

WHY CAST OUT DEMONS?

**BY
MICAH STEPHEN BELL**

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Euless TX 76040-6201
(800) 230-2293
thekey@thekeym.org
www.keyministries.org

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WHY CAST OUT DEMONS?

People often question the ministry of casting out demons:

- Why do it when we have counseling, prophecy, and the laying on of hands? Isn't this enough?
- We have all these other methods in ministry which everyone seems to prefer, do we really need to cast out demons?
- Can't people get help by going to a meeting and being slain in the spirit or laughing? Many say they are really helped by this.
- If people can get all the help they need without it, why stir up things by casting out demons?

Obviously God's people are not receiving all the help they need; otherwise, there would be more victorious Christians. Beyond the argument of need, there are strong Scriptural reasons we should cast out demons. The Bible presents this ministry as normal Christianity, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was the main proponent it.

JESUS CAST DEMONS OUT OF HIS PEOPLE

The first and foremost reason we cast out demons is because Jesus did. If we had no other reason, that would be enough. He cast them out of His people, the Israelites — the sons and daughters of Abraham — not out of the Gentiles or unbelievers.

“At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him (Jesus) all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed.” —Mark 1:32

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“And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. When they found Him, they said to Him, ‘Everyone is looking for You.’ But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.’” –Verses 36-38

“When evening had come they brought to Him many who were demon possessed and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet saying, ‘He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sickness.’” –Matt 8:16

If we believe Jesus is our perfect pattern, then to follow Him we must do as He did, and He cast out many demons.

CASTING OUT DEMONS IS THE GREATEST EVIDENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Now go to Luke 11 to find another reason we cast out demons: “But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.” —Verse 20

Another reason we cast out demons is because it is the greatest evidence of the kingdom of God according to Jesus. Evidence is often visual when demons leave a person. I do not believe we should over-encourage manifestations, but we certainly shouldn’t suppress them or fear them. People need to see the evidence of the power of the name of Jesus and of the true anointing when it stirs up demons, causing them to manifest and leave. This leaves no doubt that The Greater One has come.

Now look at Mark 16:17. “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons.”

This sign that follows those who believe is not demons going out, but demons cast out. It is an action of will not something passively received. It is a visible victory of the kingdom of God in believers’ lives, and can only be done supernaturally.

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is

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at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” –Matthew 10:7-8

Jesus wanted His disciples to demonstrate a visible victory as they went out, so this was the first sign that followed — demons were cast out.

People in the occult do not cast out demons. They deal with demons, but you don’t see them confront, overcome and cast them out. They are afraid to do it. If they try to overcome a powerful demon, they know it will retaliate and maybe even destroy them. Some have lost their lives dealing with demons. Yes, they do healings and other things, but you do not see them telling a demon to Come out. To confront a demon in the Name of Jesus Christ and tell it to go out of a person or to vacate its abode is an awesome miracle for a human to do. Here is undeniable evidence of the kingdom of God and its power on the earth. It may shock folks but what unique “advertisement” it is. We must do it.

Someone recently told me, ”I now believe Christians can have demons because a part of my life is out of control.“ We did not discuss whether or not a Christian can be demon possessed, but this believer realized he was possessed, at least, in one area of his life. He **was** a Christian — an active, committed Christian serving in ministry.

Some let semantics stumble them with words such as possession, oppression or demonization. Do definitions really matter if you are tormented or afflicted? The bottom line is: if demons are exercising me, I want them out!

DEMONS DO NOT LEAVE BY THEIR OWN CHOICE

This is another reason we cast out demons: they do not leave of themselves. As in the situation with the Gadarene in Mark 5, the demons didn’t leave the man — they grew stronger. They cried out when Jesus came, but they did not go out until He

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cast them out (and with some difficulty).

Some demons may leave during strong spiritual experiences. We call them surface or butterfly demons. We have seen them leave at the point of the new birth or the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The spirit of profanity left me when I was born again. My conversation was cleansed immediately. I now know this was a demon that left me, and I praise God for this.

Mostly, though, believers require much deliverance following new birth and Holy Spirit baptism regardless of how powerful the spiritual experiences.

People say time heals everything. The truth is, time does not heal anything. Jesus heals and casting out demons makes the way for His healing. A demon will stay with you as long as no one tells him to go. Time won't make him go away. In fact, if you allow him to stay, he will invite his friends into your house (your body) also. If you try to deal with demons by waiting them out or ignoring them, they will get stronger and meaner in your life.

Satan wants to work in secrecy and camouflage. If we have demons in our life and can't or won't see them, then the demons have tremendous power in our life. We won't even realize their influence flowing through us. We may bruise and hurt others or leave a trail of broken relationships. Bitterness may be pouring through us to others, and we will not see it. Until it is confronted as a personality and cast out, it will abide in us. The deeper residential spirits like rejection and rebellion remain more hidden and resist leaving even more.

Some say if you just praise the Lord they will leave; or if you get a prophecy, they'll leave; if you read the Word or memorize the bible, deliverance will come. Not so! They must be cast out. Jesus did not tell us to sing them out, praise them out, laugh them out, read them out, wait them out or sweat them out. He said, "**Cast them** out." "**Cast out** demons!"

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JESUS DID NOT TEACH TO PRAISE OUT DEMONS

Look at the story in Acts 16 about the girl who joined Paul's ministry:

“Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’ And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour.” —Acts 16:16-18

The girl had a demon and, evidently, Paul did not discern it right away. If he did discern the demon, perhaps he was waiting for the prompting of the Lord. Regardless, there came a point of vexation and agitation where he could no longer tolerate the demon's talk. The girl was seemingly in agreement with the ministry walking as a disciple for a period of time, but the demon did not leave her. It wasn't until Paul turned and said, “I cast you out!” that it left.

I like to have positive expectations for people, but when they go on and on and on with their problem (demon manifestation), there comes a time to say, “Okay, that's it! It's time for deliverance!” The person may be agitating or abusing others through their rude behavior. First you pray, “Lord, help them see what's coming through their life.” We want to believe they are going to get free through their prayer or devotional life, but nothing happens until the demonic is confronted in them personally. Then comes the change. We cast out demons because they do not leave of themselves – they just do not.

Let's go back to Mark 1 where Jesus was teaching in the synagogue: “Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit and he cried out saying, ‘Let us alone, what have we to do with you Jesus of Nazareth, did you come to destroy us. I know who you are the holy one of God.’ But Jesus rebuked

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him saying, ‘be quiet and come out.’”

The Lord Jesus was present in bodily form. The demons manifested, yes, but they didn’t leave because the Lord was there.

“Oh, if you just get in the presence of the Lord, the demons will leave.”

No, even the Lord Jesus had to **cast** them out.

“But, I have asked the Lord to cast my demons out.” some say.

The Lord says, “I gave you the authority. You tell them to leave.”

DEMONS DO NOT LEAVE BECAUSE YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Demons don’t leave just because you are in the presence of the Lord. The presence of the Lord may cause them to manifest, but someone must cast them out. It grieves me to see meetings where there is a heavy anointing with people crying, laughing and such, only to see that most of the manifestations are demons, and nobody has the discernment or courage to cast them out. What a time to do it! They should be cast out.

In Luke 13 Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. There was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for 18 years and was bent over and could no way raise herself up. She had been going to that church for 18 years and was still bent over. It is so sad to have God’s people say they have had some infirmity or oppression for years and years. They have been trying to serve the Lord. They have been in church. They are baptized in the Holy Spirit, and here they are bent over spiritually by a demon and nobody has known what to do. This land is full of that kind of need — God’s people hurting because of lack of knowledge, wrong understanding or unbelief. The demon did not leave the woman in the synagogue in spite of her devotion to the Lord. She was obviously devoted to the Lord, but the demon had her bent over. She couldn’t look up

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for 18 years, in spite of her devotion. Jesus walks in, sees this woman and has compassion for her in spite of the Pharisees. They didn't want it to happen, but Jesus delivered her. Demons must be cast out, and that is what Jesus did. That's what we're called to do also.

“Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!’ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.’” —John 2:13-17

ZEAL FOR THE LORD COMPELS US TO CAST OUT DEMONS

The Spirit of the Lord Jesus compels us to go and drive out the unclean things in the House of God. Zeal for His house overrides the fear of man, the offense of the cross, and every other obstacle. This zeal says, “I must go and cleanse my Father's house.”

What is the Father's house? We are. God's people are Father's house — the temple of the Holy Spirit.

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.” —Luke 9:1

“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” —Luke 10:19

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN POWER AND AUTHORITY TO CAST OUT DEMONS

Another reason we cast out demons is because we have been given power and authority to do so. We are to trample

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on them – to cast them out. What the Lord has given, we must not neglect.

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed with the devil, because God was with Him.” —Acts 10:38

He was given that power and authority and now He lives in us. What He is, He is in us.

“For this purpose was the Son of God manifest that He might destroy the works of the devil.” —1 John 3:8

The Son of God manifests in us to destroy the works of the devil and heal all those that are oppressed of the devil. We have the authority, the power and the anointing in us to destroy Satan’s works, and we are called to do it. This is the purpose of Jesus manifesting in the earth and in us. We are commissioned to do it, we’re commanded to do it, we’re equipped to do it, we’re empowered to do it and we have the authority to do it. God is waiting for us TO DO IT.

WE CAST OUT DEMONS BECAUSE THEY ARE IN PEOPLE NOW!

Another reason we cast out demons is a very simple, almost ridiculous, but obvious. In Mark 9:25 the disciples had been trying to cast a demon out of a man’s son and couldn’t. Jesus arrived and the man appealed to Him.

“When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!’ Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, ‘He is dead.’ 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.” —Mark 9:25-27

We cast out demons because they are in people now. Pretty simple isn’t it? If there weren’t any demons in people, then there wouldn’t be any demons to cast out. It seems simple, but nonetheless it’s true.

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I believe we've missed splendid blessings because of misunderstanding about doing this. In Acts 8, there is a wonderful aspect of casting out demons:

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.”
—Acts 8:6-8

The ministry of casting out demons will bring the joy of the Kingdom to people. I have seen it again and again. So many times after casting demons out of a believer who's been oppressed, they will begin to weep and give thanks to the Lord. Their countenance takes on a new glow and great joy floods their soul. "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and JOY in the Holy Spirit."

HOW CAN I KNOW IF I HAVE DEMONS?

After this, you may be asking, "How do I know if I have a demon?"

There are some obvious symptoms of demonic activity. Here are a few we've come to know:

First: Lack of control in any part or life — of what you think or do. If your emotions are out of control or you are addictive, you have a demon. The flesh has taken on a passenger that is now exercising you to want or do beyond your ability to stop.

Second: Moods, mood swings, emotional roller coasters, and/or depression are evidence of demons. Although medicine wants to attribute such to chemical imbalances, we have clearly seen that it is simply a choice of the will. We choose to receive a spirit into our life that provides the mood. (For more about this, we have a tape about deliverance from depression.)

Third: Living in the past or the future. The church has

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been doing this. We hear and read so much about “when.” We live now, not “when.” There is no promise of tomorrow. If everything is for tomorrow, we may miss it. We have already missed what is past. What about today? Is there any victory today? Is there anything to praise God for now? Can we know and see God’s Hand today, or must we wait until the rapture or something else? Living in the past or future is demonic. It is the subtle work of demons in your life and in your mind.

Fourth: Difficulty exercising yourself as a believer — Having trouble praying, studying the Bible, praising or walking in the principles of God. Often stumbling and have difficulty doing the things that God calls you to do is evidence of the demonic working to hinder you. Every believer should be able and want to pray, study God’s Word, freely raise their hands and be clamorously foolish before God. One should be able to dance, sing and rejoice in the Lord without any limitations or self-consciousness. If you can’t, you need deliverance. If God wants me — no commands me — to be hallalling (which means to be clamorously foolish before Him) Him, then I should be free to do it. If I need to get on my knees or fall on my face or whatever I need to do in the presence of anybody I should be free enough in Christ to do it. If not, I need help.

Fifth: Continual defeat in external areas — in finances, in family relations, in health, in possessions — indicates there’s a “booger” working. Where is this thing? It’s in you. Anytime we are conscious of what we’re doing or how we’re talking or what were saying, and we’re aware that something is not right, we’re discerning a demonic thing in our life — If I’m talking too much, what’s prompting me to do this? What is exercising me to do this? We are called to liberty and victory not such bondage! Wake up, Saint, it’s time to possess the land!

For a believer to realize he has demons and not get them out is a mockery. For a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ to see demons manifesting and let them remain is a travesty. For a pastor to tell me, “My people need this,” and then not provide

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it for them is more than a travesty to me. If I have the authority and power to set you free and you have any inkling at all of wanting free, and I don't do it, I will answer to God. To whom much is given, much is required. It is not optional. People say, "I'm glad you have this ministry and not me." I say, "You have it too! We all have it."

We must respond to the authority and power with true desire, not need. We know that people need it, but do they want it? Do I want it? God help us find those who want it and God deliver us from those who don't. I personally don't want to walk with those who refuse deliverance, because they can't be trusted. Eventually the demons will get between us.

If you are still struggling with this, I challenge you to honestly and sincerely get before God and say, "Lord show me." He will.

–Micah Stephen Bell

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