

Demons

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” - C.S. Lewis

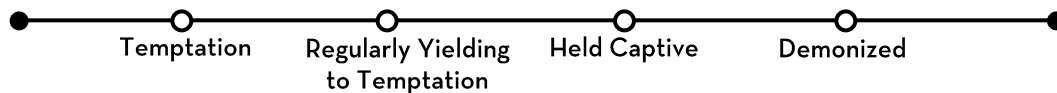
What are demons?

“...Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels...” Matthew 25:41

- **Hollywood misconceptions of demons**
- **Fallen angels** - Isaiah 24:21-22; Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:4, 7
- **Idols and false gods** - Deuteronomy 32:16-17; 1 Corinthians 10:19-21; Psalm 106:37
- **Territorial spirits** - fallen angels who now have some form of power over a location and influence over world leaders
Daniel 10:13, 21 & 12:1

How do demons affect Christians?

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12



1. **Temptation** - 1 Thessalonians 3:5
 - Enticed to Sin - James 1:14
 - Lured to False beliefs - 1 Timothy 4:1, James 3:14-16
 - Lured to Shame
 2. **Regularly Yielding to Temptation** - Galatians 4:8-9, Ephesians 4:26-27
 - Returning to false gods who have demonic origins or going back to your idolatry, which is demonic in nature as well.
 - Beginning to make agreements with the enemy about the temptations that are coming your way. These could be agreements about shame and identity, false doctrines, sins and even occultic practices. Don't give the devil a foothold or an opportunity.
 3. **Held Captive** - 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Colossians 2:8
 - Most examples of captivity are to be taken captive by false beliefs about Jesus and sin.
 4. **Demonized** - Matthew 8:16
 - Physical attack is possible. Demons can also give people physical strength and the ability to perform miracles and possess knowledge beyond their capabilities.
 - Mark 1:23-28 - demon that threw the man into convulsions and cried out with a loud voice even after Jesus told it to come out.
 - Mark 5:1-20 - Gerasene demoniac who could break chains and mutilated himself.
 - Acts 16:16-18 - fortune telling that works.
- **Shame and issues with identity and authority are some of the biggest ways that we have seen the enemy attacking people, including Christians. Satan is the great accuser (Rev 12:10) and is seeking to devour by any means (1 Peter 5:8).**
 - Identity -
 - Shame -
 - These are LIES! John 8:44

What can we do to protect ourselves and not fear?

"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you..." James 4:7-8a

- **Draw near to God** (James 4:7-8 and Psalms 91:9)
 - Knowing the truth matters. Demons are a counterfeit. Know the real thing.
 - Matthew 12:43-45
 - John 16:13 – The Spirit guides us into all truth
 - Our prayer life matters. It matters what we fill our minds with. It matters what we open ourselves up to.
- **Resist the devil and his demons** (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9; Ephesians 6:11-13)
 - Give attention to the area that has made you susceptible to demonic attack. Where have you begun to make agreements with the enemy?
 - Determine to resist – Isaiah 50:7
 - Know who you are in Christ – Romans 8:37-39; Ephesians 1:7-8; 1 John 3:1
 - Know your resources in Christ – Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 1:19
 - Deal with their ground for attack – turn away from ungodly involvement and from sin. Don't just apologize, repent.
 - If necessary, deal directly and firmly with the demonic spirit.
 - Be meaningfully attached to other followers of Jesus.
 - Pray and solicit prayer support.
- **We overcome evil with good.** Romans 12:21

The spiritual battle is real, but Jesus has already won the war

"When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."
Colossians 2:15 (Colossians 2:13-15; James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 Corinthians 15:24-27)

Response Elements:

- What lies do you believe right now? How can you replace them with the truth of God?
- What areas are you flirting with sin or temptation? That's the influence of demons. Replace that with God's love and truth.
- Come receive prayer at the Prayer Points or even privately in the Prayer Room during the second set of worship music.

Digging Deeper:

- **Additional scriptures on demons tempting to false belief** – 2 Timothy 2:26; 1 Peter 5:8; Colossians 2:8; Galatians 4:9
- **Additional Old Testament passages on demons or evil spirits** – Genesis 6:1-4; Leviticus 17:7; 1 Kings 22:19-23; Daniel 10
- **Additional New Testament Scriptures on Demons** – Matthew 12:22-24 or Luke 11:15; Matthew 15:21-28 or Mark 7:24-30; Matthew 17:14-21 or Mark 9:14-29 or Luke 9:37-43; Acts 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 6:10-13; James 2:19. daimonion appears fifty times in the Gospels and Acts, nine times in the rest of the N.T. Daimon appears only in Matthew 8:31. Akatharton pneuma (unclean spirit) appears 21 times (half in Mark). Poneros pneuma (evil spirit) is used 8 times. Pnuema alalon (spirit that has robbed him of speech) is once as well as deaf and mute, a spirit by which she predicted the future, and "the devil and his angels."

Next Steps:

1. **Research this topic further by reading one of these books:** *The Christian Versus Demon Activity* by Mark Bubecka; *3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare* by Clinton Arnold; *Powers of Evil* by Sydney Page; *Angels, Satan and Demons* by Robert Lightner; and *The Invisible War* by Chip Ingram.
2. **Attend the Spiritual Warfare Workshop** led by Brandon and Desiree Elrod on Sunday, May 3 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm in W-209 (upstairs in the Worship Center).
3. **Draw Near to God** – spend time memorizing passages of the Bible so that you know the voice of God and are filling your mind with His words and spend time in prayer so that you are filling your heart with God's love and care.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Have there been temptations or struggles with shame and guilt that you have experienced that you felt like were stronger than just a natural desire? Another way to ask this is, what lies do you believe right now? How did you deal with that? Have you dealt with it? Spend some time praying for each other for these issues.
2. Do you feel afraid of demons? Why or why not? What should someone do that feels afraid? Refer to the scriptures within point three above.
3. Why do you think that the enemy and his demons use temptation to false doctrine as one of their primary weapons against God and His people?