

Power Over Evil Spirits

In a village recently, there was a young fourteen year-old boy who had an evil spirit enter him. That boy wanted to run away from his house. He wanted to hit or destroy everything that he saw. Sometimes he had seizures and was unconscious for two or three hours. His mother and father spent a lot of money in order to heal him but it was useless. They asked the traditional healer to make an offering of a pig. Sometimes the healer would crucify a chicken. Sometimes a healer would bring flour and form the statue of a person and seek to give that statue to the spirits in trade for the boy. Sometimes they would play classical music. Nothing helped. The family lost more and more money while the boy continued to suffer.

Have you seen anything like this? It happens often. What should a person do? To find some answers lets look at a couple similar stories that happened during Jesus' time.

The Power of Jesus

One day, Jesus crossed the lake with His disciples. As Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a man from the town who had demons in him. For a long time this man had gone without clothes and would not stay at home, but spent his time in the cemetery. Many times the spirit had seized him, and even though he was kept a prisoner, his hands and feet tied with chains, he would break the chains and be driven by the demon out into the desert. When he saw Jesus, he gave a loud cry, threw himself down at his feet, and shouted, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God! What do you want with me? I beg you, don't punish me!" (Luke 8:27, 28)

Are evil spirits powerful? Yes, here again we see that they entered a man and caused great problems. They made him go

into a quiet cemetery and remove all his clothes. Other times they made him so strong that he broke the chains and escaped from prison.

Did this man find freedom? Was there anyone more powerful? The disciples of Jesus wrote down the rest of the story for us to know. Jesus commanded the evil spirits to leave. They fled away. Then the disciples gave the man clothes. He went back to his village and told the people how God had set him free. All fathers and mothers want to provide peace and protection for their children. Some can and some cannot. But what about Jesus; was He like that? The Bible says that Jesus loved all people, no matter what problems they had. He was willing to help anyone, no matter their ethnicity or social standing.

Why Do Evil Spirits Harass People?

We surely do not want evil spirits to bother us. What can we do to make sure we never become like the young men in the stories above? We should know why evil spirits harass people. Each human can be compared to a house. The doors and windows of a house must be shut and locked or thieves can come in. In the same way people also have doors and windows to their hearts. These are their eyes and ears and the things they do and say.

One of the main doorways through which evil spirits come is that of magic. Some people want to know the future and they are willing to ask people who contact evil spirits. Others seek magical protection. Some actually try to curse their enemies. Every contact with such magical practices is like an open door through which an

evil spirit can later harass the person.

Another main doorway for evil spirits is through anger. One lady became upset at her husband. She began to shout at him. Her anger grew and grew until she picked up knives to attack him. Those who ran in to help found her very strong and heard her talk strangely. An evil spirit had come inside her and was demanding a sacrifice from her. This story illustrates the ancient scripture which says, “Do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil (evil spirit)” (Ephesians 4:26b, 27).

There are other reasons that evil spirits harass people. We should think clearly about them and close every doorway to such an enemy. Evil spirits are truly like robbers who only want to destroy us. All of their promises are merely tricks to deceive us. We should turn away from anger, evil practices and magic, no matter how interesting it may seem.

Freedom from Evil Spirits

Once an evil spirit does enter a person, is there a way to escape? Let's look at another one of the stories about Jesus to see what was necessary in order to benefit from Jesus' power.

One day a father brought his son who was possessed by an evil spirit to Jesus. He hoped Jesus could heal him. He felt hopeless, but he had heard Jesus could heal his son. He said to Jesus, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not” (Mark 9:17-18). This father was really worried about his son because he was living dangerously and no one could help.

Jesus replied, bring the boy to me. So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth (Mark 9:19b-20). Jesus had great compassion for the boy and the father who were both suffering because of the spirit. Jesus asked the boy's father how long his son had been like this. He answered that the spirit had afflicted the boy from childhood often throwing him into fire or water to kill him. He asked Jesus if He would take pity on them and help them. The man felt hopeless. No one had been able to help before. He had heard Jesus could help him but he was not sure.

And Jesus said to him, “If you can? All things are possible to him who believes. Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.” When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, “He's dead!” But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up (Mark 9:23-27). This story says Jesus only spoke with power, and the evil spirit left. All the people were amazed. They had not seen power like this. No ceremony had been done, no offerings made. Just a word of command had been spoken

Let us look carefully at how this boy was freed from an evil spirit.

* The man knew clearly that no one else could help him. He knew this power was evil and that he could not control it.

* The man asked Jesus for help and believed in Him.

The story says that Jesus did this by the power of this powerful God. Many say we can ask God to help us in Jesus' name and He will.

Jesus' Power Today

After many years of spending all their money on traditional healers to help their possessed son the family in Svay Rieng had nothing left, not even cows or water buffaloes. Then one day they met a man named Ing Nang. He had grown up in Svay Rieng, became a soldier and had traveled throughout Svay Rieng and the country. He had learned about the Eternal God and had experienced the power of Jesus over evil spirits. He told the story about Jesus casting out spirits to the father of this child. The father had searched for help for his son until they were all out of money. When he heard Ing Nang talk about Jesus, he invited him right away to pray for his son. He saw that nothing else could help the evil spirit leave his son. Ing Nang prayed and asked God to send His power to cast out the evil spirit. The spirit left and from then on the boy was free. The family was very happy because their son was free from the control of the evil spirit. He was not afraid anymore. They no longer had to spend their money on healers. They chose to learn more about this mighty God and Jesus, God's Son.

We know that many evil spirits try to make people suffer. Some are healed but some are not healed and are waiting to die because no one can heal them. Let me explain about the healer that is very effective and can truly help you. You do not need to try to find Him. You just need to kneel and ask Him to come into your house and He will come quickly to heal. According to the Bible evil spirits are completely opposite from this God. God is like a Father and He knows the enemy wants to destroy you. God seeks to protect you and

take care of you. There is no need to spend money for this. He helps anyone who is in trouble. He has power over evil spirits and wants your life to be peaceful. Will you ask Him to take evil spirits away from your life?

Here are two points that can help you be free from the chains of Satan.

* Know clearly that you cannot overcome evil spirits. Only God can overcome them.

* Ask God to take you away from the evil spirits through your faith. Ask Him in Jesus' name.

Also, if we really want to be free from the power of the evil spirits, we need to prevent them from coming by closing our heart's door. If we ask for God to make the evil spirits go away and you still follow and worship the spirits, they will come back for sure. For example, if we have an evil spirit enter and then we have a traditional healer make it leave by putting on charms, we have just made one evil spirit leave by having another evil spirit enter. One day we pray to Jesus and ask Him to help get rid of the evil spirit but we still wear the charms, this means we are still keeping a house for the evil spirit. This should make us wake up, leading us to give our future to the right power. Please remember, your enemy does not care about you. He wants you to have problems, to be sick, to lose money. He may help you some in order to make you want to follow him. But he will look for the chance to destroy you.

War in the Heart

In this whole world there are many people who believe in the evil spirits. Some believe they are the spirits of their father and mother or grandmother and grandfather that have died.

Some believe they are angels (evil ones). Some are afraid of them so much that they will not go near tombs or crematoriums. Some worship the spirits and give offerings. Perhaps you have seen evil spirits enter people or have seen it happen on TV. Do you feel like these evil spirits tempt you to do something wrong?

It seems as if there are two sides in the world that pull on us. One is to desire to do what is good, leading to real blessing for our family and country. The other side tempts us to do evil, bringing destruction on us. It sometimes feels as if there is a war going on in our hearts, when these two powers are there at the same time. Christians believe that what is helping to do good comes from the God who created the world, who is truly the owner of all things and loves us and teaches us to do good so our life will be full of happiness. On the other side is Satan and the evil spirits trying to tempt us to do what is wrong. When we go into his trap, he destroys us. They are very tricky and show their power in order to gain our allegiance. These are the rebels against God. But their power is smaller than the One who made all things. If the story that we studied earlier is true--that Satan and the evil spirits were cast out of heaven when they rebelled--then the battle lines with God wanting us to do good in order to have peace and Satan wanting us to do evil and lead us to death. God is searching for us to bring us to His place and protect us from Satan's heart.

Are you afraid of these evil spirits? What healer will you depend on to catch them and put them in a bottle? There is only the Creator who made the world who can overcome the evil spirits. . Please do not forget to ask God every day in order to keep Satan from leading you into sin. Especially ask Him every morning before you begin any other work.

Evil Spirits Do Not Want to Leave Us

The Burmese say, "Like a lizard sticks to the wall, so the evil spirit tries to stick to a man." Cambodians say "A spirit is like a leach." They do not want to leave. When Jesus makes them go out, they do not want to go. But because they cannot overcome God's power, they must leave when He forces them to. But they are very upset. They will look for an opportunity to come back.

Jesus once warned that "when an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it." Then it says, "I will return to the house I left" (Matthew 12:43-44a).

The Bible says clearly that if we ask God to chase out evil spirits but do not invite Him and His power into our hearts, the spirits will come back. This can be compared to a house that has no one in it and then has a stranger go and live in it. If you get the stranger out but do not put someone there to guard the house or use a very strong lock, one day that stranger will be able to come back and it may be harder to get them out the next time. Therefore just getting away from the evil spirit is not enough. According to Christians experience, you must depend on God in order to fill your life with His power. What do you think about all this? Does it fit life as you see it?

So while there are two steps to be free from evil spirits, here also are two steps to keep the spirits away.

* Give yourself to God's way by stopping all spiritualistic practices.

* Let God fill your heart with His own presence always.

If our lives have an evil spirit they can be compared to a house

broken into by a strong robber. We cannot get him out if the neighbors or the police do not come to help. When the thief is finally gotten out, you will surely get a stronger lock. You do not want the police to go away, afraid a robber will come again. If anyone has an evil spirit come, only Jesus can get it out. When it leaves, we must not do anything to encourage it to come back. We must ask God to live in us always. According to the Bible and the experience of Christians, we have seen that God has power to help us in all our problems at all times. Please take the two points above to help you be free from evil spirits. How much longer will you wait to ask Him for help in order to get rid of the evil spirits and protect yourself? Our suggestions would be that you decide to follow Jesus teachings from here on.

Points to Remember

- * Evil spirits can make people crazy and cruel.
- * Jesus can cast out evil spirits by His word.
- * The war that is hard to stop is the war in the heart.

Mark 16:1 "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my (Jesus) name they will drive out demons."

Questions

1--Underline the statements that are correct:

In the time of Jesus there were no evil spirits.

Evil spirits can cause people to do what is wrong.

Men and evil spirits are friends.

These days evil spirit's power has gone away.

When an evil spirit enters it is hard to get it out.

2--Please put T in front of the sentences that are correct and F in front of the sentences that are false:

_____ Jesus sent out the evil spirits just by His word.

_____ Jesus sent out the evil spirits that others could not get rid of.

_____ Jesus pleaded for the evil spirit to come out of one child.

_____ Pastor Ing Nang made an offering to an evil spirit.

_____ People cannot resist evil spirits.

_____ We can overcome the evil spirits without asking for God's help.

3--Please fill in the following blanks

Evil spirits lead us to _____ because they want us to _____.

_____ leads us to do good because He wants us to have _____.

4--Please check the answer that is correct:

When the evil spirit leaves a person where does it go?

_____ Far away

_____ Near by

_____ It tries to come back

What should we do to keep the evil spirit from coming back?

_____ Don't associate with the evil spirits.

_____ Ask God to come in your heart.

_____ Run away from it.

5-- If this statement is true of your choice today, check it:

_____ I choose to trust in the Father of Life to protect me from evil spirits through the name of Jesus.

_____ I choose to not ask evil spirits for help but to pray directly to the Father of Life for

help in my problems.

“Mighty God, who has compassion like a Father, please protect me from all evil spirits. Help me to not practice any magic or do any evil. Help me to turn from anger and hatred. Send away all evil spirits from my house and fill my heart with Your power. I thank You in Jesus’ mighty name. Amen.”