

Biblical Theology

U2L19: Satan and Demons Part 2

Activities of Satan and Demons

- 1. Demons oppose God and attempt to destroy every work of God.**
 - Temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:1-6)
 - Regularly us tactics of lying and deception (John 8:44; Revelation 12:9)
 - Have an agenda of death and destruction (Psalm 106:37; John 8:44)
 - Blind unbelievers to Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - Bring about bondage (Galatians 4:8)
 - Biblically tied to temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, affliction, envy, pride, slander...
 - Satan tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

- 2. Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power.**
 - Satan is opposite but not equal power.
 - Satan is only able to do what God allows (Job 1:12; 2:6)
 - Kept in eternal chains (Jude 6)
 - Can be resisted by authority of Christ (James 4:7)
 - No indication abilities to read man's thoughts or tell future (Daniel 2:10-11; 1 Peter 1:12)
 - Millennium bound for a thousand years (Rev 20:1-3)
 - Final Judgment – everlasting judgment in lake of fire (Revelation 20:10)

- 3. Demons have been active all throughout history.**
 - Old Testament - Demonic activity tied to false gods.
 - *Deuteronomy 32:16-17 - They sacrificed to demons that were no gods,*
 - *Psalm 106:35-37 - sacrificed their sons and daughters to the demons*
 - Ministry of Jesus - Game Changer (Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 12:28-29)
 - *Mark 1:27 - "What is this? A new teaching with authority!"*
 - New Covenant Age
 - Christ gave followers authority over demons.(Matthew 10:8; Mark 3:15)
 - Believers in Acts had powers over devil (Acts 8:7; 16:18)

Our Relationship to Demons

- 1. Demons are active in the world today.**
 - Nothing in scriptures indicate that demonic activity has ever ceased.

- 2. Demons can have strong influences on human beings.**
 - Biblically tied to temptation (Matthew 5:13), false teaching (1 Timothy 4:1), confusion (2 Corinthians 4:4), affliction (Eph 6:12), envy (James 3:14-16), pride (James 3:14-16), bondage (Galatians 4:8), physical and psychological illness.
 - Affliction from Satan is part of human condition even for believers.
 - *Ephesians 4:26-27 - and give no opportunity to the devil.*
 - *James 4:7 - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
 - *Ephesians 6:10-18 - stand against the schemes of the devil.*
 - *2 Corinthians 12:7 - a messenger of Satan to harass me*
 - Demon possession is possible but is rare.
 - Ghosts / Hauntings – No scriptural support.

- 3. Christians must be prepared to recognize demonic influences.**
 - Not all evil, sin, illness is from Satan and demons, but some is.
 - How to recognize demonic influences:
 - 1 - Struggle of individual is displaying bizarre behavior that is destructive physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually
 - 2 - Blatant resistance to Gospel
 - 3 - Blatant false teachings
 - 4 - Subjective sense of evil spirits due to discernment

- How do we know we're going overboard?
 - When we tie every sin to demons.
 - Much sin already in the heart of man. (Psalm 51:5)
 - When we tie every illness to demons.
 - Jesus healed without casting out demons (Matthew 4:24; 8:5-13; 9:20)
 - When we tie every hindrance to demons.
 - Apostles in Acts encountered intense resistance as they ministered and did not tie every hindrance to demonic activity.

4. Jesus gives believers authority to resist and rebuke demons.

- Jesus has given us a power over evil.
 - *Luke 9:1 - gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,*
 - *Luke 10:17 - "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"*
 - *Luke 10:19 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents*
 - *James 4:7 - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
 - *1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful.*
 - *Ephesians 6:10-18 - stand against the schemes of the devil.*
- Christ's death on the cross is ultimate basis for our authority over demons
 - *Hebrews 2:14 - through death he might destroy ...the devil,*
 - *Colossians 2:14-15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities*
 - *Revelation 12:11 - And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb*

5. Discretion and discernment should be exercised when engaging in spiritual confrontation.

- 1 - Do not frighten individuals who may be struggling from demonic affliction.
 - Pattern of scripture in rebuking evil is not overly emotional or drawn out.
- 2 - Ultimate concern is individual being afflicted, not evil spirit.
- 3 - Do not become overly curious in area of demonic affliction.
- 4 - When dealing with unbeliever, call to repentance and salvation should follow casting out of demon.
- 5 - Casting out does not always work.
 - Sometimes tied to our own spiritual condition.
- 6 - Ultimate objective is power of Gospel and glorification of Christ.
 - When it does work, rejoicing should center around salvation, not momentary victory over evil spirit. (Luke 10:20)
 - Pattern of scripture casting out demons is tied to furthering Gospel message.

Discussion Questions

1. How have the last few weeks changed your view on angelic and demonic activity?
2. Do you feel fear at the prospect of encountering demonic activity in your own life or the lives of others around you? What does the Bible say that will specifically address that feeling of fear? Do you think that the Lord wants you to feel that fear?
3. Are there any areas of sin in your own life now that might give a foothold to some demonic activity? If so, what would the Lord have you do with respect to that sin?
4. Do you give appropriate attention to demonic activity in the world around you or even in your own life? Do you typically give it too much attention or not enough? What could you do to change this?

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 21: The Creation of Man and Chapter 22: Male and Female.