

GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL PROTECTION OF HIS CHILDREN AND CREATION.

1. God's restraint on evil in the World.

Paul informs us in 2Thes.2v7., that God continually restrains the activities of the powers of darkness in the world, and His merciful goodness protects even the unbeliever from their malice. We read in Amos.9v7., that God delivered the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir. We also read in 2Kings.6v1., that God gave victory to Syria through Naaman. God sends His rain on the just and the unjust, and is kind, good and merciful, even to the evil, unjust and ungrateful. Mt.5v45. Luke.6v35,36. The inhabitants at Lystra had unclean lives and were idol worshippers, but Paul tells them that God had been very kind and good to them in spite of all their sin; "The living God, did not neglect to leave some witness of Himself, in that He did you good and showed kindly acts, and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness." Acts.14v14-17. God has winked at and ignored the former ages of man's disobedience, but now commands all men to repent. Acts.17v30.

God's ceaseless care and devoted love for His Creation fills the angels with continual amazement and worship. The Seraphim forever extol, praise and worship God for His incredible and continual caring dedicated holiness and love towards His creation. Is.6v1-5. Rev.4v8-11. God restrains Satan until the last 3½ years of this age, the time known as, "The Great Tribulation." Even those days are shortened by God to protect mankind from Satan's plan to destroy the whole of mankind. 2Thes.2v7. Rev.12v12. Dan.8v24. 12v1-7. Mt.24v21,22. This explosion of evil and destruction is allowed, in order to show what Satan and his angels are like; and to show the justice and necessity of their eternal judgement, and confinement in everlasting chains of darkness, after the destruction of their bodies in the lake of fire. 2Pet.2v4,17. Jude.v13. Mt.25v41,46. Rev.19v20. 20v10. The horrific carnage on earth produced by this awful manifestation of evil, produces a shocked silence in all the inhabitants of the heavenly kingdom. Rev.8v1. The happiness of the eternal "ages of ages" in the kingdom of God; depends on everyone in that kingdom, not only loving righteousness, but also hating evil with all their being. This manifestation of evil produces an eternal hatred of evil in the children of God; and permanently banishes it from the Creation.

2. God's restraint on Satan's activities against Old Testament saints.

God has always given special protection for the children of God. God's saints rejoiced again and again over the wisdom, and protecting power and love of God; He is a sure refuge and shield from Satan and his demons. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut.33v27. "But Thou, O Lord art a shield for me; my glory and the lifter up of my head." Ps.3v3. "Thou art my hiding place, thou shalt preserve me from trouble." Ps.32v1. "Thou art my hiding place and my shield." Ps.119v14. "He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Ps.91v1. These are but a few of many such Scriptures; let us rejoice in the reality of these exceeding great and precious promises, they "are Yea, and Amen, in Christ." 2Pet.1v4. 2Cor.1v18-22.

At Bethel, the reality of God's total and dedicated caring love and protection was revealed to Jacob; he saw a continual stream of angels coming to minister to him, and returning for more directions from their Lord, for Jacob's well-being. Gen.28v11-19. The Scriptures reveal that God's children have, not just one guardian angel, but multitudes of guardian angels. 2Kings.6v15-18. Children also have many angels, which are devoted to their care. Mt.18v10. "The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge," was the joyful cry of the psalmist, and it is our joy too. Ps.46v7,11. Heb.1v14. Satan bitterly complained to God about the hedge of divine love and power that protected Job, and "ALL THAT HE HATH," from his malice. Job.1v10. In 1Pet.1v4,5., we are assured that God guards and protects His New Testament children of God, in the same way as His great servant Job. Don't allow the powers of darkness to harass us; they should be trembling in fear at what our Father will do to them. Put on God's armour and resist the powers of darkness and they will flee from you. Jam.2v19. 4v7. Eph.6v10-20. In Christ we are always sure of victory, for God has called us to triumph not defeat. 2Cor.2v14. The powers of darkness know they are defeated and Hell awaits them. Mt.8v29. Lk.8v31. Rev.12v12.

3. New Testament sons of God are guarded by God and His Legal Decrees.

God, as Judge, Creator, and Redeemer, has made and proclaimed His legal decrees, and has enforced them with His power and judgements. The powers of darkness tremble at His decrees. James.2v19. Woe to those evil spirits, or men, who try to defy the decrees of the King of Heaven, or oppose His saints; many have tried, and as a result, are in chains of everlasting darkness. Dan.4v17-23. 2Pet.2v4. Jude.v6,13. These decrees are: -

a. The invincible legal covenant barrier of Christ's atoning blood.

There is the legal covenant decree and defence of redemption through the blood of Christ. Satan has no hold, or claim, on those who are redeemed through the blood of Christ; for the blood of the covenant includes protection as well as forgiveness. The blood of the Passover lamb preserved Israel, how much more does the blood of Jesus protect the New Covenant children of God, as we read in Rev.12v11., "And they overcame him (Satan), by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony." Rev.12v11.

b. The legal barrier of identification with Christ's death in baptism.

Baptism in water is God's way of accepting God's covenant. Our old life is buried with Jesus in baptism, and we

rise to walk in newness of life, not in fear of demons, or of being possessed by them. Rom.6v3,4. Our heavenly Father erects an invincible wall of protection around us, and cuts us off from former evil and occult connections. 1Pet.1v4,5.

c. The legal barrier of adoption as sons and the new birth.

Christians have a God-protected sonship. The Father loves us like Jesus, and He wants the world to know it; and Jesus loves us as the Father loves Him. Jn.17v23. 15v9. 13v34. Jesus said that His enemies committed blasphemy when they said that He was possessed by evil spirits. Mk.3v28-30. Is it not blasphemy to say that God will break His covenant with us, and allow Christians, who are loved just like Jesus, to be possessed by demons? God keeps His covenant, and He assures His children of His continual protecting presence.

N.B.1. Peter assures us of God's complete and continuous protection in 1Pet.1v4,5..

God has always given special protection to His children; believers in Jesus, "are always kept, protected and guarded by the power of God through faith." The word for, "are always kept" is "phrouroumenous," the present passive participle of "phroureo," a military term, Acts.9v24. 2Cor.v32., meaning, "to guard or garrison," from "phrouros," "a sentinel." Vincent says, "**The present participle indicates something in progress, a continuous process of protection.**" Peter assures us that the heirs of God's heavenly kingdom are guarded as securely as our heavenly inheritance. When Peter tells us in 1Pet.1v4., that our heavenly inheritance is "**reserved**" for us, he uses "teteremenen," the perfect passive participle of "tereo;" which signifies, "taking care of and keeping by guarding." Our Lord uses the same word, "tereo," in Jn.17v11., when He prays and asks the Father to guard His disciples. He asks the Father, "**keep** in Thy Name those whom Thou hast given me;" "keep" is "tereson," the aorist active imperative of "tereo." Again, in Jn.17v12., our Lord said, "I kept them in Thy Name;" "I kept," is "eteroun," the imperfect active of "tereo;" "I constantly kept and guarded them." Also in v12, "Those whom thou gavest me I guarded;" "guarded" is "ephulaza," the aorist active of "phulasso;" Christ was their "phulax," their sentinel and guard, and He is still our sentinel and guard; He ever lives to protect us, and intercede for us. Heb.7v25.

Jesus said that no thieves or robbers could attack our heavenly inheritance; and He assures us that the heirs of the heavenly kingdom are as securely guarded by God as their heavenly inheritance. Mt.6v19-21. Col.1v5. Jesus guarantees that no demonic thieves and robbers can harm the heirs of that kingdom; He promises, "Nothing shall by any means hurt you." Lk.10v19. **God cares more for the heirs of the kingdom of Heaven, than He does for the fabric of that kingdom. Heaven and earth may pass away, but His love for us will never pass away.** God's beloved children are assured of their heavenly Father's care and protection. In 1Pet.1v5., Peter assures us that Christians are protected and enveloped, "en dunamei theou," "IN the power of God." See Phil.4v7., where "phrouresei," "shall garrison," the future active indicative of "phroureo," is used for the peace of God guarding our hearts. The peace of God can guard our hearts in every situation, because the power of God envelops and preserves us.

N.B. 2. John assures us that Satan cannot grasp a born-again child of God.

John writes in 1John.5v18., "We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and **the Wicked One does not touch him.**" "Does not touch him," is "hapto," which means to lay hold of or to grasp rather than a momentary touch, which is "thiggano. John only uses "hapto," here in 1Jn.5v18., and in Jn.20v17., where Jesus asks Mary to "cease holding and clinging to me." There was no prohibition against Mary touching or holding the Lord, for in Mt.28v9. the women took hold of our Lord's feet and worshipped Him. Mary was filled with joy at finding our Lord risen and alive, and did not want Him to go away; our Lord said that He could not stay because He had to ascend to the Father.

We can say with absolute certainty, that the Wicked One cannot possess a Christian. This is God's sure promise to us, for in 1Jn.5v18., John said that the Wicked One cannot lay hold of, or grasp a child of God. In 1John.5v18., John states that truly regenerated Christians do not live an evil life, or keep on being dominated by continual sin. John is not speaking of an act of sin, which would be indicated by the aorist tense; but the continuous life of sin, which is indicated by the linear present tense of "hamartano," "to sin." We have victory over sin through the new birth, and the law of the spirit of life in Christ frees us from the law of sin and death. Rom.8v1-3. We are to keep ourselves in the love of God, and Christ's devoted and continuous intercession for us, is a glorious and wonderful fact. Jude.v21. James.1v27. Heb.4v12-16. 7v25. Ps.121v3,4.

N.B. 3. God's children are the apple of His eye.

In Zech.2v8., the prophet says, "He that touches you, touches the apple of His eye;" and Deut.32v9,10., tells us, "The Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is His inheritance;---He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye." What was true of God's Old Covenant saints, is certainly true of God's New Covenant saints. Demons believe in God and tremble, none of them would dare to hit God in the eye, and demons that attack Christians are in real danger. Many demons are in the abyss because they tried to harm God's dear children.

4. The Holy Spirit is an abiding eternal protection for the Christian. 1Pet.1v4,5.

The Holy Spirit has come "to abide with us for ever," and as, "He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world;" it is impossible for Christians to be possessed by demons as long as they keep their faith in Jesus, and don't fall away from God. Jn.14v16. 1Jn.4v4. Lk.8v13. Mt.24v12,13. 2Thes.2v1-3. Heb.6v1-8. 10v26,27. We

are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise; the word for seal in Eph.1v13,14., is "sphragizo," (see Eph.4v30. and 2Cor.1v22.). In Paul's time a seal was used as both a sign of ownership and a guarantee. God the Father puts His seal of ownership upon us and by the Holy Spirit's abiding presence, warns the powers of darkness that we belong to Him. Eph.1v13,14. Indeed, evil spirits are in great danger when they try to attack God's children, for the Holy Spirit does not just passively protect us; He actively sends to Hades the powers of darkness that attack us. His presence makes us quite immune to demon possession.

The Holy Spirit also protects Christians who have not been baptised in the Holy Spirit; for His protection is there, whether He is "with us," or "in us." Jn.14v17. We have a good Heavenly Father who protects and defends His children, and only gives them the Holy Spirit and good gifts. Lk.11v9-13. God our Father guarantees that through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit we cannot get serpents, scorpions or stones. This protection springs from the "much more" love of God for us. In Jn.17v23. Jesus tells us that the Father loves Christians just as He loves Him. Our heavenly Father would no more allow a demon to enter His dearly beloved children, than He would allow a demon to enter His dearly beloved Son, our dear Lord Jesus.

The powers of darkness fear Christians who know their position and security in Christ; because God's presence with us makes us a very definite threat and danger to them. In James.4v7., "submit" is the aorist passive imperative of "hupotasso," a military term meaning, "to place or range under;" as we array ourselves under God and resist the Devil; God is with us, and His awesome might causes Satan to flee. In verse 7., "resist," "antistete," is the aorist active imperative of "anthistemi," "to take a stand against," as we take a stand with God against Satan, Satan flees from us.

5. All Christians have legal protection and authority in the Name of Jesus.

We have authority and dominion over demons in the name of Jesus.

In Luke.10v19., Jesus definitely states, "Behold, I give unto you the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Jesus used a very strong triple negative when He said, "Nothing you, in no way shall hurt. It is difficult to adequately convey the strength of our Lord's words in English, unless we express it as, "Not one thing, in no way, shall not hurt you," God assures us, that at the point of conflict with evil angels, God will protect us and there will be no hurt to us.

The seventy were not mature Christians, for in Lk.10v21. our Lord calls them "none-speaking babes," or, "little children" ("neepios"). The revelation of this power and authority had been hidden from the wise and prudent and given to babes, because it was good in the eyes of our heavenly Father. They were given authority over ALL the power of the enemy, and the powers of darkness were terrified at their coming. The seventy returned with joyful surprise that demons were subject to them in the name of Jesus. The demon that resisted the sons of Sceva, knew they had no authority to use the name of Jesus because they were not born-again Christians, and ripped their clothes off and caused them to flee. Acts.19v13-16. How different from the promise to babes in Christ, that they can even cause Satan to flee in the name of Jesus. Lk.10v19. James.2v19. 4v5-7. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and are safe." Prov.18v10. **Every knee must bow to the name of Jesus and recognise its authority; Phil.2v9-11. Rom.14v11,12., both quoted from Is.45v23.**

In Mt.10v1. we see that God's amazing love gave full delegated authority, "exousia;" and power, "dunamis;" to the apostles, even though our Lord also describes them as "little children" in Mt.11v25,26.. These Christian babes had authority over all the power of the Devil in the name of the Lord Jesus. The source of this authority is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, as John tells us in 1Jn.4v4., "He that is in us, is greater than he that is in the world." **Dare anyone suggest that a Christian is not proof against demon possession when we are protected by the Name and precious blood of Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit is within us?**

BEWARE! THE DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIAN EXORCISM IS NOT OF GOD.

N.B. There is not one case of Christians being exorcised in the New Testament.

Peter was not exorcised after his denial of Jesus, nor was the Corinthian man who committed incest, or the other Corinthians who were living bad lives. This so-called Christian exorcism results in defilement by demons, not deliverance from demons. The truth is that Christians are not being exorcised, they are acting as mediums for demons that are outside of them. The doctrine that Christians can be demon possessed and need exorcism is not of God. Some of these points will be repeated to drive home the truth that God always protects Christians, and that we, therefore, can not be possessed by demons.

1. It is a false teaching that denies vital New Testament truth.

Jesus warns us to beware of false prophets who are wolves in sheep's clothing, and instructs us to test the doctrine of all preachers and prophets by their fruits and by the Scriptures. Mt.7v15-29. Acts.17v10-12. Is.8v20. The fruits of this false exorcism are clearly seen. It attacks and denies our heavenly Father's protecting love and power. **It limits and denies the cleansing, delivering and protecting power of Christ's precious blood.** It denies the Holy Spirit's cleansing and regenerative energies at the new birth, and His protective love and power after that new birth. Titus.3v5. This is, indeed, evil fruit. This false exorcism actually gives place to the Devil in

the name of deliverance; it denies the fact that the death of Christ has completely destroyed Satan's authority and power over Christians. Heb.2v14,15. Rev.12v9-11.

It is a striking fact that even though the heathen world was given over to gross immorality and occult practices and the other evil works of the flesh, only a small number were demon possessed, because of the protecting mercy and goodness of God, and His restraint on the powers of darkness. 2Thes.2v7. Lk.6v35

2. Christians who sinned and failed very badly did not become demon possessed.

The New Testament has not one case of a Christian being exorcised, and has no teaching that they should be exorcised, not even if they had failed or sinned very badly.

a. Peter' denial.

For hours Peter vehemently denied that he knew Jesus; he invoked the most terrible curses upon himself, and swore with the strongest and most sacred oaths, that he did not know Jesus. Lk.22v59. The present tense in Mt.26v74. shows the continuous nature of his denial. Our Lord warned Peter of this failure and assured him of His pardon and welcome after his repentance. There was no suggestion of Peter being demon possessed, or of him needing exorcism. Lk.22v31-34,60-62. God never allowed the curses that Peter put upon himself to come to pass. This shows how wrong a current false doctrine is, that Christians can curse themselves or others by careless talk. God's children cannot be cursed, Num.23v23., our past is buried with Christ in baptism, and we rise to walk in newness of life. Rom.6v4. A person's past, and the sins of the fathers, are cancelled when people repent and love God. Deut.5v9,10. Ez.18v1,2,19-21. Christ's precious blood has broken Satan's power over us, and has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, and every curse. Gal.3v13,14.

b. The Corinthians.

Paul never suggested that exorcism was necessary for the Corinthian Christians who were living such bad lives. 1Cor.5v1 to 6v20. Paul said that they needed to repent and to subdue the old nature and he commended them for it when they did so. 2Cor.7v7-13. Paul told them that the Lord had disciplined them by sickness and death for their bad living, so that they might not be condemned with the world. Paul encourages the Corinthians to follow the example of his own personal self-discipline of his body; he suggests self-discipline not exorcism. 1Cor.11v29-32. 9v24-27. The worst case of sin in the Corinthian Church was the case of the man who committed incest with his father's wife. Paul did not give a hint that this sinful man was possessed and needed exorcism: indeed, Paul makes it clear that Satan had no rights over the man until the Church handed him over to Satan for the destruction of his body. Even then Satan's activities were limited to physical sickness. Repentance caused mercy to be shown and judgement to be withdrawn from this sinful man, and he was welcomed back into the fellowship of the Church. 2Cor.2v6-11. 7v7-12. The cure for his sin was not exorcism, but discipline by spiritual power and exclusion from the Church fellowship. 1Cor.5v1-5. 2Cor.2v4-11. Jn.20v22,23. If no exorcism was needed for the Corinthian Christians, then no exorcism is needed for any Christian.

3. These "exorcists" often confuse the works of the flesh with demon possession.

Paul writes about conflict with evil spirits that are OUTSIDE of Christians; but NEVER mentions exorcism of Christians. Yet these "exorcists" concentrate their efforts on Christians. Eph.6v10-20. They confuse the works of the flesh with demon possession and try to cast them out. Paul warns us that the flesh continually opposes the spirit and can't be cast out; and he tells us that we can and must "crucify," "mortify," and "put off," these works of the flesh by walking in the Spirit. Gal.5v16-26. Col.3v5,8-14. Rom.8v1-4. 1Cor.9v24-27. Repentance and sanctification is the divine cure for the carnal appetites, not exorcism, which brings despair and disillusionment. When "exorcism" of the sins of the flesh fails, as it surely must, for you cannot cast out the flesh; people lose hope and suffer severe spiritual damage. It is a fact that many Christians, who have been supposedly "exorcised," have had suffered such serious psychological problems, that they have had to receive medical help. This is a demonic parody of genuine New Testament exorcism.

4. This false exorcism is a total distortion of spiritual warfare and spiritual realities.

This false exorcism fails to discern and recognise Satanic energisings and fiery darts. Eph.2v1-3. 6v16. God's armour is a complete protection for the Christian. Eph.6v10-20. 2Cor.10v4,5. We have mighty spiritual weapons from God that fill demons with fear and terror. James.4v6,7. We can quench all Satan's fiery darts with the shield of faith. Paul clearly states in all his writings on spiritual warfare, that evil spirits can only attack Christians from outside their body and personality. Paul does not give the slightest suggestion that demons can possess a Christian; he states that the conflict is with Satan's fiery darts from outside, not from possession within.

These, and many other Scriptures, totally destroy the credibility of the doctrine that Christians can be possessed by demons. This false exorcism opens Christians to Satan's fiery darts; it has no basis in Scripture, and it hinders true spiritual growth, spiritual warfare and genuine revival.

5. God has ALWAYS protected His children, but Israel had forsaken God and lost His protection.

The reason why people in Israel had become demon possessed, like the demon possessed man in the synagogue in Mk1v23., was because a large part of Israel had forsaken God and so our Lord called them, "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Mt.10v6. Jesus said they were a wicked and adulterous generation, and were filled with the worst kind of evil ("poneros"). Mt.12v31-45. N.B. v34,39,45. Most of Israel were not born-again, even on an Old

Testament basis. This is why both John Baptist and Christ preached the absolute necessity of repentance before remission of sins could take place. Mk.1v4,5,14,15. Mt.3v1-6. Lk.3v3-9. Rom.9v6. Israel's apostasy from God was the reason why some Israelites had become demon possessed; and Christ warned the Jews that even worse possession and more horrific satanically inspired calamities awaited the nation as a result of the rejection of His ministry. Mt.12v43-45.

Christ's broken-hearted weeping, in Lk.19v41-44., shows that Israel's future anguish and suffering was not His desire or His doing, but a result of Satan's malice. The nation had rejected the light that had been given to them through the Old Testament prophets and the Scriptures, and had filled up the measure of their fathers by their rejection of Christ's ministry. Christ said that they were in danger of committing the unforgivable sin, when they ascribed the wonderful works of the Holy Spirit through Him, to the Devil. Mt.11v20-24. 12v31,32. 23v13-39. Mk.3v28-30. Those who say that evil spirits can possess God's beloved children are also committing a very serious sin. It is a Satan-inspired attack on our security in Christ. Jesus tells us that He loves us as the Father loves Him, and the Father loves us as He loves Him. Jn.15v9. 17v23. In 1Pet.1v4,5., Peter uses "phrouroumenous," the present passive participle of "phroureo," "to guard," to assure us that God's beloved children are ALWAYS GUARDED by God's continuous protective presence and power. Demons tremble and flee from the protecting presence of God with a Christian. Jam.2v19. Resist Satan and his demons and they will FLEE from you. James.4v5-17. 2v19. You are the apple of God's eye; woe betide any demon who tries to attack you. Deut.32v10. Zech.2v8. Ps.17v8.

6. Why do some Christians act as if they are possessed, when they are not?

Because of the power of suggestion and submission to leadership. Christians often submit to, and co-operate with, someone who they recognise as a spiritual leader, and because they look upon their spiritual leaders authority and discernment as derived from God, they obey them without question. They sacrifice their own beliefs, judgement and discernment with the words, "He is a man of God, he must be right." So they wriggle on the floor and vomit to order. Paul warns us, "to scrutinise and test all things until you can approve them, retaining only what is good." 1Thes.5v21. There is nothing good about these unscriptural exorcisms.

These false exorcists ask Christians to speak out the thoughts that demons put into their minds, and when they do so, it is looked upon as a proof of demon possession. Evil spirits must rejoice in the havoc they cause when Christians give them authority to act in this way. Jesus had His mind filled with evil thoughts for 40 days by Satan in the wilderness, **but JESUS WOULD NOT ACCEPT OR REPEAT THE LIES THAT SATAN PUT INTO HIS MIND, AND NEITHER SHOULD WE. Jesus fought Satan with God's Word, and so must we. WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW DEMONS TO PROGRAMME US WITH THEIR WORDS AND THOUGHTS;** for if we speak out the words and thoughts of demons, then we are defiled by those demons. We must reject demonic thoughts and bring them captive to Christ. 2Cor.10v4,5.

N.B. This false exorcism causes Christians to act as mediums.

God forbids His children to act as mediums, yet this is exactly what this false exorcism does; it actually invites demons, which are OUTSIDE of Christians, to manifest their thoughts and blasphemies through Christians. Lev.19v31. 20v7,27. Deut.18v10-22. Is.8v18-20. **When Christians are asked the question "What is your name?" They are being TRAINED, to a give demonic response. The result is defilement by demons; not deliverance from demons.**

LET US BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE WHY THE EXORCISM OF CHRISTIANS IS NOT OF GOD.

WHY DO CHRISTIANS PRACTICE THIS UNSCRIPTURAL EXORCISM?

1. Because they desire to prove that they have a ministry and power from God.
2. Because some have a genuine desire to help people with their problems, and are deceived into thinking that exorcism of Christians is the answer.

N.B. Among those who believe in the exorcism of Christians, the amount they practice varies greatly.

Some, who practice this supposed exorcism of Christians, are good people with loving hearts and with genuine gifts and blessing from God in other areas of their ministries. They definitely help people in other ways, in spite of their wrong emphasis on exorcism, because they are motivated by genuine love. However, others are dominated by ignorance and pride, and are so obsessed with demons, that they practice the routine exorcism of all Christians. However, whether it is practised rarely or regularly, this false exorcism often produces severe spiritual and psychological damage, and has resulted in people being hospitalised in mental institutions. This heavy over-emphasis upon demons has become even more dangerous than the previous ignorance about the subject.

3. Because they imitate preachers that they respect, and do not test what they preach and practice by the Scriptures. People think, as I did in my earlier years, that Christian leaders of long-standing and good character must be right, and we imitate them and accept their teaching. I, thankfully, like my pastor, never believed that Christians could be demon possessed.

4. Because they desire to demonstrate God's power over Satan, and are deceived into thinking that this is the way to prove it. They do not realise they are, in reality, opening the door to Satan.
5. Because they confuse the works of the flesh with demon possession.
6. Because they confuse sickness and genuine soul travail with demon possession.

WHY DO CHRISTIANS ACT AS IF THEY ARE POSSESSED WHEN THEY ARE NOT?

1. Because of undue respect for a preacher, and submission to their power of suggestion.
2. Because they are persuaded by unscriptural exposition that they need exorcism.
3. Because they are wrongly persuaded that their works of the flesh are demon possession.
4. Because they confuse their Holy Spirit inspired soul travail with demon possession.
5. Because they lack the Scriptural truth and discernment to know this exorcism is not of God.

THE DANGEROUS RESULTS OF BELIEF IN CHRISTIAN DEMON POSSESSION.

1. It breaks God's command that we should not act as mediums for demons.
2. It replaces Christian certainties with total uncertainty. It creates fear where there should be joy at God's protective love. It seriously worsens a sense of failure and domination by evil. I have seen it produce severe mental and psychological damage to God's dear children.
3. It replaces the correct operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit with unscriptural routines.
4. It is a total distortion of spiritual warfare and spiritual realities.
5. It fails to cure the real problems of Christians, such as carnality and the need for self-control.
6. It makes Christians surrender their total security in Jesus. It denies our redemption through the blood of Jesus, and the indwelling presence and protection of the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION.

We are a "new creation," and have been translated out of Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of God. 2Cor.5v17,18. Col.1v12-14. We ALL have CHRIST IN US. Col.1v27. The Holy Spirit has come to abide with us FOR EVER. Jn.14v16,17. **WE ARE GOD'S TEMPLE; GOD WILL NOT ALLOW DEMONS TO LIVE IN HIS TEMPLE.** 1Cor.6v19,20. 2Cor.6v16. Reject this false doctrine that you can be possessed by demons; for by it Satan is seeking to depress and damage your souls. Mt.12v25,26. It is spiritually destructive, depressing, evil and unscriptural for Christians to sit in meetings, looking at each other to see what demons they have. What dreadful fellowship! This replaces God's sweet Christian fellowship, with demonically inspired pain and fear. Reject such evil theology. Esteem other Christians as better than yourself, and look for Christ's image in them, not demons. 2Cor.3v18. Phil.2v1-3.

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