

The Spiritual War in Your Home, Part 3 | the frontline enemy

I. Demonic forces are purely spiritual.

- Luke 24:39
- The demons inability to take physical form would explain why they seem to always be possessing various creatures. From Satan and the snake to Satan and Judas to Satan and the Antichrist, from demons and pigs to demons and adults to demons and children, it appears that demons are limited in the physical realm if they are not possessing something physical.

II. Demonic forces want to eat your family alive.

- II Peter 5:8
- We need to maintain our wartime mentality if we hope to be victorious in all the ways God promises. This means that you need to accept the fact that Satan and his forces will take every opportunity to influence your family to make choices that are not in their best interest. We must not assume that anything is amoral until we've done our due diligence. Entertainment and philosophy are moral weapons demons will use to influence your family. Even amoral things like food and drink are acted on by moral agents. Therefore, Satan and his horde will seek to influence your family to interact with amoral things in immoral ways.

III. One way demons influence your family is by possession.

- *Demon-possession is a real phenomenon.*
 - In the times of Christ, every seventh person seemed to be possessed, and everyone else always seem to know they were possessed. But nowadays, it would be hard for most of us to name even one person we thought *might* be possessed. Many Christian don't even think demon possession is even still a thing. They may believe it happens in third world countries, or that it happened hundreds of years ago, but not in modern civilizations.
 - Yet Jesus leads us to believe in Matthew 12:43-45 that demons aren't happy unless they're indwelling someone.
- *We have no reason to believe fewer people are being possessed today than were in the time of Christ.*
 - There is nothing in the Bible that would cause us to think that Satan and his forces are no longer possessing people. In fact, I would argue there is *plenty* of biblical data to suggest that it will continue on just as it did in the first century.
 - And, since there are more people alive today, we may argue that even more people are being possessed today than before. So, why don't we see it? Why isn't it easier to tell when someone's possessed? I believe there are two very scary answers.
 - Satan's wise enough to realize that he has better chances controlling first-world countries if he works in the shadows. Satan still has solid sway in countries where they believe in demons and spirits and live in fear of them, but he has to be sneakier in America. Satan is quite pleased with the Hollywood fantasy that has convinced the masses that demon possession isn't happening or that it's something very different than it really is.
 - The second reason we don't see demon possession for what it is is that we've redefined abnormal behavior. When we allow the Bible to inform our understanding of demon possession, we have to accept the fact that many of the behaviors that we consider to be acceptable or the result of a "mental illness" may actually be caused by demonic influence.

- *Born again believers cannot be possessed by demons.*
 - II Corinthians 6:14-16; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 6:3
 - If your family members are born again, they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. There is no fear that they can be possessed by demons.
- *Therefore, unbelievers are the only ones in danger of demon possession.*

IV. A second way demonic forces influence your family is by temptation.

- Matthew 4; Luke 4

V. A third way demonic forces influence your family is by physical attack.

- There aren't a lot of New Testament examples of this, but the example of Job comes to mind. Satan was able to influence the heart of men, affect the weather, and touch Job's health even though he was a follower of God.
- Since Satan cannot control a believer, he will do everything he can to manipulate them. That will include temptation from influencers that he can control, but it will also include temptation to sinful responses due to the physical challenges Satan can bring into our lives.
- No one is saying that every stubbed toe is a satanic attack, but that doesn't mean Satan isn't debilitating people.

VI. God wants each of your family members to actively engage Satan and his forces in battle.

- II Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:11-14; James 4:7
- We're going to talk about *how* God wants us to resist demonic forces in a future episode. I know it's painful to ask you to wait until then, but there is so much we have to know about this spiritual battle before we can begin discussing techniques and methods for fighting off this enemy.
- The idea of demon possession may sound like the worst thing we can imagine for our families. Please remember that our trust must be placed firmly in God and God alone. We don't live the way we do because we're afraid of Satan. We live the way we do because we fear the Lord.

Parent.
... a part of the Evermind Ministries family.