**BMi SALTS Course**

**Demonology and Deliverance**

The rationalist world has almost eliminated the supernatural from most people’s thinking. This has occurred not only in the world, but also in much of the church. In the past fifty years there has come a swing back to mysticism (spirituality), as Rationalism came to its logical end in Existentialism.

The musical Hair was something of a watershed in popularist society and today there is a much greater awareness of spiritual things - unfortunately this is largely through the New Age movement.

In addition, there are now many immigrants to Australia who have been steeped in the occult, through various non-Christian traditions.

The supernatural aspect of Christianity has been given new emphasis with the growth of the Pentecostal movement in the twentieth century, and with that has come a renewed interest in the demonic.

**Biblical Comment**

Jesus frequently faced Satanic power, not only against Himself, but in the lives of those to whom He ministered. Jesus began to expose the purposes, nature and work of Satan. Jesus explained Satan’s job description with *The thief comes only to kill, and steal and destroy.* John 10: 10.

It was Jesus who ushered in a totally new era, in that He was the first to demonstrate authority over Satan and his works as we see in Mark 1:27.

God sent a Saviour and Deliverer — *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* 1 John 3:8 and Colossians 2:15.

**Names for Satan**

**1.** **ABADDON** (Greek - Apollyon - Destroyer, angel of Abyss,) Revelation 9: 11 (Hebrew - Abaddon— region of the dead)

**2.** **ACCUSER OF OUR BRETHREN;** (False Accuser); Revelation 12: 10

**3.** **ANGEL OF LIGHT** (Deception); 2 Corinthians 11: 14

**4.** **APOLLYON;** Revelation 9: 11

***5.*** **BEELZEBUB;** (Prince Of Devils) Matthew 12:24, Mark 3:22, Luke 11: 18

**6.** **BELIAL;** (Extreme Wickedness and Destruction) 2 Corinthians 6:15

**7.** **DEVIL;** (Accuser, Slanderer) Matthew 4: 1 -1 1, Luke 8:12, John 13:2, Acts 13: 10, 1 Peter 5:8.

**8.** **DRAGON;** (Symbolising the Vicious Rage Of Satan) Revelation 12:3-17, 20:2

**9.** **ENEMY;** Hosea 8:3

**16.** **LUCIFER;** (Shining One) Isaiah 14:12

**17.** **MORNING STAR;** (Son of the Dawn) Isaiah 14:12

**18. MURDERER;** (One Who Slays) John 8:44

**19.** **PRINCE OF DEMONS;** (Ruler) Mark 3:22

**20. PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR;** Ephesians 2:2

**21. PRINCE OF THIS WORLD;** John 12:31

**22.** **ROARING LION;** 1 Peter 5:8

**23.** **SATAN;** (Adversary, opponent, enemy) 1 Chronicles 21:1, Job 1:6-12, Matthew 4:10.

**24.** **SERPENT;** (Signifying the subtlety and wisdom of Satan) Genesis 3: 1-14, Revelation 12:9.

**25. SON OF THE DAWN;** (Early rising) Isaiah 14:12

**26. SPIRIT WHO WORKS IN THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT;** Ephesians 2:2

**27. STRONG MAN;** (Powerful, Forcible) Luke 11:21

**28. SCORPION;** (Symbolising the vicious sting of Satan) Luke 10: 19

**29. TEMPTER;** (Enticer) Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5

**Satan’s Characteristics**

1. A Liar 12. Proud

2. A Murderer 13. Deceitful

3. A Sower Of Discord 14. Fierce and Cruel

4. An Adversary 15. Aggressive

5. Cunning 16. Destroyer

6. Wicked 17. He Afflicts

7. Malignant - Totally Evil 18. A Hinderer

8. Cowardly 19. A Perverter

9. A Tempter 20. A Schemer

10. A Thief 21. A Stalker

11. Without Principles 22. A Prompter

**Kinds of Demons**

There appear to be many kinds of demons (Mark 9:29), we will list four categories, but this study is quite subjective and thus open to various opinions.

**1. Religious Demons**

Religious demons may be evidenced in the many false cults which deny the deity of Christ and the efficacy of His blood. There is undoubtedly demon activity in spiritism and in various forms of fortune telling or divination. The Bible solemnly warns against these activities.

The following Scriptures are typical of the many Old Testament denunciations.

*Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.* Leviticus 19:31

1 Chronicles 10:13-14 tells how Saul suffered the judgment of God *for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it.*

In Acts 16:16 Paul brings deliverance to *a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination ... which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying.*

Tragically, even in Christian circles there is the danger of deception by religious demons, which work through the likes of offence, legalism, loss of vision, criticism, etc.

Religious demons seek to take advantage of people who are ever desiring special ‘revelations’ without adequate regard to the Word of God or the advice of experienced leaders.

**2. Mental (Unclean) Demons**

Another type of demon attacks the minds and emotions. We see the result of their work in the fearful, tormented, insane minds of the multitudes in mental hospitals.

The outstanding scriptural example is seen in the story of Legion whose entire personality had been captured by a vast number of evil spirits. Mark 5:1-13

Doctors and psychiatrists grapple with mental conditions with limited success.

Mental demons can cause untold fears, depressions, hall­ucinations, confusion, deceptions, and every other kind of mental and emotional disturbance.

**3. Physical Demons**

The New Testament attributes many diseases and afflictions to the work of demon­ spirits.

In Matthew 9:32 33 we read of a *dumb man possessed with a devil* being brought to Jesus *and when the devil was cast out, the dumb spoke.*

In Matthew 12:22 we are told of a person *possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb.*

Mark 9:25 records the deliverance of a young man from a *dumb and deaf spirit,* and the story goes on to tell how *the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him.*

Luke 13:11-16 the Lord healed a woman who had *a spirit of infirmity 18 years.* Jesus spoke of this woman *whom Satan hath bound*. Today, this person’s con­dition would probably be diagnosed as arthritis or curvature of the spine. The Bible in this case calls it *a spirit of infirmity* and *the bondage of Satan.*

**4. Moral Demons**

These are sometimes called unclean spirits and are responsible for the undermining of the morality of nations, communities and individuals. Their work is seen in the waves of crime, violence, juvenile delinquency and all the uncontrolled passions of humanity.

The Bible indicates that unclean spirits commonly cry with loud voices when being cast out.

Mark 1:26, *And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.*

Acts 8: 7, *For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them.*

**Authority of Believers**

*As He is, so also are we in this world.* 1 John 4:17

*Behold, I have given you authority and power, to trample on serpents and scorpions, and physical and mental strength and ability over all the power that the enemy possesses, and nothing shall harm you in any way.* Luke 10:19 (Amp).

Through the cross Jesus has defeated Satan, and in giving His authority to us we have been given authority over the devil and his works.

Power to become the children of God is to be valued more than the power to cast out demons; for we read of those who did cast out devils in Christ’s name and yet will be disowned by Christ in the great day. Matthew 7:21-29.

Jesus called His twelve together and gave them instructions on how to conduct ministry for Him, which included power and authority over demons. Luke 9:1-2.

**Discerning Spirits**

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is “DISCERNING OF SPIRITS”; having the ability to clearly distinguish and judge a spirit. We need to know what is demonic and what is not!

We are to ‘DISCERN’ whether we are confronting the devil or the flesh.

Both 2 Corinthians 2:11 and Ephesians 6:11 encourage us to be aware of the devil, not be ignorant of his methods and to stand against them. But, remember, it is often easier to blame a demon than to recognise wickedness in man’s heart.

**Satan’s Methods**

Satan schemes to deceive and mislead God’s people through craftiness and evil cunning (Ezekiel 28:12, James 3:15).

One of Satan’s schemes is to encourage us to waste time and effort trying to cast out demons that are not there. Satan revels in us giving him attention. He has a profound investment in human misery and if allowed will possess a person, that is demons will take up residence in a perversely similar way to our infilling of the Holy Spirit.

There is no list of criteria given in the Bible to clearly detect who may be possessed by a demon.

The biblical method of testing is:

1. Doctrinal (1 John 4:3) the test of false teaching.

2. Discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12: 10) testing utterances.

3. Distinguishing between good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).

A new convert may bring significant behaviours from their previous life, which may include bondage to demonic forces. Opportunities for demons may have come through EMOTIONAL or PHYSICAL crises or even ignorance.

**Can Christians be Bound by Satan?**

Be aware this is a major issue to many Christians. Whilst it is difficult to show a Christian can be demon possessed from scripture, in practice we find that Christians commonly behave in a manner that convinces some that they are demon possessed. Often the word *possession* is the sticking point as Christians are possessed by the Holy Spirit and thus the argument goes could not be possessed by an evil spirit at the same time.

Dean Sherman (YWAM) once said, “A Christian can be bound by anything he wants to.”

Pastor Leo Harris - Author of the book ‘VICTORY OVER SATAN’, says:

**1. OVERCOMING**

Some people confuse “the works OF THE FLESH”, and an unsanctified self-life, with evidence of demon power. In many cases sanctification is needed, rather than deliverance.

**2. LOGIC**

Logic demonstrates that Christians can be bound by demons. For example, it is agreed that unsaved people can be bound by demons, such as blind spirits, deaf spirits, spirits of cancer, arthritis, etc. This being so it is logical to believe that a least SOME PEOPLE who are blind, or deaf or suffering with cancer, etc, would be INSTANTLY AND AUTOMATICALLY SET FREE the moment they were born again, if it is true that demons cannot be in a Christian.

**3. SCRIPTURAL POSITION**

There is no scriptural evidence, but neither is there evidence that a Christian can have cancer, arthritis, etc.

**4. DARKNESS AND LIGHT**

It is maintained that a demon cannot bind a Christian because darkness cannot dwell with light. Yet, 1 John 1:5-10 makes it clear that sin is darkness and believers are still susceptible to sin. Moreover, if this theory is carried to its logical conclusion, a Christian cannot become sick. Surely a cancer cannot be regarded as “LIGHT”. So obviously, the “darkness” of sin and sickness CAN dwell in a Christian. If the works of darkness can dwell in the body of a Christian, then why not the power of darkness?

**5. “POSSESSION”**

There is need for understanding the correct usage and meaning of the word “possession”. Scriptures use the word to imply that a demon has control, or a possession, of some part of the mind or body. See Matthew 9:32-33, 12:22.

**6. FINALLY**

While we are setting forth reasons why a Christian CAN be bound by demons, we wish to stress the fact that a Christian OUGHT NOT and NEED NOT be so bound.

Again Jesus exposed another truth to us when they brought the man ‘Sick of Palsy’ to him on a stretcher. He revealed that sin kept this man in bondage. *Which is easier to say, your sins are forgiven you, or to say, arise and walk.* Luke 5:23. Once the sins were forgiven by Jesus healing came.

*FORGIVENESS OF SIN IS THE FOUNDATION FOR RECOVERY.*

**Using Authority**

Many seem to believe that one needs to shout at demons to have success. It was the demons who cried out in a loud voice, not Jesus. Jesus commanded them with calm and quiet authority to come out and leave. Demons hear and obey authority, not volume.

It is the quality of Christian character that seems to enhance authority to pull down and break the presence of evil. 1 Samuel 5: 1-5, Acts 16: 16-18.

**Satanic Deception**

The devil operates by deception. *The serpent deceived me…* Genesis 3:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3.

Paul warns the church concerning the dangers of the ‘deeds of the flesh’. Galatians 5:1-26.

Satan’s deceptions are constantly at work in the lives of the people of the church. Generally, deception *blinds the minds* so that understanding is clouded. Sin always gives access to Satan inspired thoughts and once these are entertained he is able to nurture them in a sinful environment. Remember, *the heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?* Jeremiah 17:9.