

Demonic Activity

by Steve Barwick

There have been a ton of news articles lately about the Catholic Church and other churches becoming inundated with requests for exorcisms of demon-possessed individuals. One news [article](#) even claimed the situation with demonic possession is getting so bad that *Muslims* are lining up to have demons exorcised by Catholic priests.

Another news [article](#) has revealed that the Catholic Church is bringing an additional 250 priests into a special course teaching how to perform exorcisms, such is the dramatic rise in the call for the expulsion of unclean spirits from people. Finally, another news [article](#) claims the number of people requesting help with demons has recently *tripled*.

When you listen to the video interviews accompanying some of these news articles, you'll hear Catholic priests intoning that because "faith in religion" is at such an all-time low, more and more people are becoming demon possessed. But if the recent spate of news articles are correct, most of these cases of demonic possession are among very *religious* people, *not* non-religious people.

In other words, for the most part, it's not people of *no* religious faith or even low religious faith that are being possessed unclean spirits. Instead, it's "people of religious faith" who are having so much trouble with them.

So increasing people's "faith in religion" is simply not the cure. Faith in *religion* is not what protects you from unclean spirits, as you're about to see in the example below from the book of Mark. Knowledge of, and faith *in the truth of God's Word* is what protects you from unclean spirits.

But you have to hear God's Word taught *correctly* in order to have faith in it (Romans 10:17). If you're not hearing the truth, your faith in the Lord is misplaced. It's based on little more than feel good religious doctrine and empty religious tradition. And as such, it's "blind faith" with no solid foundational basis. And that's the perfect condition for an unclean spirit to try to worm its way in.

A New Testament Account of Demonic Possession

While there's most certainly not a demon behind every bush, demonic activity is nevertheless quite real, and always has been. The New Testament is rife with accounts of demonic activity.

What's more, the great book of Mark puts much of that demonic activity *right in the church*. So the idea that people who have no religious faith are the ones most susceptible to the activity of unclean spirits is decidedly incorrect. For example, as it's written:

Mar 1:21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

Jesus and His disciples came to Capernaum (i.e., “village of comfort”) on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, and on the Sabbath day Christ walked right into the synagogue and began teaching.

Mar 1:22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

The scribes and Pharisees who ran the synagogues were a wishy-washy bunch, “teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Mark 7:7). In other words, they taught whatever empty religious tradition fit the bill at the moment; whatever needed to be said to get the plate filled with shekels when it was passed among the congregation. That’s not too much unlike the “feel good” churchianity of these modern times that tries to pass for Christianity. Wouldn’t you agree?

Christ, on the other hand, taught God’s Word with “great authority” (i.e., “superhuman mastery,” in the original Greek). After all, He was (and is) the Living Word of God. He was the physical manifestation of God’s Word, sent to us from on high to set the record straight, fulfill the Scriptures and show us the way back home to our heavenly Father’s eternal family household.

What’s more, we learn in the above verse that the Lord’s teaching was so filled with authority it “astonished” the people. The word “astonished” is translated from the Greek word *ekplēssō* (i.e., Strong’s G-1605), which, when you break it back to its Greek root words *ek* and *plesso*, means “to strike one out of self-possession.” We have a more modern-day term that pretty much fits the bill: *It blew their minds*.

Mar 1:23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Don’t miss the fact that the possessed man was right there in church. That fact should immediately tell you that what was being taught in that church, prior to Christ’s arrival, was *nothing Biblical*. Instead, it was false doctrine and empty religious traditions of man.

After all, *true* Biblical teaching, properly taught and understood, *fills one with the Holy Spirit of God, not with evil spirits*. Evil spirits don’t like to hear the Word of God properly taught. So they tend to hang out where God’s Word is mistaught. As we’ll see in the very next verse, when God’s Word is being properly taught, it makes unclean spirits very nervous and fearful.

You see, the Word of God is *carried* by the Holy Spirit of God. You can’t obtain true understanding of God’s Word any other way. When the Word of God is properly taught, it’s carried by the Holy Spirit from the teacher’s mouth to *your inner man* – which is to say, to the very intellect of your soul. And if you embrace that truth, it *lodges* there within you, along with the Holy Spirit who brought it.

And the more truth from God’s Word that you seek out, absorb and embrace, the more the Holy Spirit lodges within you, and the stronger it becomes within you. Or perhaps better stated, the

stronger *you* become in God's Word, thanks to the in-dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and your pursuit of, and love for, God's Word. (See the study, [The Holy Spirit and You](#), for additional information on the inner workings of the Holy Spirit in Christians.)

But this man sitting in the synagogue was filled, instead, with an unclean spirit, the equivalent of what we'd call a "demon" today. Actually, as we'll see shortly, he had more than one unclean spirit residing within him. Which means the doctrine being *taught* in that synagogue was decidedly *unclean*, i.e., it was false doctrine and empty religious tradition, being carried by false spirits straight from the mouths of false teachers.

And as that false doctrine was heard by the man and he opened himself up to it, and embraced it, the false spirits that carried it eventually began to *lodge within him* and take over his body and his mind.

The term "unclean spirit," by the way, as used in the above verse, is translated from two Greek words, *akathartos* and *pneuma*, meaning, very simply, "impure breath." Now I'm not talking about something that can be cured by sucking on a breath mint. I'm talking about an unclean spirit *coming from the mouth of a false teacher* and carrying impure (i.e., false) doctrine to the congregation.

That's the *job* of a false spirit, beloved, i.e., to carry deceptive doctrine to you, from a false teacher, and to try to get you to embrace and accept it.

The false doctrine comes forth from the mouth of a false teacher and is carried by the false spirit that empowers him to the members of his congregation. That false doctrine then enters through their ears and other senses. And if they embrace it, over the course of time they can open themselves up to the unclean spirit that carried it to them.

Likewise, when a faithful teacher of God's Word teaches the truth of God's Word, the Holy Spirit from within that teacher carries that truth to you, and lodges within *you*, if and when you embrace that truth.

If you've ever been uncomfortable in church while listening to something being preached, you might well have experienced an unclean spirit coming out of a false teacher's mouth and attempting to enter you, *through your senses*, and take up residence. The uncomfortable feeling was your own spirit, combined with the protection of the Holy Spirit, being stirred up against the unclean spirit.

As it's written, there are *two* main spirits in this world today, the "spirit of truth" and the "spirit of error." St. John talks about this in his first epistle, saying, "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

This means a person who truly knows God, through His Word, can hear a good Bible teacher and recognize him as such instantly. Why? Because both the hearer and the speaker operate under the power of the Holy Spirit of God, and *Bible truth* is the common denominator in their lives.

But a person who doesn't know God through His Word, but instead is steeped in empty religious tradition, will generally not listen very long to a true Bible teacher. God's Word, properly taught, seems like a "strange thing" (i.e., foreign doctrine; Hosea 8:12) to them.

As we'll see later in this study, false teachers carry the spirit of error within them. It's what drives them to teach the falsehoods and religious traditions they teach. But when they teach, they unleash that spirit of error into their congregations. And that spirit of error carries forth the false doctrine coming from the teacher's mouth, and looks for lodging places among the congregation.

But that works both ways, folks. A man possessed by an unclean spirit will feel decidedly uncomfortable as well, when he's faced with someone who's boldly teaching the straight, unvarnished truth of God's Word, just as Christ was doing that day in the synagogue at Capernaum.

So what did this man possessed by the unclean spirit say as he interrupted Christ's teaching, with the entity inside him clearly becoming more and more uncomfortable with the truth that was coming forth from the mouth of Jesus Christ? As it's written...

Mar 1:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

First, it's important to note that the terminology in the unclean spirit's response was *plural* in nature, meaning there was more than one unclean spirit in that man. That plurality is expressed in the words "Let us alone" and "What have we to do with thee?"

This means the man had likely been attending that synagogue for a long time, and had listened to many false teachers. You see, in those days, the rabbi wasn't the only teacher. There was a point in time during every synagogue service that other learned individuals could get up and teach. That's exactly how Christ came to be teaching in that synagogue.

The problem is, when you're listening to multitudes of teachers, unless they're all firmly grounded in the Word of God, you're going to absorb a *lot* of false doctrine, empty religious tradition and just plain religious opinion with no basis in fact. In other words, you're going to be taking teaching from a lot of false spirits, because it's the false spirit that empowers the false teacher, just as the Holy Spirit empowers true teachers.

This is precisely why St. John would later admonish Christians, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1).

In other words, false prophets and false teachers *carry false spirits within them*. They're empowered to teach falsely by those false spirits. And it's the false spirit *doing the teaching* that comes forth from the false teacher's mouth. That's why a false spirit is referred to in the Greek tongue as *akathartos pneuma*, which means "unclean breath." That unclean breath (i.e., unclean spirit) comes forth from the mouth of the false teacher hoping to find lodging in *you*, beloved, should you be unwitting enough to embrace it.

So this poor old possessed man in the synagogue had apparently listened to and embraced a *lot* of false doctrine and empty religious tradition, and eventually had *allowed residence* to some of the unclean spirits carrying that false doctrine. So they began to lodge within him.

When you become comfortable with false doctrine, beloved, you become comfortable with the false spirits – the unclean breath -- that *carry* that false doctrine from the false teacher to you. And if you're not careful, that unclean spirit can take lodging *inside* of you, in place of the Holy Spirit that should be there had you been taking your teaching from a true and faithful teacher of God's Word.

So be very careful when listening to false teachers. When a preacher tells you he's "spirit filled," it's *your* job to "test the spirits" in order to make sure the man is filled with the Holy Spirit of truth and not the Satanic spirit of error.

You do that by comparing what the preacher teaches to what the Word of God actually says. If the message being taught diverges from the Scripture...if it's little more than empty tradition with no basis in the Word of God...you're quite likely listening to a spirit of error – an unclean spirit from a false teacher.

Again, St. John's warning is worth repeating in this regard: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [i.e., test] the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (I John 4:1). The bottom line is this: Test your teachers. Check them out in the Word of God and make sure that what they're teaching is actually Biblical, and not mere empty religious tradition or false doctrine. And if it's not Biblical, then find a new teacher.

It's also important to note that the false spirits lodging inside of this man instantly recognized Jesus, and knew exactly who He was, and what His authority was, as well. The false spirit said through the man, "What have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God."

In other words, the unclean spirits boldly told Christ they wanted nothing to do with Him, and asked Christ whether or not He'd come to exercise His authority to destroy them. How did the Lord answer the false spirits that had taken possession of the man right in the church?

Mar 1:25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

Jesus told the false spirits to shut up and come out of the man. And He did so with the authority He would later grant *all* faithful Christians, i.e., "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

The phrase "over all the power of the enemy" includes every false spirit, beloved. Through our faith in Christ, which is based upon our knowledge of His Word, we have power over all of the agents of the antichrist on this earth, as well as over the false spirits that lodge within them.

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

The man quite literally had a physical spasm as the false spirits cried out over their impending doom, and departed his body at Christ's command.

Mar 1:27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

How did the congregation react? They were amazed. They hadn't seen anything like it in their entire lives. They said amongst themselves, "for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him." You see, the synagogue leaders certainly couldn't throw false spirits out of people. They were too busy putting false spirits *into* people, through false teaching.

The word "amazed" in the above verse is translated from the Greek word *thambeo* (i.e., Strong's G-2284), which means "to stupefy" or "to astound." So the people were *stupefied* at what they had heard from Christ's mouth, and had subsequently witnessed with their own eyes. Again, it blew their minds. And they immediately began asking among themselves "What new doctrine is this?"

In other words, they'd probably been attending church (i.e., synagogue) for years, maybe even for their entire lives, and had simply never heard the truth properly taught. They had been thoroughly steeped in false doctrine and empty religious tradition.

But now they were hearing the truth of God's Word taught with great authority (i.e., superhuman mastery) and were witnessing the dramatic effects thereof, i.e., it even caused the unclean spirits to squirm and cry aloud out of fear.

Mar 1:28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

Yes, our Lord and Savior is a "can do" kind of man. And we're supposed to model ourselves after Him, beloved. Don't be afraid of evil spirits. They're just breaths of air that carry false doctrine looking for a place to lodge. The Lord has already given you the authority to deal with them. Just be sure to do it in His name. He showed you how in the example we just studied.

Another Interesting Scriptural Example

Would you like another example of how false spirits carry false doctrine from the mouths of false teachers?

In I Kings chapter 22, we're treated to the account of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, teaming up with Ahab, king of Israel, in order to go to war against the king of Syria over a stretch of land known as Ramothgilead.

In this account, our heavenly Father actually *wants* Jehoshaphat and Ahab to go to war against the king of Syria, so He can have Ahab – a blatant idolater -- killed in battle.

But king Jehoshaphat and king Ahab are hesitant to go to war against Syria without affirmation from God that they'll have the victory. So God, in heaven, wanting Ahab to die in that battle, and wanting to see Ahab's military forces decimated, asks His angels if any of them would volunteer to convince Ahab to go to war. As it's written:

1Ki 22:20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

God has already decreed that Ahab is going to lose the battle. In fact, God wants to make sure that Ahab doesn't back out of the proposed war. So He asks His angels in heaven "*Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead?*" And the angels of God briefly discuss the matter between themselves, giving their opinions on how to best accomplish the Lord's will in this matter.

1Ki 22:21 And there came forth **a spirit**, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.

This, of course, is one of the angels of heaven, referred to here as a "spirit," which is translated from the Hebrew word *ruach* (i.e., Strong's H-7307) meaning a "wind" or "breath." Why is the angel referred to as a spirit? Because they're in the *spiritual dimension*, and are thus clothed in their spiritual "air" bodies. They move much like the wind blowing against your skin.

This is the equivalent of that Greek word *pneuma* we studied earlier in the book of Mark, also meaning "wind" or "breath." In other words, in the New Testament, spirits are referred to as *pneuma*, and in the Old Testament they're referred to as *ruach*, with both words meaning "wind" or "breath." Why? Because that's exactly what they are.

Notice the brief back-and-forth conversation between the Lord and the spirit that takes place next:

1Ki 22:22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and **I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets**. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

The Lord asks the lying spirit how he plans to persuade Ahab to go into battle against the king of Syria. And the lying spirit says, basically, "I'll go down to earth and enter into the false prophets of Ahab and through their mouths I'll convince Ahab that he'll be successful in battle." And the Lord grants the lying spirit permission to do exactly that.

So God sent this lying spirit to the false prophets of Ahab so they'd prophesy to Ahab that he'd be *victorious* in battle, even though God has already decreed the battle would be lost and Ahab would be killed.

Yes, God practices *covert activity* when dealing with His enemies. And Ahab was definitely an enemy of God. If you're familiar with the account, you'll know that Ahab preferred the words of his 400 false prophets to the word of Micaiah, the only true prophet of God in Ahab's entire kingdom at that time. Ahab hated the prophet Micaiah, but he loved his kingdom's 400 false prophets.

What we see here is God making *absolutely sure* that His will in this matter is carried out. He wanted Ahab killed in that battle. The lying spirit He sent forth from heaven to this earth became the means to that end.

In verse 23 below, the prophet Micaiah, who, again, was the only *true* prophet of God in Ahab's entire kingdom, actually revealed God's plan to Ahab, saying:

1Ki 22:23 Now therefore, behold, **the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets,** and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

Hey, if you want to listen to false prophets instead of God's true prophet, God will *give* you false prophets by the boatloads. And if you like to have your ears tickled by lying spirits, He'll give you lying spirits to tickle your ears. You can see many of them on TV on Sunday afternoons.

In other words, lying spirits put the words into the mouths of false prophets, beloved. And they carry forth those words to the listeners. So don't be a listener of false prophets, like Ahab was.

So what happened next, after the true prophet of God, Micaiah, revealed God's plan to Ahab king of Israel?

1Ki 22:24 But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, **Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?**

A false prophet named "Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah" – probably the head prophet in Israel at that time -- claimed it was the Holy Spirit of God who had been directing him to prophesy victory in battle on behalf of Ahab and Jehoshaphat. And he sarcastically challenged the true prophet Micaiah, saying "*Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?*"

In other words, he called Micaiah a liar, even though Micaiah was the only one in the entire king's court telling the truth.

The important takeaway here is that just because someone has a "spiritual experience" and claims the Lord was talking to them, doesn't mean it was the *Holy Spirit* they were under the influence of. It could have been a *lying* spirit. Indeed, if they're false prophets, the *likelihood* is they're being influenced by lying spirits, because the Holy Spirit of God has nothing to do with false prophets.

Another important takeaway here is that you have to be intimately familiar with God's Word to know the difference between the lying spirits and the Holy Spirit. That's why St. Paul would later state, "*For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a*

babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Knowing God's Word on the "milk" level – the beginning level of baptism and salvation through Christ – doesn't give you the discernment you need in order to detect evil spirits. But knowing God's Word on the deeper spiritual level, through daily study, and *practicing* that knowledge as the true prophet Micaiah did, gives you profound spiritual discernment.

Micaiah, the true prophet and long-time servant of God in the account above, knew immediately that a false spirit was influencing the false prophets and was therefore influencing king Ahab and king Jehoshaphat as well.

To have one's senses "exercised to discern both good and evil" requires knowledge of the deeper meat of God's Word, which is to say, the truths you have to dig out through diligent study after you've become familiar with the "milk," which again, is the beginning levels of God's Word.

To make a long story short, Ahab and Jehosaphat followed the advice of the lying spirit that came forth from the mouths of the 400 false prophets of Ahab, and went to war against the king of Syria over the chunk of land known as Ramothgilead in Syria. And they *lost*. Big time.

True to God's will, Ahab was killed in that battle, and his military troops were scattered across the hillsides like sheep, running for their lives back to Israel.

So as you can see from this Old Testament account, lying spirits -- or as the New Testament calls them, "unclean spirits" (i.e., *impure breath*) -- carry forth false doctrine from the mouths of false prophets, or false teachers, in order to deceive their listeners.

That's why it's critically important that all Christians learn to discern false teachers from true. And that can only be accomplished through growing familiarity with God's Word, and through service to God as you grow in His Word and implement into your daily life what you've learned.

Again, that's why St. John would say, many years later, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [i.e., test] the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*" (I John 4:1). You test the spirits by comparing what they're saying to what God's Word says. And if they're contradicting God's Word, you know they're empowered by a spirit of error.

Demonic Activity to Continue to Grow?

It makes perfect sense that the activity of evil spirits will continue to increase on earth as the "war in heaven" begins to heat up and the time gets nearer and nearer for Satan's expulsion from heaven and subsequent arrival to this earth, which is described in Revelation chapter 12. As it's written:

Rev 12:7 And there was **war in heaven**: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Rev 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Indeed, the growing activity of unclean spirits taking place here on earth at this time could well presage the growing restlessness and resentment of Satan and his fallen angels in heaven, along with their hostile moves toward war against God.

So, first and foremost, I suspect the “as above, so below” principle is fast at work.

In other words, when Satanic activity is beginning to increase in *heaven*, it’s also beginning to increase here on *earth*. That means as we move closer and closer to the time of the outbreak of the great “war in heaven” spoken of in Revelation 12:7-12, that heavenly move toward war would also be reflected here on earth.

I’m speaking of signs of both *physical* warfare, as well as *spiritual* warfare on this earth. For example, in the physical realm [we already see the signs of the coming war against Iran described in Daniel chapter 8](#), which ushers in the four winds of the final days of this flesh earth age, (Revelation chapter 7) and ultimately brings about Satan’s arrival to this earth in his role as the false messiah, i.e., the antichrist.

That physical earthly sign of impending warfare is a good indication things are moving toward that final war in heaven, also.

And in the spiritual realm we now see increased activity from unclean spirits on this earth. It’s important to understand that Satan has his own version of the Holy Spirit, which he sends out of his mouth (i.e., Revelation 16:13) looking for people to confuse into following him. And Satan’s children, the Kenites, are also filled with unclean spirits. So are false teachers of all stripes, including false *Christian* teachers.

In other words, I’m saying that the increase in demonic activity we’re seeing on this earth at present may well be Satan’s evil spirits working overtime within religious communities to *soften up* the religious multitudes in preparation for his arrival. We’ll know this for a relative certainty if we continue to see increased reports of demonic activity among the various Christian denominations.

You see, it’s *Christians* the enemy now targets, beloved, in both the physical and spiritual realms. Think about this: In heaven Satan is not fighting against his own fallen angels, but instead, against the angels of God who submit to Christ Jesus. Likewise, here on earth, it’s *Christians* that Satan wants in his pocket. It’s Christians he conducts spiritual warfare against.

After all, he’s pretty much already got everyone else under his greasy thumb. But certainly don’t let that fact frighten you. As you learned above, it’s also Christians who have the power, through faith in Christ Jesus, to make the unclean spirits flee.

The One-Third of God's Children Who Fell

Finally, it's important to remember that the one-third of God's children who fell hook, line and proverbial sinker for Satan's deception in the first age (i.e., Revelation 12:4) *are here on this earth now* in the final days of this flesh earth age (Revelation 9:15-18).

If you're unfamiliar with this subject, and would like to see that statement documented Biblically, consider reading my recent Bible study, [The Rebellious One-Third of God's Children](#).

In that first age, one-third of God's children wholeheartedly embraced the Satanic spirit – the spirit of false doctrine and empty religious tradition. And they're just as susceptible to that same Satanic spirit now, in the final days of this flesh earth age. So this too could be a reason why we're now seeing so many reports of possession by unclean spirits, and why so many calls for exorcisms are being reported in the mainstream news.

Think about it. The one-third of God's children who fell to Satan's deception in the first age were, and still *are*, a very religious bunch. That's *why* they fell. They were not your local atheists, beloved. And they were not self-absorbed teenagers playing with Ouija boards.

Instead, they played *religion* with Satan. They listened intently to his false religious doctrine and traditions, which came forth from his defiled sanctuaries (i.e., Ezekiel 28:18). And like the demonically possessed man in the synagogue we've just studied in Mark chapter 1 above, they too embraced those religious traditions wholeheartedly, and as a direct result became imbued with the Satanic spirit. That's *why* they followed Satan and acted in outright rebellion against God in that first age.

As we learned from our examination of Mark chapter 1 (and again in our examination of the events described in I Kings 22), when false doctrines and empty religious traditions are embraced, it's the spirit of error that *carries* those traditions into the hearts and minds of the people doing the embracing. And if one is not very careful under such circumstances, the spirit of error can then take up residence within.

So the idea is not too far-fetched that the one-third of God's rebellious children who fell in the first age, and who dwell on this earth in these final days of this flesh earth age, might be well contributing to the growing spate of demonic activity on this earth today.

In some cases, members of that rebellious one-third of God's children who fell to Satan in the first age, and who reside on this earth now in the final days of this flesh earth age, might even be among today's many self-proclaimed "spirit filled" teachers who are working to imbue entire congregations of Christians with their false doctrine (in return for money, of course). This in turn places entire congregations at risk of having unclean spirits take up residence within them.

In other cases, members of that rebellious one-third who fell to Satan in the first age might themselves be being possessed by evil spirits in advance of Satan's arrival, so they'll be ready to do his bidding when he gets here. After all, people don't change very much. And the one-third

who fell to Satan's deceptive doctrine in the first age very likely still do the same today, i.e., they listen to false doctrine and empty religious tradition rather than listening to and embracing the truth from God's Word.

Regardless of the cause, activity from unclean spirits -- which is the ultimate result of the "impure breath" from the mouths of false teachers going forth to others -- appears to be increasing as we move into the final days of this flesh earth age. And Christians who know and love their Father's Word need to be prepared for more of it, though *not* scared of it. Through Christ, we have the power, beloved. Make use of that power should it ever become necessary.

In closing, let's take this discussion one step further by examining the Biblical action of anointing one's self and one's household with the oil of our Christian people (which is olive oil). As you'll see, we anoint for forgiveness of sins and healing of ills...for mercy and grace... and finally, for *protection against Satan and His little helpers and evil spirits*.

Anointing Your Body and Your Household

No Bible-based discourse on unclean spirits would be sufficient without at least a brief discussion on anointing. Biblically speaking, we are to anoint with the oil of our people, which is olive oil. And we do so as an act of faith. When we anoint, we're showing our heavenly Father that we know, understand and embrace His promises. There are basically *three* reasons for anointing, and the Scriptures spell them out clearly.

The first reason is for forgiveness of our sins and healing of our ills from God, through Christ Jesus. That's the *starting point*. We turn to Him to make us whole -- both physically and spiritually -- to the extent He wills it. The second reason is for mercy and grace from God, through Christ Jesus. Without His mercy and grace we stand exposed to the full ramifications of our sins, and will certainly suffer for it. And the third reason we anoint is for strength and protection from God, through Christ, against Satan and his helpers. Let's take a quick look at these three reasons to anoint, and the Bible verses pertaining to them.

1. Forgiveness Of Sins And Healing Of Ills

James 5:14-15 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Mar 6:12-13 And they went out, and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

So when we need forgiveness for our sins and healing of our ills, we anoint in Christ's name using the oil of our people (olive oil). Then we pray to the Father in Christ's name, admitting our sins and repenting of them while standing firm in faith that He'll forgive them. And by so doing we claim the promises of forgiveness of sins and healing of ills that are inherent in those above verses.

2. Mercy And Grace

Psalms 18:50 Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.

2 Samuel 22:51 He is the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

Beloved, if you're in Christ, you're of the "seed of David," spiritually speaking. That's because Christ Jesus *is* the seed of David, and is in fact the rightful Heir of David. And *you're* part and parcel of His many-membered body. Which means you're one of His "seed." So that promise of mercy and grace to the anointed "seed of David" is *yours* to claim, just as it was King David's to claim. It's a "for evermore" promise, beloved. So don't pass it up.

When you're in need of mercy and grace from the Lord, anoint yourself with the oil of our people and talk to Father about the issues that have brought about that need. If you're honest with Him, He'll be there for you. And when He sees your act of faith in anointing and claiming His promises with the humility and faithful certainty of King David, He'll respond to it.

3. Strength and Protection Against Satan And His Helpers

Psalms 28:8 The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

Psalms 20:6 Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

Psalms 105:14-15 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Revelation 6:5-6 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

God promises to save His anointed from spiritual troubles. He doesn't promise there won't be any spiritual troubles. Quite the contrary, He says, "*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*" (John 16:33).

So sooner or later, tribulation is a given for even the most faithful and knowledgeable of Christians. But His promise is to save his faithful servants out of that tribulation when they call upon His name for help. In other words, He intervenes on behalf of His faithful servants during times of trouble.

God's Word further states that He has ordered Satan not to "touch" His faithful servants (Psalm 105:15 above). That promise pertains prophetically to us today, as we head toward that time of

great tribulation (Matthew 24:21) that's soon to come upon this old earth, when Satan arrives with his fallen angels claiming to be the Messiah of God. Satan is commanded not to "touch" God's faithful servants at that time.

Interestingly, the word "touch" in Psalms 105:15 above is translated from the Hebrew word *naga* (i.e., Strong's H-5060), meaning literally "to lay the hand upon," but euphemistically, "to lie with a woman." In other words, it means to *couple oneself* with, or *to become very close to*.

It's translated from the same Hebrew word mother Eve used in Genesis 3:2-3 when she said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

We're not to "touch" Satan or his family tree. That means you don't *couple yourself* with them, or become close with them either physically or spiritually. And if, unlike Adam and Eve, you're obedient to God in that matter, *then He orders Satan not to "touch" you, either.*

All of which is to say, if you're knowledgeable in God's Word and are acting in faith on it, Satan can't take you down with his deception. He can't *naga* (i.e., "touch" or "couple" with you), either physically or spiritually.

But if you've been slow or inattentive enough to allow Satan or one of his little helper spirits to worm its way into your life, it's certainly high time to anoint yourself with the oil of our people and go to the Father for help, beloved.

When He sees your act of faith in anointing and turning to Him, He'll be there for you. Just be patient and stick with Him. Get your face back into His Word. Do your daily studies. It *always* works. Just do your part, as we've discussed throughout this study, and then "let patience have its perfect work" (James 1:4).

By the way, in the Revelation 6:5-6 above the "oil and the wine" that Satan is ordered to "hurt not" refers specifically to God's faithful servants in the final days of this flesh earth age. The oil represents the anointing by the Holy Spirit of God that's given to His faithful servants so they can carry forth His Gospel message with clarity and wisdom. And the wine represents those who stand firmly and faithfully in the shed blood of the Lamb while engaging in spiritual battle with Satan on this earth (Revelation 12:11).

So claim the promise inherent in that verse, whenever it becomes necessary. It's yours to claim, in faith. As you can see from Revelation 6:5-6 above, Satan is ordered by God Himself "see thou hurt not the *oil* and the *wine*." That's a direct order to Satan and to his cohorts to refrain from spiritually injuring God's faithful elect during the raging spiritual warfare that will be taking place during the final days of this flesh earth age – a warfare you're beginning to see starting now.

That doesn't mean nothing bad can ever happen to you. It just means God won't allow it to take you down. Anoint yourself with the oil of our people, claim the relevant promises and keep

moving forward in Christ. As the Scripture says, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7). You submit yourself to God when you humbly and faithfully anoint and claim His promises. Then you stand up and keep moving forward in His Word to drive the devil away.

In other words, when you feel there might be a negative spirit creeping around and causing commotion in your life, or within your family, then quietly and privately anoint yourself and claim the above-mentioned verses of promise in Christ’s name. Your heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, sees your act of faith and in turn is faithful to keep His Word, and to keep you and your family protected, as long as you stick with Him and do your part by standing your ground in faith.

Anointing the Doorposts of Your Home and of Your Mind

When faced with disruption in your life that you think might be caused by negative spirits, there are basically TWO places you want to anoint in faith with the oil of our people, i.e., olive oil. Those two places are the doorposts of your *home*, and the doorposts of your *mind*.

Let’s talk about anointing the doorposts of your home, first. Then we’ll talk about anointing the doorposts of your mind.

When the children of Israel were still in Egypt – on the night they were to leave, now known as the Passover -- God told them to slay a lamb for each household, and to anoint the top and two side doorposts of their households with the blood of the lamb (Exodus 12:3-7).

That, our heavenly Father explained, would serve as a sign to “the destroyer” -- the death angel, himself -- that he had to *pass over* that particular house (Exodus 12:12-13 and 12:23). That’s why it’s called the Passover. The death angel cannot enter into a home and harm anyone who has the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts.

Today, of course, we don’t sacrifice lambs. The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is our once-and-for-all-times sacrifice. And because His official title is “the Christ,” which means “the Anointed One,” we use olive oil – the oil of anointing – to anoint the doorposts of our home in His precious name. That anointing oil is an outward sign that we believe in the Anointed One of God – the Lamb of God Himself.

So anytime I feel that the adversary or any unclean spirit is trying to cause agitation or trouble in my life or my home, I’ll anoint my home and take the issue to God, knowing that He’s faithful to intervene. You definitely want to keep that old adversary and his little false spirits out of your home. If they try to come around, you want them to have no choice but to *pass over* and keep going, just like the death angel had to do for the children of Israel in Egypt on that very first Passover night.

Anointing the doorpost of your home with olive oil is a demonstration of your faith in God’s Word, and your knowledge of God’s Word. That physical demonstration of faith is what lets your heavenly Father know that you understand His promises to His anointed ones and that

you're perfectly willing to *act* in faith on those promises. Furthermore, this lets the *adversary* know he's messing with the wrong Christian.

When I anoint the doorpost of my home, I simply take a tiny bit of olive oil on the tip of my forefinger and make a small sign of the cross with it on the top doorpost as well as the two side posts, just as the children of Israel were instructed to do with the Lamb's blood that night in Egypt (Exodus 12:7). Nothing ostentatious. It's not a big religious ritual. And I'm not trying to let the neighborhood know. It's none of their business. It's just between me and my household, and my heavenly Father.

And it's *His power* I'm calling on, in Jesus Christ's name, when I anoint and claim His promises of forgiveness of sins, healing of ills, mercy and grace, and protection against Satan and his little helpers.

I always do this anointing in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit (i.e., in the name of YHVH, Yahshua Messiah and the Holy Ruach). And I always claim His basic promises of the anointing when I anoint. What's more, if the situation calls for it, *I address Satan directly and order him away from my home*. So as I'm anointing my doorpost, I might start by saying something like this:

" I anoint this home in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And I do so, Father, in claim of your promise of forgiveness of my sins and healing of my ills...in claim of your mercy and grace...in claim of your protection against Satan and his helpers... and in great thanks in Christ's name for all of these promised blessings. "

Tying the physical act of anointing the doorpost of your property to the specific promises Father has given to you as one of His anointed ones, shows Him that you *know, embrace, believe in and love* His Word. That act of faith on His Word pleases Him very much.

And when I'm anointing the doorposts of my home, if I suspect there's a problem with a spiritual adversary being present, or if I believe there's been an attempt to spiritually penetrate my property or negatively influence my family, then I don't hesitate for an instant to take the authority Christ gives all Christians. After anointing and praying to Father in claim of His promises of anointing, I simply address Satan as follows:

*"Satan, in the name of Jesus Christ I command you to get thee hence. You're to leave these premises immediately, and return to my heavenly Father NOW. I command all other negative entities to **PASS OVER** this property and **KEEP GOING**. You have no place on or near this property. Hitchhikers, do not set foot on this property. You're to remain outside of the property boundaries, and then leave with whoever brought you. This is a Christian property and you're not allowed here."*

By way of explanation, a "hitchhiker" is my terminology for an evil spirit that might attempt to enter your property surreptitiously by hitching a ride on (or *in*), a visitor to your property, such as a repairman, a lawn maintenance person, a family friend, a sales person, etc. By ordering

Satan's little hitchhikers from entering my property, I'm then covered from any concern over visitors who might otherwise unwittingly bring evil spirits in with them.

And by the way, when you anoint and claim His promises of forgiveness of sins, healing of ills, mercy and grace, and protection against Satan and his helpers, say it *in your own words*, and don't make a big ritual out of it. Our heavenly Father is very intelligent, and will understand you. He loves hearing from you. So go to Him in prayer and talk to Him like you'd talk to your earthly Father whenever you're in need.

Simply tell Him you need His help, then anoint and claim His promises of that help. Then thank Him for His goodness towards you and your family. It's really that simple. There's no need to over-complicate it or ritualize it.

You certainly don't need to complete a course in exorcism to deal with these kinds of issues. This should be basic Christianity 101. But unfortunately, you'll rarely hear this message taught in the churches, in spite of its immense importance to all Christians. You just need to know your heavenly Father's Word, and claim it and act on it in the name of Jesus Christ, and you're golden, so to speak. Okay?

Anointing The Doorpost of Your Mind

We've discussed anointing the doorposts of your home when you're in need of Father's help or otherwise suspect there might be a negative spirit attempting to influence you or your family. Now let's talk about anointing the doorpost of your mind, which is to say, anointing your *forehead and temples* with the oil of our Christian people.

Your mind *houses* your beliefs and understanding – particularly your understanding of your heavenly Father's Word. Therefore, the adversary wants very much to be able to penetrate your mind – the storehouse of your knowledge -- with his wiles, in order to disrupt your knowledge of His Word with false religion, church tradition, or even with inordinate attention to the cares of this world.

So whenever I feel the need to anoint myself personally – for example, if I'm sick with an illness, or if I'm feeling overly-anxious, or if I come to believe an outside force might be trying to oppress me – I'll go to the Father in prayer and, using the tip of my forefinger I'll anoint my forehead and both temples in Christ's name using a very tiny amount of olive oil, while saying basically the same thing I'd say if I were anointing my home:

"I anoint myself in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. And I anoint in claim of your promises of forgiveness of my sins and healing of my ills... in claim of your mercy and grace... and in claim of your protection against Satan and his helpers. I give thanks in Christ's name for each of these blessings."

Then, as with anointing my household, I'll also order Satan and his little helpers back to my heavenly Father, in Jesus' name. *"Get thee hence, Satan, in the name of Jesus Christ. You are commanded to return to my Father now!"*

Again, say it in your own words. Use the authority Christ has given you. Demonstrate to Him that you believe it. It doesn't have to be anything formal. In fact, if I've already anointed the doorposts of my home and claimed those promises, and have already ordered Satan off my property, and I also decide to anoint the doorposts of my mind at that time, then as I'm anointing my forehead I'll simply say, "So anointed, in Jesus' name." In other words, I'm just letting Father know that the same promises I just claimed in regards to anointing my home, I'm also claiming in regards to the anointing of my forehead.

Does that make sense? Again, it's not a formal issue, nor should you ever allow it to become a ritualistic thing. You're just letting your heavenly Father know that you love and understand His Word, and are smart enough to claim His promises and to act upon those promises when the situation calls for it. By tying the physical act of anointing the doorposts of your home and/or the doorposts of your mind to your Father's promises to His Christian people, you show Him that you know His Word, believe in it, love it and put your faith in its promises. Again, that pleases Him very much.

By the way, once you've anointed the doorposts of your mind, there's no need for anointing inanimate physical objects in your home through which information flows, such as your radio, TV, telephone, computer, etc. I've seen Christians get carried away and do so. And that's fine, I suppose. But it's completely unnecessary, and maybe a *little* bit immature. Why? Because the MIND is where the information from such outside sources enters in at. There's really no need to anoint these inanimate objects, once you've anointed the doorpost of your mind and ordered Satan not to cross that threshold.

And if you're ever in a public situation in which you know or even suspect an adversary is present and is causing a problem, then being one of God's anointed you can simply say under your breath, "*Get thee hence, Satan, return to my heavenly Father NOW! You're commanded in the name of Jesus Christ!*" Exercise your authority in Christ's name. Your heavenly Father hears you, even if you're in a position where you can't say it out loud. And He acts on your faithful exercise of the authority He's given you. As it's written:

Luk 10:19 -- Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luk 10:20 -- Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Finally, don't forget that the anointing oil has no power in and of itself. After all, it's just olive oil. It's your *act of faith* in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit that brings YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S POWER to bear on the situation, through the Holy Spirit of Christ.

This is true whether you're using the oil of our people to anoint the doorposts of your home, or the doorposts of your mind. It's also true if you're simply ordering an adversary out of the way in a situation that calls for it.

Just remember there's not a demon behind every bush. It's not always the activity of unclean spirits causing commotion. So don't make a big ritual out of it, or start acting like a crazy person yelling "Get thee hence" at people. It's just not necessary. And frankly, it can make a mockery of your Christian faith if you're not careful and mature.

So be a mature Christian. Use the power and authority only when it's clearly called for. Take it to Father quietly if necessary, and He'll deal with it. Again, His Word says, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7). That's a promise, beloved. Claim it as you act on it, and watch God step in on your behalf through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Ultimate Anointing

Finally, always remember that the oil of anointing is just a tool. A very good tool. And a very *Biblical* tool, as well. But just a tool, nevertheless. Anointing constitutes a show of faith in God's Word, on your part, that brings to bear the power of the Holy Spirit of God in your life.

So use the tool when it becomes necessary. But always remember that the power you truly want to be anointed with *at all times* is your heavenly Father's WORD. That's where His Holy Spirit resides, i.e., within His Word. His Word and His Holy Spirit are ONE. The more you absorb His Word of truth through study, the more your heavenly Father's Holy Spirit begins to dwell within you, for the Word and the Spirit are one and the same. (See the study, [The Holy Spirit and You](#).)

Gaining continual knowledge and understanding of His Word, through study, is the ultimate "anointing" and the ultimate protection against the unclean spirits of this world. Keep in mind that most of them come from the mouths of false teachers. But they can't "touch" (i.e., *couple with*) you – physically or spiritually -- when you're filled with the Word of God, because by extension that means you're filled with the Holy Spirit of God. And when you're filled with the Holy Spirit of God there's just not room for any other spirit but your own.

The oil of anointing merely *represents* the power of the Holy Spirit of God, which drives away all evil. It's an *outward* representation demonstrating that you know God's written promises to His anointed ones, and that you have the faith to claim them and to act upon them whenever the situation might call for it.

But through your disciplined study of His Word you absorb your heavenly Father's Holy Spirit each day, which is why Christ taught His disciples this simple but all-important principle, "Give us this day, our daily Bread."

It's also why Christ taught the following very important principle, regarding what happens after you order an evil spirit out of a person in His name:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

This is why you order the evil spirit, in Christ's name, to *return to the Father*. Our heavenly Father is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29) for those who work against Him. And when you order an unclean spirit to return to the Father in heaven, you're in essence sending that spirit into Father's presence, where it will be burnt up in an instant. It's a death sentence for the unclean spirit. Failure to order an evil spirit back to Father results in the following...

Mat 12:44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

When an unclean spirit is forced to leave a person, that person is cleansed on the inside. But the unclean spirit leaves behind a spiritual *void* inside the person in which he was dwelling. And that spiritual void needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit, or the evil spirit can eventually return, finding a nice clean residence to move back into.

That's why, if the unclean spirit has not been ordered to return to the Father, and if the individual who had the unclean spirit in the first place did not follow up in humbleness and thanksgiving to the Father by studying His Word and thereby partaking of His Holy Spirit in order to fill the spiritual void, then the following can happen:

Mat 12:45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. **Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

In other words, if the unclean spirit is cast out of a man but not sent back to the Father for judgment and punishment, that spirit will then turn to strength in numbers. It will bring seven additional spirits "more wicked than himself," and re-inhabit the individual, leaving him in worse shape than if the unclean spirit had never been cast out in the first place.

Christ states in Matthew 12:45 above that this, by analogy, is what the final generation of this flesh age will be like, i.e., *seven times more wicked...seven times more possessed by unclean spirits...than previous generations.*

Why?

Because the people of this final generation continue to fill themselves with false doctrine and empty church traditions rather than filling themselves with God's Word. So instead of being able to enjoy the peace and protection of the in-dwelling of the His Holy Spirit, they allow themselves to be constantly pummeled with false doctrine carried by unclean spirits, and thereby open themselves up to potential possession by unclean spirits, much like the man in the synagogue we read of at the beginning of this study.

The Word is the best anointing ever, beloved. Jesus is the Living Word. All of the rest of what we've learned in this study -- such as anointing the doorpost of your home and the doorpost of your mind with the oil of our Christian people -- is done IN CLAIM OF HIS WORD, which brings its power to bear in our lives.

In Conclusion

To sum up, it's not lack of "faith in religion" that's causing today's growing epidemic of activity from unclean spirits. Otherwise, why would so many people of various religions – including major denominations of Christianity -- be having so much trouble with unclean spirits?

No. The real problem is false religion. It's misplaced faith by the Christian multitudes in the false teachings and false religious traditions that come from the lips of false teachers. Faith in false doctrine *estranges you from the power of the Holy Spirit of God, and exposes you to potential activity from the unclean spirits that carry the unclean doctrine.*

On the other hand, faith in the truth of God's Word, which can only be achieved through disciplined study, fills you with the knowledge of God. And because God's Word is carried to you by the Holy Spirit, it fills you with the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit as you study and learn. And wherever the Holy Spirit in-dwells, no unclean spirit dare attempt to tread for long.

Why? Again, it's because you have been given the authority (Luke 10:19-20) to send them back to the Father for judgment. And that's a death sentence for them.

A Good Audio Taped Study

If you're further interested in the subject of demons and possession by unclean spirits, allow me to recommend Pastor Arnold Murray's tape Bible study, *Demons*, which is available on CD from The Shepherd's Chapel (phone: **1-800-643-4645**; \$5.00). It provides an excellent Biblical introduction to the subject. It's tape #30412 for those who might be interested. Highly recommended.

-- End --

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