLATROUS worship (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:36-37; 1 Cor. 10:20-21; Acts 5:16).

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### Demon Possession and the Believer

- Christians CANNOT be demon possessed (1 John 2:14; 4:4).
- A believer cannot be inhabited by both LIGHT and DARK (1 Pt. 2:9).
- A believer cannot be under that authority of TWO masters (Mt. 6:24; 1 Cor. 6:15ff).

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### Casting Out Demons?

- Casting out demons (so that the demons left the individual immediately and completely) was practiced in the New Testament.
  - On several occasions Christ cast demons out of individuals (Mt. 4:24; 8:16, 28ff; 9:32ff; 12:22ff; 15:22; 17:18; Lk. 4:33ff; 9:42; 13:32).
  - Both the 12 (Mt. 10:5-8) and the 70 (Lk. 10:17) cast out demons.

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### Casting Out Demons?

- The apostles cast out demons as a sign of their apostleship (Acts 5:12-16).
- PHILIP, who was commissioned by the apostles (Acts 6:6), cast out demons (Acts 8:7).
- PAUL — also an apostle — cast out demons (Acts 19:12).
- There are NO commands to cast out demons or examples of casting out demons after the book of Acts.

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## Casting Out Demons?

- ❑ The NT does not contain a clear and general command for believers to continue casting out demons after the apostolic age (after the ministry of the 12 apostles ceased).
- ❑ Some will point to Mk. 16:17 as that passage, but it is quite clear that Mk. 16:9-20 is not part of the original autographs but was added later by a non-Biblical writer.
- ❑ Jude 9 serves as a significant caution about our interactions with demons.

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## Casting Out Demons?

- ❑ Since believers do not have the capacity to cast out demons, what is the antidote to the influence of the work of demons?
- ❑ The primary weapon of the believer is the WORD of God, and since only unbelievers can be demon possessed, the greatest tool the counselor has is the GOSPEL as it is contained in this Word. The gospel of Christ is powerful to refute any influence of Satan (e.g., Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:18-32), the defeated foe of Christ (Col. 2:15).

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## Casting Out Demons?

- ❑ Conform the MIND to Christ — the battle against demons is chiefly against their false teaching and worldly ideologies; it is a spiritual battle, not a physical battle. So the battle is won by thinking truly (2 Cor. 10:4-5).
- ❑ Put on the ARMOR of God. Our primary weapons are defensive — we are to resist (v. 13; cf. also Js. 4:7), we are to stand firm (vv. 13b, 14; cf. also 1 Pt. 5:9), we are to stand on the gospel (v. 15), we are to have faith (v. 16), and we are to wield the Word of God as a sword (v. 18).

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## Casting Out Demons?

*"The mind will be guarded when the believer entrusts every matter to God in prayer and meditates on the things that are true, honorable, right, and pure."*  
[Paul Enns, The Moody Handbook of Theology.]

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## Casting Out Demons?

- The best practice in relation to Satan and demons is to do what James admonished: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (Js. 4:7).

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## Judgment of Demons

- The demons are finally judged with Satan, into the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:1-3).

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### Lessons for Believers

- Christians should put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18).
- Christians should be absorbed with Christ and the Scriptures (Col. 3:1-4).
- Christians should avoid relying on their own power and authority in dealing with demons, since even the only named Archangel (Michael) refused to rely on his own strength in dealing with Satan (Jude 9).

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### Lessons for Believers

- Christians should obey the Scriptures. (Disobedience was first practiced by Satan and he loves to draw believers away from Christ by disobedience.)
- Christians should recognize the power of Satan, but not be afraid of him or his followers.
- Christians should not blame everything on the Devil. The world and the flesh alone are strong enticements to sin!

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