

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE POSSESSED BY DEMONS?

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

There are four levels of demonic influences and those who receive them are called "demonized" that is, influenced, only at the fourth level the most serious one comes the complete possession of the person.

1st level - oppression

2nd level - obsession

3rd level - bond

4th level - possession

The first two levels operate in the mind in order to control the person and enslave him. The third level operates both in the mind through emotional or spiritual ties and in the body with evidence of infirmity or disease. The fourth level can only reach a person who is mentally unstable and who lives with perseverance in sin, or who practices magic, divination, spiritualism, etc. It can also include a believer who is in a state of irreversibility of salvation, rebellion, apostasy. This level causes the person to be under the full control of the evil spirit that dwells by making him take on a new personality, which leads him to do evil things and when he wants to get rid of them leads him to suicide.

Nowhere is it written in the Bible that a true believer, born again and a child of God can be possessed by a demon or demons.

Lk 11:13-29 "If you, therefore, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Jesus was casting out a demon who was mute;

and, when the devil had gone out, the mute spoke and the crowd was amazed. But some of them said, "It is by the help of Beelzebub, prince of demons, that he casts out demons." Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is ruined, and house collapses on house. If, then, Satan is also divided against himself, how can he govern his kingdom? For you say that it is by Beelzebub's help that I cast out demons. And if I cast out demons with the help of Beelzebub, with whose help do your children cast them out? Therefore, they themselves will be your judges. But if it is **with the finger of God that I cast out demons**, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When the strong, well-armed man looks at the entrance to his house, what he possesses is safe; but when one stronger than himself comes and overcomes him, he takes away all the armor in which he trusted, and divides the spoils. He who is not with me is against me; and he who does not gather with me scatters. "When the unclean spirit comes out of **a man**, it wanders through dry places, seeking rest; and, finding none, he says, "I will return to my house, from which I have come out"; and, when he gets there, he finds it swept and adorned. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits worse than himself, and they come to inhabit it; and that man's last condition becomes worse than the first." As the people crowded around him, he began to say, "**This generation is an evil generation**; she asks for a sign but no sign will be given to her, except the sign of Jonah.

Mt 12:34,43-45 "**You brood of vipers**, how can you speak good things when you are wicked? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. "When the unclean spirit comes out of **a man**, it wanders through arid places seeking rest and finds none. Then he says, "I will return to my house from whence I came"; and when he gets there, he finds it empty, swept and adorned. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits worse than himself, who, having entered, take up their abode there; and that man's last condition becomes worse than the first. So it will also be with this **wicked generation**."

In both passages we see that Jesus spoke of a man possessed by an unclean spirit and of a wicked generation, in the context he spoke to the hypocritical Pharisees called the brood of vipers as John the Baptist called them, certainly not he spoke to his disciples. Furthermore, it must be said that a man who has not received salvation, does not have the protection of the blood of Jesus and does not even have the Holy Spirit within him, so he can be mentally influenced or even unconsciously possessed and manipulated to do whatever the demon wants without the individual realizing it, And if he does something wrong, the demon erases his memory and does not make him remember what he did, just as it happens when you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. While the children of God who have the Holy Spirit cannot be possessed or influenced, but the enemy can bring thoughts of his own to their minds to fall into sin, but if they bind and reject these thoughts they do not commit evil or sin. Some examples of oppressed, obsessed, tied-down, and possessed non-believers or apostates:

Oppression

1Sa 16:14 "The spirit of the Lord had withdrawn from Saul; and an evil spirit, permitted by the Lord, troubled him.

Mt 15:22 "And behold, a Canaanite woman came from that neighbourhood and cried out, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is terribly tormented by a demon!'"

Mt 17:15,18 said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic and in great pain; he often falls into fire and also into water. Jesus then rebuked the demon, who came out of him; and from that moment the child was healed.

Obsession (vices of any kind, drugs, alcohol, gambling, fraud, prostitution, masturbation, perversion, etc.)

Lk 8:2-3 and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone

out, Joanna, wife of Herod's steward, Cuza, Susanna, and many others, who supported him with their goods.

Bond (affective: illicit relationships or spiritual: approaching the occult world)

Lk 13:15-16 "Then the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you untie his ox or his donkey from the manger on the Sabbath to lead it to drink? Should not she then be loosed from this bond, on the Sabbath, she who is the daughter of Abraham and whom Satan had bound for eighteen years?'"

Possession (Full Control and split personality)

Mr 1:23-26 "Now there was a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an unclean spirit, and he cried out, saying, 'What is there between us and you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.'" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him." And the unclean spirit, tearing him to pieces and uttering a great cry, went out of him.

Mr 5:2 And as Jesus got out of the boat, immediately there came to meet him from the tombs a man possessed by an unclean spirit.

Ac 16:16 On our way to the place of prayer, we met a servant girl who was possessed by a spirit of divination. By being a fortune teller, she brought a lot of profit to her masters.

Only the Holy Spirit dwells in God's children

Eph 1:7 "In him we have redemption through his blood, forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace."

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Jn 7:37-39 On the last day, the most solemn day of the feast, Jesus stood and exclaimed, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from his bosom." He said this of the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Eph 1:13-14 "In him you also, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, you received the seal of the Holy Spirit which was promised, which is a pledge of our inheritance until the full redemption of those whom God has purchased for the praise of his glory.

The children of God cast out demons.

Mt 10:1 "Then he called his twelve disciples to him, and gave them power to cast out unclean spirits, and to heal every disease and every infirmity.

Lk 9:1-2 "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal diseases. And he sent them forth to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Lk 10:1,17-20 "After these things, the Lord appointed seventy other disciples and sent them out two by two before him to every city and place where he himself was about to go. And the seventy returned full of joy, saying, "Lord, even demons are subject to us in your name." And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you power to walk upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing shall harm you. However, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Acts 8:5-7 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ there. And the unanimous crowds paid attention to the things Philip said, listening to him and observing the miracles he performed. For unclean spirits came out of many demon-possessed people, uttering loud cries; and many paralyzed and lame were healed.

Eph 6:12-18 For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of this world of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness, which are in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and stand after you have done all your duty. Stand firm, therefore: take the truth for the girdle of your loins; put on the breastplate of justice; put the zeal given by the Gospel of peace as footwear on your feet; take in addition to all this the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; pray at all times, through the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication; watch for this purpose with all perseverance. Pray for all the saints.

An exceptional case could be considered as an itinerant exorcist is called today

Mr 9:38 Then John spoke to him, saying, Teacher, we have seen a man who does not follow us cast out demons in your name, and we have forbidden him to do so, because he does not follow us. But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one can do a mighty work in my name, and immediately afterwards speak evil of me. For he who is not against us is for us.

In conclusion we can say that only those who are not believers or declare themselves believers but in reality they are not because they have not had a true conversion of heart but only a mental conversion, are those who can become prey to demons and make it the temple of satan as it is written the world lies under the power of the evil one, not so for the children of God where the Kingdom of God is present.

If we too want to follow the example of the apostles and work in liberation and healing, we ask God for the continuous filling of the Holy Spirit as they did, who were first regenerated at Jesus' return and then filled twice

more by the Holy Spirit, and continuously. Always remembering prayer and fasting when required.

Jn 20:21 "Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all gathered together with one mind in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a rushing wind blowing, and filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues appeared to them as of fire, and they parted, and they came to rest on each one of them. So they were all filled with the Spirit and began to speak in tongues, according to what the Spirit gave to express themselves.

Acts 4:29-31 "And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness, stretching out your hand to heal and to perform signs and wonders in the name of your holy Son Jesus." And after they had prayed, the place where they were gathered trembled, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and preached the word of God with boldness.

Eph 5:18 "And do not be drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.