

THE BAPTISM, REVIVALISM AND DEMONISM

The following material may come as a startling revelation of what victimized believers are often subjected to by the relentless progression of error in the so-called Baptism of the Spirit.

QUESTION—"Where does it say in the Bible that evil spirits can enter a believer?"

EVAN ROBERTS—"There is no specific instance plainly given in Scripture that the Christian can be possessed by demons, but the principle is there, and you understand the principle from experience. Christians do become deceived and possessed by evil spirits, as they enter and fasten on the muscles and nerves of the body.

"This takes place in those fully abandoned to God, seeking God and His best. They think when they receive the Baptism of the Spirit, that they are lost in the Presence of God. This is the great crisis when the arch-deceiver seeks to deceive the soul. One proof of those who have received the Baptism of the Spirit, is that they have come in contact with a Person, and they must obey a Person. The demons then begin to counterfeit that Person, and it is then possible that evil spirits enter the man, on the same principle as God Himself enters.

"There is no actual verse of Scripture to tell you that demons can come into a Christian; but it is true. You do not like it. I did not like it, and none of us like it—it is absolutely contrary to our theories. If you take theories you cannot believe it; but if you take experience, nothing explains experience but this very truth. It is just here that the evil spirits are getting a great harvest in the Church.

"God is emphasizing today this warfare against the powers of darkness. God calls the Church to be triumphant over the powers of darkness, and not to yield to evil spirits. If you take theories alone you are sure to disbelieve all this. It is for those who have experience. If I had had no experience, I should not believe it. Experience believes it." (1912 Overcomer, p. 98.)

QUESTION—"Do you know it possible for a Christian to be possessed by demons?"

J. PENN-LEWIS—"Yes. This fact is becoming more and more prominent at the present time; and in souls who are (a) **not** disobedient to light, or (b) living in any **known** sin, but the contrary. These become possessed by evil spirits, through deception over absolute surrender to God (as they supposed), and whole-hearted reckless abandonment to 'supernatural power' which they believed was of God, but through ignorance, were not able to discern as counterfeits by demons of the Spirit of God.

"Evidence of believers wholly consecrated to God in spirit, soul and body, in will and fact, becoming possessed in and mind body by demons, is now available. Multitudes of believers are possessed in various degrees, but do not know it, as they attribute the manifestations to natural causes, or to self, or sin—and put them down to these things, because, according to their judgment, they do not appear to bear the characteristics of demoniacal possession.

QUESTION—"Do you know it possible for a soul to surrender itself to evil spirits believing it to be surrendering to the Holy Spirit?"

J. PENN-LEWIS—"Yes, on the basis of deception. If a believer (a) does not know that evil spirits can counterfeit the Holy Spirit, and, (b) the conditions upon which they can do this, and (c) unwittingly fulfils those conditions, he can surrender himself to evil spirits believing he is surrendering to the Holy Spirit."

"The 'Claiming of the Blood' cannot protect from the enemy if he is given ground in any way, i.e., if the mind ceases to act by 'letting the mind go blank,' and the emotional part of the man is awakened to act in its place, so that the latter is excited to give 'thrills' and 'streams of life' through the body. No claiming of the precious Blood of Christ will prevent physical laws acting when the condition for action is fulfilled. Hence the strange fact which has perplexed so many, that abnormal experiences manifestly contrary to the character of God, have taken place when the person was earnestly repeating words about the Blood." (1912 Overcomer, p. 71.)

“It does not matter how spiritual you are, nor how fully God dwells in your spirit, nor how carefully you ‘walk after the spirit,’ you still have to meet a spirit foe, and the attacks of that spirit foe are mainly against the spirit of the spiritual man. At one stage of the Christian life the attack may be on the mind—driving it into evil activity or dullness—or on the body in various ways, but the spiritual believer will find phases of conflict unknown at the earliest stages of the spiritual life.

“The spirit foe may wrap around the spirit, and hold it as if in a vise, so that none of the power of the Spirit can reach the mind or body. Then you are exhausted, for if you are very sensitive spiritually, and your mental powers depend upon the quickening of the spirit, then you will lose concentration, and your mind will become confused, because the spirit force energizing the mind, is locked up by the demons.” —J. Penn-Lewis (1914 *Overcomer*, p. 124.)

“The truth that evil spirits can possess the body of a believer, having obtained access by guile, is becoming a recognized fact. Knowing all that we know—and the half has not been told—we have urged in these *Overcomer* pages with earnest and solemn persistence the danger of **passive yielding** of the body and mind to supernatural power, by believers seeking the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Few seem to realize that is the very ground for the working of evil spirits.”

“That the body of the believer can be fastened upon, or attacked by evil spirits is shown in Paul’s experience. He spoke of a ‘thorn in the flesh,’ which he called a ‘messenger of Satan’ to buffet, or beat him. To understand Paul’s writings, you need Paul’s **experience**, then you will know exactly what he was describing. Scholarship is valuable to teach us the mental knowledge of the Word of truth, but **spiritually** you need the same experience to understand the spiritual meaning of any part of the Bible. If you have ever experienced the reality of Satan’s messengers **beating** you, the words of Paul would be clearly describing to you a ‘buffeting’ as real as if someone took rods and lashed you with them, Thus proving (1) that the spirit realm is real to you, and (2) that you are a spiritual man, or you would not be conscious of these real spiritual facts.” (Shocking, is it not?! —M.J.S.)

“Facts are very stubborn things. It is beyond question that deceiving spirits can work upon the body and mind, whilst the centre of the believer is full of the light of God, and the man thinks it is something ‘natural.’ The fact of the possible possession of the believer is Scripturally reasonable; the natural mind is under the darkening power of Satan, and unless it has been entirely renewed, the evil spirits can insert their workings there. They can imitate the voice of God, and imitate the guidance of the Spirit. I can tell you of the wreckage of those who have known the Baptism of the Spirit, and been deceived through the deceptions of wicked spirits imitating God.” —J. Penn Lewis (1912 Overcomer, p. 111.)

QUESTION—“How does Satan make war on the saints?”

J. PENN-LEWIS—“Satan carries out a systematic war on the believer, by means of his hosts of wicked spirits, who are able to enter the human structure and from within the camp carry on the instructions and plans of the chief. They have access and control of the mind, whilst there remains one single remnant of the ‘evil of Satan’ upon it.

“They have access to the spirit of man, because they are spirits, and can inject and infuse into man’s spirit, their own spirit, such as a spirit of jealousy, spirit of fear, spirit of infirmity, etc., unless the believer is aware of their whiles so as to stand against them. They have access to the body, and can counterfeit physical symptoms that they induce a believer to accept their workings as ‘natural,’ and if he fulfils certain conditions, they may even take his life, so as to remove him out of their way.

“Generally the war of Satan is primarily directed against the mind, or thoughts, for a thought suggested by a lying spirit and **accepted**, gives them access along the line of the thought gained by the acceptance of the thought. So, apart from known sin, all the workings of Satan in a believer’s life may be traced back to a wrong thought or belief, admitted into the mind, and not recognized to be from demons.

“A wrong thought about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Satan, or man may have disastrous results when instigated, or made use of by Satan. He also attacks the circumstances of the believer who knows how to stand against him, and seeks to deceive him anew as to the cause of the attack. He attacks

his home, children, family, friends, work, and all else 'attackable.' His demons will swoop down upon the armor-clad believer with oppression and depression, and in the darkness seek to get him to admit some of their lies, so as to obtain new ground, or regain ground given in the past."

"A friend writes of 'vibrations' in her body after tampering with 'healing,' and asks how they can be got rid of, as there are some over which she seems to have no control. It is evident that evil spirits have gained access to the body in this instance, and it means a steady fight to get rid of them, but it can be done. This is one of the cases in which 'casting out' is of little use. The believer must go deeper to the cause, i.e., she has given **ground** to them by passive yielding of the body to the 'healing' which she thought she would obtain, but which only brought more painful 'healing sensations' than the disease she sought healing from.

"First and foremost every believer must turn to Romans Six as the footing for a successful fight with the Spirits of evil. Standing on Rom. 6:6 and 11, the soul can obey Rom. 6:12: 'Let not sin reign,' and consequently 'let not Satan—or his demons—reign **in** your mortal body.' " —J. Penn-Lewis (1912 Overcomer, p. 15)

The above consequential **additions** to Rom. 6:12 are to be noted!

"The faculties may become severally held, or possessed, by demons, by (1) yielding to the sin of passivity—passivity is the sin of omission, for God does not give a faculty for misuse, or non-use, or (2) yielding to sins of action, e.g., if the tongue lends itself to slander or foul language, it lends itself to sin, and becomes liable to possession. And so with the eyes, ears, and other parts of the body; the lust of the eyes in seeing, the looking at vile things; the ears by wrong listening—eaves-dropping is lending the ears to the emissaries of Satan—or, on the other hand, evil spirits may take hold of the nerves of the ear, so that the person cannot hear what he should, yet is permitted to be alert enough in hearing all that he should not hear."

"The deceiving spirit in possession of the body, may reveal his malignity in attacks of apparent disease, or acute pain without physical cause, counterfeiting or producing (1) consumption, (2) fever, (3) nerve breakdown, and other illnesses, under which the life of the victim may be lost, unless the

workings of the 'murderers' acting under Satan are discerned, and dealt with by prayer against them.

"Demons bury themselves in the very structure of the human frame, some acting directly upon the organs or appetites of the body, others upon the mind or intellect, sensibilities, emotions and affections, and others more immediately upon the spirit. In the body they specially locate themselves in the spinal column, nervous system, and deepest nerve centres, through which they control the whole being; from the ganglionic nerve centre located in the bowels, the emotional sensibilities, and all organs affected by them, to the cerebral nerve centre in the head; the eyes, ears, neck, jaws, tongue, muscles of the face, the delicate nerve tissues of the brain.

"Evil spirits interfering with the sensory nerves of the ears, render exterior sounds acute in forced consciousness of them, producing confusion and irritation; and exaggerated sense of sound rendering concentration difficult. They also **make** strange sounds by interfering with the sensory nerves, the man declaring that he heard voices, thunder, rustling of a dress, etc., which no one around him hears. Force must be used against force. If demons have a hold on the muscles of the bodily frame there must be effort, and use of the muscles to dislodge them, and so in every other part of the being. The believer, therefore, must not be afraid to use force—pure force, which simply means active use of spirit, soul and body in their various actions.

"The casting out of an evil spirit from another may also be an occasion for the manifestation of one hidden unknowingly in the believer who is dealing with the other possessed person. If this is so, when he finds an immediate manifestation of the enemy's workings in himself he is liable to attribute it to a transmission to himself, or an attack upon himself, by the expelled spirit.

"Through this wrong interpretation he now seeks deliverance from the supposed 'transmission,' and thereby gives new ground to the deceiving spirit, because he does not seek for the cause of the manifestation in his past life; that is, he deals with it as an 'attack,' instead of a symptom, and hence the cause, or ground, is left undealt with, and undiscovered."

"The believer who has been **dispossessed**, can see how much that others attribute to God's sovereignty is nothing else but the results of the Satanic

world-ruler's work. He sees that the primary cause of the apathy and deadness of the Church is Satanic, and that much which has been put down as sin, or the evil nature, is nothing but the work of demons. Hence he must war against the false teaching, which settles down to accept Satanic workings in the world as the 'operations of God.' Through his own undeceiving his old thoughts about things connected with God, and with Satan, fall to the ground as untested theories, and he receives two blessings through his undeceiving: i.e., (1) a purified 'theology,' (2) and a true demonology." (War On the Saints, pp. 69-225.)

The progression of this error takes one on to the very ultimate!

EVAN ROBERTS- "If we want to have a complete cycle of victory we must get victory over death. There is to be victory over sin—sin must not reign; over Satan—Satan must be 'under your feet'; over the world—you must be 'crucified to the world'; over men—the men of Belial must be put to naught; and over death—there must be deliverance from the last enemy, 'death'—whether it be from within or from without. There are murderous spirits at work everywhere, and these must be defeated by prayer to God. A man may have opened himself to murderous spirits in the form of 'death working'—so murderous spirits should be refused, fought and cast out everywhere,

"Two people do not speak to each other; what is that but an attack—a death attack? What means this wrenching of spirit—one doctrine in one person's mind, and a different one in another, so that there is a continual strain in the members of the body of Christ, and a dividing of spirits. That is a death attack. Paul said: 'If ye stand, we live.'

And if they did not stand what did that mean? If it meant life when the others stood, then it must mean death to Paul in strain on his spirit when the others fell."

"There must be a systematic resistance to things around you which have the power of death in them, just as you resist the evil forces of the air. Take, for instance, the missionary, who is in a district where there is malarial fever. He goes into the midst of it, but in faith that it cannot touch him, he becomes immune by recognizing that he must not be a victim to the enemy—death." (1914 Overcomer, p. 10.)

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"First and foremost they felt that they could not endorse the teaching that a born-again, Spirit-filled Christian can at the same time be demon possessed; and also found themselves unable to accept some of the teaching given concerning the 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit,' and the aggressive warfare against the powers of darkness, either as a means of promoting revival, or of hastening the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ." (The abridgment is half the original. We are quoting from the original.)

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