

Are Demons Wiser Than Our Families?

I. Foundational Concepts

- **What are demons?**
 - Demons are solely spiritual beings who were once angels of God but who — about six to ten thousand years ago — followed Satan and rebelled against the one true King of the Universe.
 - When Christ finally scours sin and temptation from existence, all demons will be condemned to an eternity in the Lake of Fire.
 - And since angelic beings cannot repent, the demon's sole purpose on this planet is to keep people from glorifying God. They possess people, attempting to keep them from faith in Christ. They manage the World System's panoply of Failure Philosophies, and they use all of that to tempt believers in order to make them less profitable for the Kingdom of God.
 - Demons are wickedness through and through — completely incapable of performing any kind of righteousness — and yet quite often demons show a level of wisdom that exceeds that of professing Christians.
- **What is wisdom?**
 - James 4:17; Matthew 7:26-27
 - Wisdom is not an accumulation of knowledge; wisdom is putting the knowledge we already have into practical use. Wisdom is obedience.

II. Wise Demons

- **Demons know Who God is.**
 - Mark 1:34; Matthew 17; Mark 5; Luke 8; Luke 4:33-36; Luke 4:41; Acts 19:15; Acts 16:16-17
 - In nearly every single instance where demons speak through the individual they're possessing, the demons acknowledge the divinity, authority, and power of God.
 - It would be expected to conclude that demons *wouldn't want people to know* Who He was . . . and yet they were compelled to pronounce it until Jesus commanded them to be silent.
 - Demons know Who God is, and yet, we Christians should know Him so much better. If we're truly born again, we've seen Him in the Scriptures, He's given us new life, and the Holy Spirit indwells us — helping us know, understand, and follow God better.
- **Demons obey when God directly commands them.**
 - Luke 4:33-36; Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41; Mark 9; Job 1; Judges 9:23; I Samuel 16:14, 18:10, 19:9
 - Whether it was leaving their victim or silencing their demonic lips, there wasn't a single demon who refused to obey the Lord.
 - Demonic creatures (and even Satan himself) must obey God when He directly commands them. How about our families?
 - We have God's commands all throughout the Scripture. They are clear and understandable. Not only that, but God doesn't expect us to obey in our own power; He provides all the grace and power we need to do as He asks.
 - And yet, we who call ourselves Christians so often do not obey.
- **Demons are afraid of God.**
 - The fear of the Lord is a double-edged sword of deep admiration for His majesty coupled with a sincere fear that we would ever displease someone so wonderful. Christians aren't so much afraid of the consequences as we are hurting our Savior. This is a fear only Christians can experience.

- However, unbelievers cannot stand in awe of Him. If they experienced the appropriate awe, they would follow Him and no longer be unbelievers. Those who are unsaved can only fear Him because — to unbelievers — God is nothing more than an enemy Who will eventually punish them if they do not follow Him and accept His free and loving gift of salvation. And demons know this.
- Do we have children and spouses who say they believe in God and yet don't regard His commands? Do our children dismiss the claim God has on their lives? Are we cavalier in our rejection of His authority? Do we not respect the Word of God and all it contains?
- Demons shutter before God, they do exactly what He commands them to do, and they have absolutely no problem admitting Who He is.

III. Wiser Families

- **We must stand in God's presence.**
 - One reason our families can nonchalantly disobey God's clear teaching is that we're not hearing it. We're not attending church as we should they way we should. We're not spending time with God in His Word. We're not seeking biblical counsel.
 - We're living like practical atheists, ignorant of God's expectations of us and meandering through life leaning on our own understanding and following our own deceptive hearts.
 - But we can combat that by walking into God's throne room through family prayer. We can address that by allowing God to speak to us through his Word both in individual times of devotion as well as family worship. We can defend ourselves from our damning forgetfulness by inviting biblical counsel, advice, mentoring, discipleship, and friendship into our lives.
- **We must fear God.**
 - If we're born again, we must respond to God with the appropriate awe. If we've truly been saved from our sin, we should hate the idea of displeasing Him.
 - The fear of the Lord should motivate everything we do.
- **We must obey when God's commands us.**
 - We must do the right thing in the right way for the right reason and in the right power.
 - We will forever be more foolish than the demons if we don't understand how God expects us to obey.
- **We must shine God's Truth to everyone around us.**
 - Parenting our kids through the Scriptures will be second nature. Speaking God's Word to our kids will be the most reasonable and intelligent choice we could make. We've seen God. We've heard His expectations for our life and parenting. We're filled with Holy Ghost. We fear the Lord. How could we not teach and interpret and counsel and train our children in the Word of God?
 - Husbands and wives discussing the things of God and sharing how He's at work in their lives and discipling each other will come easily when we've sat at God's feet in reverence and obedience.
 - Even our born again children will not wince to speak of God when they know Him as the demons know Him.