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These are strange times in which we live. All around us, there is a mysterious rebirth of interest in the supernatural.

In two recent issues of Newsweek, which is not exactly a religious journal, articles spoke loudly of the prevailing spiritual climate.

One story told how forest rangers in Arizona's Coconino National Forest are baffled by the up to 5,000 New Agers converging each month on the 2.8 million acre preserve to rearrange rocks into "medicine wheels" of up to 200 feet in diameter. These rock piles serve as prayer focal points in the forest at a cosmic "vortex (or energy-release point)," according to reporters Charles Leerhsen and Jeanne Gordon.

They write that U.S. foresters say New Agers are "lousing up the landscape and that employees are tired of returning the rocks" up to twenty times a week to the places where ancient glaciers left them.
However, as soon as rangers get the last boulder back, it seems, "a gaggle of sweetly smiling visitors hauls them out again, joyful in the knowledge that rebuilding a wheel increases its power" (Newsweek Vol. CXVII, No. 32).

Rangers have given up dismantling the largest lava wheel at a red rock shelf called Schnebly Rock, "hoping that the New Age pilgrims will gravitate there and stay out of the rest of the forest."

Then, two weeks later, journalist Gordon and two other reporters cited Grateful Dead rock music group drummer Mickey Hart, author of Drumming at the Edge of Magic, in an article illustrated by a photo of a group of men dancing and playing drums. The caption reads: "The quickest doorway to the spirit world."

It tells how that "in many aboriginal cultures even today, a man without a drum is like a man without a voice" (Newsweek Vol. CXVII, No. 34).

That article tells how that in such places as Emeryville, California, men gather on Wednesday nights to rediscover the "ancient, primal art of drumming," which they say is helping emasculated modem men. According to the article, "percussion, like perspiration, is a major unifying and celebratory ritual, a link to man's primitive, vital, pagan past."

Many such men bring their own favorite drum. Novices are given a Brazilian ganza cylinder filled with "something like seeds that makes a pleasant whooshing
noise." The article described a session in which "thirty or forty men line the room now; they dance, they chant, they invoke the Spirit of Deep Masculinity, the West African god they call Hepwa ..."

He becomes very real to them.
They feel his presence.
They go home, exulting in their encounter.
These are strange times.
The supernatural is back.

THE EDITORS
In agony, the woman spewed out words that were not hers. An ugly foam appeared on her lips. Deep within her dark, Spanish eyes, I saw confusion, pain, and terror.

"I'm a serpent," hissed the voice coming from her throat. "I like people who obey men. This world is full of hatred. The power of their hatred. That power is my strength."

In the many years that I have preached the truth of Jesus Christ, first as a missionary, then from my church in South Bend, Indiana, I had never heard anything more horribly real.

Mrs. Susana Carillo and her fourteen-year-old daughter, Maria, had traveled from their home in Las Cruces, New Mexico, to South Bend asking me to pray for Mrs. Carillo's deliverance.

They told how a great evil had oppressed her for
thirty years. Terrible confusion and torment had driven her into madness at times--causing her to be sent to a New Mexico asylum-hospital for the insane.

The evil thing had caused her to foam at the mouth constantly -like a rabid dog. It made her afraid to eat unless she was alone. It had prohibited her from traveling - except by train and only if she could lie down with her eyes covered so she could not see the other travelers' faces.

At times, it turned her into a frightened, hiding shadow in her own home - huddling in terror from friends who knocked at the door.

Then, Susana met Christians who told her things of which she had never heard - Jesus' love and forgiveness and His plan for her life. As they prayed with her, the great evil thing within her had spoken aloud--frightening her and them. It denounced her new Christian friends, ridiculing their faith and accusing them of serving Satan.

Were they evil? A devout Catholic all her life, Susana did not want to have anything to do with Satan or his servants. She searched her feelings: were these evangelistic, friendly believers real ... or sent to destroy her?

Speaking again, the evil thing within her threatened to kill Susana and little Maria. The shy child told me that witchcraft was a common thing in their area. Her mother's torment had begun thirty years before when
Susana had rejected the love of a vengeful young suitor. In his anger, he had paid a witch to cast a spell upon her.

For thirty years, Susana had gone to spiritualist healers, native fortunetellers, and rural witch-women, seeking relief from the vicious presence that tormented her. But their amulets and rituals had only added to her agony.

In South Bend, Susana wept as she pleaded for our help.

I explained to her that I have no power--that the members of my church would merely do what the Bible tells all believers to do to banish a demonic entity wreaking havoc in someone's life.

I turned on a tape recorder as members of our congregation gathered around to pray for Mrs. Carillo's release from Satan's evil hold. I still have that recording. It is a horrible thing to hear, but I play it from time to time.

It testifies of the great power that our mighty Creator gives to you and me.

We do have authority over the darkness that tortures our world. Through the power of God's Son, Jesus Christ, we need not endure the horrible attacks of the unseen demon beings that hate humans so.

We are protected.

I told Susana that as the final days of the world unfold around us, we are all facing new and stronger...
assaults. But here is the good news. *Through Jesus Christ, we have power over evil.*

The assault on unsuspecting mankind is growing in strength. Look all around us--at our world's strange, new fascination with anything dark and unholy.

It's not just the resurgence of demonic religions in Mexico or the glorification of Satan in American rock music. No, Saturday morning cartoons now teach our own children that magic incantations indeed work wonderfully--and that secret mystical friends will help them deal with their problems.

Provocative adventure comic books prove to imaginative adolescents that sorcery and the dark arts are very real, exciting, and effective. Television lets us play with our fears, delighting our senses with the great power of darkness. Video games let us wield supernatural power against anything that opposes us.

Blockbuster movies revel in the idea that the dead can return to patch up their mistakes. Award-winning films delightedly tutor us in the powers of ancient, demonic gods who once ruled the pagan earth--and tickle our curiosity in wise aliens who will soon come to earth with all the answers to Earth's problems.

Why is this happening?

It's all been foretold for centuries.

In recent years some Christians have been proclaiming that a rebirth in the old paganism is just around the corner.
EXORCISM: The Reality of Evil ... and Your Power Over It!

Now it's happening--and more quickly than any of us imagined.

It's more than just a fad.

Satan is making his final attack--with the same stealth, power, and intelligence of America's Desert Storm war with Iraq.

Satan has been getting ready for decades.
Why? He hates humans.

Why? Because we are God's great delight. You see, magnificent reward far beyond our wildest imagination is awarded those of us who are Christians--those of us who follow the plan God gives us for our lives.

Those who obey Him on earth daily benefit from His provision and protection here. If we will seek Him, we are welcomed into intimate, personal fellowship, one-on-one with the very Creator of the universe. Our Father cares for us with patient, attentive affection. He rescues us constantly. We are his beloved children.

He readily forgives us when we ask.

And each of us will enjoy His wondrous presence for ever and ever--for all eternity--in heaven.

But Satan does not enjoy that love anymore.

He has been banished from the life-giving joys of heaven's nourishing praise and worship of Almighty God. He is no longer a participant. He is not welcomed when he comes to present his complaints against humans before the throne of God.

If that's not bad enough, his lot is about to get much
worse. In everlasting hell, Satan will never again have the attention of the Almighty. All that awaits him is unending pain, utter humiliation, and an unsurpassed darkness that is difficult to comprehend. You see, the face of Satan's mighty Creator will forever be turned away from him. Today, Satan at least has access to God. He is not ignored. The Bible tells how he delights in making accusations against you and me before the Most High.

Soon he won't even be allowed to do that. Satan will be cast out--banished forever--never to return to the glorious presence of his Creator.

Satan has not been to hell yet.

Perhaps you didn't know that. But his deadline is Looming—imminent—and final. And that's what this sudden surge in demonic activity is all about.

Satan doesn't know when Jesus will return. Nor do we, but when God decides to draw time to an end, it will all be over. The signs are plain that the end of time is near—and that's the reason mankind is experiencing the brunt of Satan's violently intensifying rage.

Satan, all his demons and human servants as well as their deceived victims will be banished, cast into unending torture for all of eternity. They'll be hurled into a sulphurous abyss where their torment will never end and the peace of death will never come.

Today as you read this, Satan is enraged, afraid of this inevitable, nearing doom.
Consumed with foreboding and dread, unsure of how much time is left, he is intent on one last savage blast of vengeance and seduction.

His impending humiliation and banishment are his own fault--and he knows it. Once, as the great Archangel Lucifer, Satan attempted to overthrow his Creator--our God who made everything that exists, including the angels.

The Lord had given Lucifer great rank. But the archangel wanted more than just command of one third of all heaven. He yearned for more than just constant access to Almighty God. He lusted for much more than just his great God-given responsibility for the beautiful music, praises, and mighty worship that reverberate throughout heaven.

Instead, Lucifer wanted to reign. Some people believe he was jealous of Jesus--which might explain why in several of the terrible cults that Satan has instigated, Lucifer is considered Jesus' brother. Yes, that is being taught today by Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

In any case, he wanted to overthrow God.

Of course, he failed, but it took a terrible war in heaven to drive him out. Before it was all over, the Bible indicates that a rebellious third of all the angels had been driven out as well. Today Satan and they infest the air, the land, the sea--as they await hell's eternal damnation, never dying, never to see God again. As time draws to a close, they are growing in their anger.
and lust for revenge. This is their final chance to hurt God by defiling His favorite creation - you and me.

And our kids.

Satan has vowed to deceive as many of us as he can, and seduce us into everlasting torture with him.

That is why Susana Carillo was under attack—as well as fourteen-year-old Maria. That is why there is such a revival of the occult- and why demons and the supernatural and satanic evil are talked about so much today--and not just in church. No, in our public schools, social welfare offices, and government health departments, officials are attending courses on battling satanism.

Yes! They are paying hundreds of dollars to attend seminars on how to deal with this very real problem.

Their is not a religious interest. No, instead, they are baffled and frustrated by the widespread damage done to so many adolescent minds lured into violent sexual abuse, schizophrenia, sociopathic murder, and ritual sacrifices.

Suicidal fantasies and deep paranoia are daily realities to secular officials who deal with disturbed teens. Rock music has filled the kids with a fearful fascination with Lucifer. The banishment of prayer in the schools has given these youngsters no other power to which to turn for help.

Daily hours of TV and occult music seduce them with the excitement and power of the darkness. Movies
tutor them in a sinister world of ancient evil seemingly once forgotten:

- Babylonian gods taking possession of even the heroines in *Ghostbusters*, and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*,
- Canaanite deities flaring to life in the *Conan the Barbarian* and *He-Man* genre of films—as well as:
- The absolute lie in *Dances with Wolves*, *Crocodile Dundee* and *The Emerald Forest* that primitive spirit-worship has effective applications for us today.

Amid this assault, your children and you and I are encountering real evil—perhaps for the first time. All of humanity is being seduced by it, lied to, attacked, oppressed, badgered, and eventually defeated—unless we know how to fight back in the only true power available to us: The might and majesty of our great and loving God. He alone is more powerful than Satan. We are not.

That is what I had to tell Mrs. Carillo as she pleaded with me to help.

"You've traveled a long way to get healing haven't you?" I asked her as I stood with her before my congregation. "You've done everything you know to do, haven't you? We believe that God has given us a church that sets people free. The Bible says and Jesus says, 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against my church.' So God has given us a church full of people here who are glad that you have come."
We talked about how our Almighty God will give us His power if we ask for it. It is ours to wield.

However, we must remember that the power is God's, never ours. "Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world," proclaims the promise of 1 John 4:4 that we all have quoted in Sunday school.

In God's power, great protection is ours. Mighty angels surround us. Wondrous joy fills us with the peace and rest that Mrs. Carillo so desperately wanted.

As our chapel filled with prayerful intercession for Mrs. Carillo's deliverance, the tape recorder caught every sound.

I prayed with the fifty-one-year-old widow.

The first reaction was terrifying.

Her tongue vibrated like that of a serpent.

Then the evil being within her began to speak. I want you to understand something very important. We are never to summon such evil entities just to talk with them. First of all, they are liars, intent only on winning us to their side--through fear, deception or seduction.

Second, they hate Jesus Christ and will say anything that will make you doubt Him or your faith or the hope of your eternal salvation--which they know is completely denied to them. They want you to burn with them. *Forever.*

Third, the Bible speaks very sternly against seeking information from demons and spirits. So, again, I stress that we must never ask details of the future,
listen to their versions of spiritual matters, or even accept their claims. Communing with spirits is so completely forbidden to us that the Bible ranks it right up there with murder.

But we are given authority to cast the evil out. So, in the power of the Lord, I commanded the evil thing within Mrs. Carillo to leave.

But it resisted.

It answered me back over and over.

"You're a spirit of anger," I told it. "Spirit of anger, I break your power in the name of Jesus Christ. I break your power. You that rove through the air with no place to live, I command you to go back to your habitation. Go back to your habitation. This woman, who should bless others and help others, must be set free."

My prayer continued: "Mrs. Carillo must be set free now in the name of Jesus Christ the Son of God. She must be set free now. She must be cleansed. I break all the tentacles that bind. I break all the roots away that bind. Now I pull you out of there. I pull you out of there by the blood of Jesus.

"Come out! Obey me this minute. Loose your power! Let her go free! By the blood of Jesus, let go over her soul and let her be free."

Then, we all heard an evil voice coming out of Mrs. Carillo's mouth. "I am Lucifer," answered the evil thing. "I am Lucifer. I am the spirit of the devil. Yes, you know it, and I know it, too."
Surprised, but doubting that it was actually Lucifer himself, "Do you know who I am?" I asked the thing.
"Yes, I do. You're a man. You're a man. You're a Mr. Sumrall."
"What's my relationship with God?"
"I don't believe your relationship with Him," hissed the demon voice within Susana.
"It doesn't matter whether you believe in my relationship with Jesus," I retorted. "God has sent me to set this woman free. God has sent me to cast you out. I bind you. Come out of there! I am His child and His servant. Come out of her! I command you to come out."
"We're many."
"I don't care."
"We're many sex spirits in her, too. Yes. Mama, Mama."
"You unclean spirits!" I ordered. "You immoral spirits, come out! Come out of her now! In Jesus' name."
"We are many, we are many, we are many. Don't speak to me. You speak to her, not me. Let me, let me be still."
At that point, Mrs. Carillo began to scream shrilly--in great torment. I began to grow angry with the demon.
"Come out of her!" I commanded.
Mrs. Carillo continued to scream.
"Come out of her! Come out of her! In Jesus' name, come out. Let the river of Jesus Christ's blood come and
cleanse her in Jesus' name. Come out, foul demons."
   "We are many, still we are many. We are of sex and perversions, tormenting. We are many."
   "How many of you have already come out?"
   "By the hundreds. We will return, we will return to her body when she's asleep, we'll return."
   "You're a liar," I told the thing. "You cannot return."
   "We have all these years. We return and we return."
   "How many of you are gone out?"
   "I wouldn't want to tell you. You don't have to know. You don't have to know. You. You. You!"
   "How many are left?" I demanded. "Many have gone. They cannot come back. Now the master must go."
   "Lucifer."
   "Lucifer must go!" I thundered in the power of God.
   "I will return."
   "You will not return," I proclaimed. "Susana will resist you and fight you, and you will not return."
   "I am a demon. I attack her mind, her mind. My power, my power."
   "Come out of her now!" I shouted. "By the blood of Jesus--by the blood of Jesus!"
   "It's no use. I'm not coming out."
   "Yes, you are," I told it. "You're coming out."
   "I won't do it. No. See, see, I'm not coming out. I'm still strong in power. I'll show it to you--my power."
   "You know you're going to go," I said. "I can see it. You are going to leave and never return."
"You [obscenity]," whined the thing. "Leave me alone. Leave me alone. The asylum. Many people are waiting there for her. Men."

"If you are so powerful, you should not have let her come up here," I told the thing. "But you don't really have any power, do you?"

"I don't want to speak," hedged the demon. "Didn't you know she was coming up here to be delivered?"

"I don't want to speak," repeated the evil being. "When she was on the train, didn't you know she was coming up here to be prayed for?" I sneered at the thing. "Were you deceived--and didn't know anything about it? That shows that you don't have the strength or knowledge you claim to have. You are a liar."

"No, you are a liar," spat the demonic spirit at me.
"I'm not a liar. I belong to Jesus, and Jesus is truth."
"You don't belong to Him," hissed the demon.
"I belong to Jesus," I proclaimed.
"I'm mad with you," whispered the spirit. "I don't want to speak. I don't want to speak!"

I continued to command all the spirits to leave. By late that evening, Mrs. Carillo was feeling enormous relief, but it was obvious that more remained.

So, we recessed for the night.

The next morning, Mrs. Carillo returned with all sorts of good reports. It was obvious that there were still problems. For one thing, there was still the uncon-
trollable drooling from her mouth—which made her look like a fool, which she certainly was not.

Proudly, she reported that she had enjoyed a chicken dinner with Maria after church—after thirty years of never eating in anyone's presence. I turned on the tape recorder and asked how she had spent the night.

"Well, I had a good night's rest last night. I slept better," she said. "It was less during the night. It was less this morning."

"Why would it be less?" I asked her.

"Less... because the manifestation of their hatred... was less," said Mrs. Carillo haltingly.

"Has this spirit ever met so many strong people as these people who are here?" I asked her.

"Oh, no sir, I don't think so," she said, dabbing at her mouth with a small towel she always carried.

"What is that stuff that comes out of your mouth?" I asked her.

"Foam."

"It's not spittle, is it? It's not like spit, is it? It doesn't really come from your mouth, it comes from the stomach. It doesn't dissolve like spittle, does it? It's not like spittle at all."

"No."

"How long have you been spitting that kind of stuff?"

"For years now, for many years."

"When do you spit it most? When that thing is upset?"
"Yes, and different nights when I pray real hard to God and call on the name of Jesus. Then, I spit a lot."

"I see. When you're normal like this, you want to be free from that thing with all your heart, don't you? But it overpowers you and then, of course, you cannot help yourself."

"I cannot control myself. I have never been able to be with people. Never, never, in all these many years. Never. He tells me to stay shut up in a room."

"That is the reason he wanted you to hold something over your face when you were on the train."

"I always wore a veil or a hat to cover my face--especially my nose and eyes. And I was never able to go to the stores or to walk in the street, or enjoy myself, or visit the neighbors. I couldn't stand the presence of the neighbors. When the neighbors would walk into the house I couldn't visit with them. They knew I couldn't. They knew I felt very bad, and they would just walk out of the house because they could understand that I was suffering a lot, and they were very considerate. They said that they understood, too, that it was a spell of witchcraft."

"How old were you when you married?"

"I was twenty-eight years old."

"So this thing had already been in you over ten years before you were married. Why would that man marry you? Didn't he know there was something wrong with you?"
"Well, yes, he did. But he said he loved me enough to marry me, even though I was sick. I was sick in body, just like any other sickness. It all started in the heart, bothering me with shortness of breath, and stomach trouble, and pains all over my body, and they thought it was rheumatism."

"You said this devil has said that he is going to kill you?" I asked her.

"Yes," Mrs. Carillo answered.

"Do you know why he keeps telling you that?"

"I believe it is because the Lord is going to use me in a great way," she said softly.

"I'll tell you why he tells you he is going to kill you," I told her. "Because he likes to see your fear. You see, he's a liar. He can't kill you. The devil can't kill humans. He can't do it. So he's lying. If he could get you to kill yourself, then he would claim to have done it. The devil is a liar. He is not going to kill you. Has he also said he's going to kill your daughter?"

"Oh, yes, and he even has tried to. As you know, the devil uses me to beat her, Brother Sumrall."

"That is the only thing he could ever do against her. She has received great blessing from God here also. We believe that from this time, right now, that this phenomenon is going to cease, and this demon of hatred against her must leave. The devil thinks that because he's been there so long, he has a right to be there. But he has no rights anywhere. He is a lying spirit. All
devils are liars. There is not an honest devil in the whole universe. There is not an honest evil spirit. You can't believe anything they say because they are liars."

"I want you to believe that today is the end of his hurting you," I told her. "We have come to the end of it."

She smiled her thankful agreement.

"God wanted these people to see this thing and now they have," I told her. "Not only is this going to bless you and your daughter, but it is going to bless this church."

I asked Mrs. Carillo to follow me in prayer to give thanks for her deliverance.

"Thank you, Lord," she prayed. "I am free from the devil's power. I will resist him. I will fight him. In Jesus' name, by His blood He will keep me every day of my life until I see Jesus. Hallelujah."

"Amen!" I proclaimed. "Hallelujah! Praise God! Well, you can be happy as you go home. But there are two things you need.

"First, you need complete deliverance for these evil spirits to be ejected and cut out of you.

"Second, you need an in-filling of God's presence and His great assurance, and great joy, and great peace, and great holiness, so that when they come back, they can't find a place. We need for you to be so full of God that they'll say, 'There's no place here for us anymore.'"

Mrs. Carillo needed to be filled with the Spirit of the Lord--His wondrous Holy Spirit, just as we are promised in Acts 2:32.
"These folks here are wanting you not only to be set free," I told her, "they want you to be full of God, full of faith, full of blessing. That is why we're here. We're here to help you, to bless you."

How, you may ask, could the evil presence still be lingering in her? How? After all, she wanted to be a Christian! And the night before, we had cast the evil out in the name of Jesus!

I was reminded of the incident in the Gospels when Jesus prayed for a blind man. The man exclaimed aloud how he could see - but that everything was blurred. So, the Lord prayed again and the man was completely restored.

Then, I remembered the time when the disciples were unsuccessful in casting out a demon - and Jesus told them that some only come out through fasting and intense prayer.

So, Mrs. Carillo needed continued prayer. There was also the puzzling matter that there were so many demons. How could this be?

The Bible tells of a man filled with so many demons that he was driven mad and hid naked in a cave near Gadara. When Jesus cast those evil spirits out, they, too, spoke aloud and pleaded for mercy.

But Jesus banished them anyway.

How had Mrs. Carillo been filled with so many demons?

She told me how for years, she had sought deliverance
from witches, local spiritualist healers, fortune tellers, and even psychics from the big city.

"I went to many," she told me. "When my father was living he would take me. And then he died, and I continued to be bothered by the same thing. After that my brothers and sisters took me. Then I got married and then my husband took me."

The witch doctors would burn incense and tell her to do things such as sweep her house at midnight--every room.

"Sometimes they would make you and your husband go into the mountains, didn't you say?" I asked her.

"Oh, yes. We had to be there at noon. We would bathe our legs up to our knees in sand. This was supposed to make the evil spirits go away. It was clear out of town, in the mountains."

"How many times would you say that you have been to witch doctors?"

"I have been so often that I can't recall. I can't remember. And to fortune tellers. One promised me that I could be delivered, healed completely if I were to wear something in my underclothes. I had to wear this thing, I don't know what she called it, like bones of a dead person and dirt from the cemetery. She told me I would have to wear that all the days of my life until I died. She told me to wear that and I would be delivered from the sickness in my body.

"I had to call on dead spirits. The healer would give
me names that I could call, so the spirits of the dead could come to heal my body."

I shook my head in disgust. This was the very sort of witchcraft that had invited more and more demonic torment into her life. "That is the reason these spirits got into you," I told her. "When you wore these things and when you would seek spirits. I'm sure of that." The prescriptions actually had aggravated the illness!

Was she possessed by Lucifer himself?

"Evidently the chief spirit that has possessed you calls himself Lucifer," I told her. "Of course, this demon is a liar and not Lucifer himself. Lucifer is the archangel of all spirits, of all fallen spirits."

I turned to the congregation.

"Now, all of us here are going to lay hands on you simultaneously and tell him that this demon must go. I want you to believe God that we can break his power. Since we've prayed for you, many of these have gone out. But we want to break these major spirits—that serpent spirit and the satanic spirit that calls himself the big one. He thinks he's as big as Jesus, doesn't he?" "That thing is hurting, hurting," sobbed Mrs. Carillo.

I held her head in my hands. I took the authority that Jesus gives those who believe: "Come out, now! Come out. Obey me! Right now!"

Suddenly, Mrs. Carillo relaxed. Her pain was gone. She began to praise God.

We stayed with her for many hours, praying with
her, leading her through the plan of salvation, and agreeing with her as she asked the Lord to fill her anew with His great Holy Spirit.

Where the Spirit of God dwells, no evil demon can abide.

Mrs. Carillo has now returned to her home in New Mexico. Before she left, however, she and Maria had undergone incredible transformation.

Little Maria, who had arrived a scared, timid child, now prayed with power and authority--delighted in the joyous wonder of God's power. The child exhibited an intelligence that we had not recognized before, either--and a willingness to deal with problems decisively.

And her mother? The terrified woman who traveled with her face covered now laughed and talked with the Christians who had learned to love her.

She ate with us. She told us of her home amid the windswept beauty of Las Cruces' buttes and desert.

She returned home rejoicing.

What mystical thing did we do to free her? We did nothing that's not right there in the Bible.

When we pray for anybody to be free from demonic torment, we do what Jesus did--and what He taught His disciples to do. We obey what the Scriptures say.

Do you know someone who needs deliverance from the devil's power? Then, by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, it must be done. How can you fight?
Four steps to successful exorcism.

First, believe you can be free. You must not be afraid of the devil. The Word of God teaches us that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. We must not be afraid. He is defeated. The Lord Jesus Christ, when He was crucified, proclaimed the defeat of the devil.

Satan knows he has lost. When Jesus allowed himself to be punished on the cross for your and my sins, He broke Satan's power! Jesus fulfilled the need for a penalty for us--right there on the cross as He suffered ...so we didn't have to!

Our punishment is over!

In taking our penalty, Jesus destroyed Satan's rule over us. No longer will you and I bear the impossible burden of living sinless lives.

Jesus did it because He loves you and me. Now, we will spend all eternity in heaven with Him and His great Father--if we will accept His gift.

Oh, how great was Satan's humiliation that Resurrection morning when the Son of God walked through the open door of a tomb into the golden sunlight of God's victory.

Now if we sin, we can be forgiven! We don't have to burn in hell!

Now, when Satan stands before God and declares that you and I are not worthy to be in heaven--that we were seduced to this temptation or that temptation--God shakes His mighty head. "No," He thunders. "They
will not share your damnation. They have been pardoned."

All you and I have to do is accept the gift of forgiveness.

And here is an incredible bonus: Although salvation is a great gift, there are others.

For example, Matthew 6:25-34 promises that we Christians don't have to worry and stew about anything. God takes care of His children. We'll have enough to eat and wear.

And here is one of the most enormous gifts. In John 14:12, Jesus tells us that he who believes in Jesus will do the same works that Jesus did here on earth--and, the Lord added: "--and greater works than these shall he do."

Jesus had already told His disciples earlier, "All power in heaven and earth is given unto me." But now, He told them that everything He could do; we can do, too!

If we will accept the gift.

If we will take the authority.

If we will quit debating whether He really means what He says.

**Second, you must recognize Christ's authority.**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was sent to earth to save us from our sins and to destroy the work of the devil. He is now at the right hand of God, interceding
for those who love Him and serve Him. He has the right to delegate this authority to whomever He wishes. When He said that those who believe will cast out devils, He was not being poetic.

This was not symbolism.

He said that we will cast out devils.

You must believe His Word. In believing those words, you have victory and strength that you will never have otherwise.

**Third, you must believe God's Word, the Bible.**

It says what it means, it means what it says, and if you will receive the Word of God, and accept the Word of God, then you can be free. It is in the receiving of the Word of God that we are set free.

**Fourth, seek empowered prayer.**

Seek the prayer of someone who realizes that he has authority over the devil. All people who are so-called Christians do not take this authority.

Why not?

There it is, offered to all.

Many will not take it. However, any man or any woman who knows the Lord Jesus Christ—*in an intimate way and in a vital way and in a way of faith*—can pray for you, and can pray for anyone.

So, find a person who has faith in God and has God's power in his life, one who will pray with you to see you set free.
Perhaps you want to be such a person. That is one reason that I've written this book--to show you how God will work in your life, if you will take the authority given you.

Right now, I want you to understand something, too. There are no mystical formulas in this book. The closest thing that I will give you to a ritual, ceremony or protocol in casting out demons is this checklist:

**The Five W's of How to Exorcise Demons**

**WHO.** *Who can cast out demons?* Jesus said in Mark 16:17 that it would be done by "them that believe." The example in Acts 19 of Sceva's sons shows that demons don't obey non-believers. Examples of successful exorcisms in the Bible range from the sinless Jesus to an ex-murderer of believers, Paul (Acts 16:18). If someone foolishly wants to put aside the Bible and take as their model today's popular films and books on the occult, then they are going to conclude that exorcism is complex and done by the select few. However, the Bible says the opposite.

**WHAT.** *What tools do we need?* According to Ephesians 6:17 and Mark 11:23, the only tool necessary is your own faith and the Word of God--the "sword of the Spirit."

**WHEN.** *When do we exorcise demons?* After you pray--just you and the Lord--tell the thing to go. Invoke the authority of Jesus Christ. If the evil thing wants to
chat, quote Scripture at it--particularly "power verses" such as Colossians 1:16, Ephesians 1:21, Colossians 2:10, 15, Romans 8:37-39, and Ephesians 6:12. Remember that when Jesus Christ commanded Satan to leave, the devil obeyed. Satan had to bow to the greater authority.

**WHERE.** Where should demons be cast out? I cast out demons in stadiums filled with thousands, and in my office with a few believers gathered around the afflicted person. Examples in the Bible say it happened in public or in a setting with a few people. Do not try exorcism, however, on Satan's turf, such as in a satanic coven's meeting or in a pagan temple.

**WHY.** Why should we prepare ourselves? Jesus emphasized to the disciples the extreme importance of prayer and fasting in Matthew 17:21. It is so important. Also, I personally have seen the effectiveness of memorizing Scriptures. You need to be armed with God's Word to show the demon your authority. Memorized promises also are good for you--to build up your own faith and confidence that you do, indeed, have divine authority to be doing this sort of thing.

I will not give you any holy words to say in the proper sequence. Instead, I am going to fill this book with documented examples of how real-life exorcisms took place.

These things happened to real people.

So, instead of telling you what words to say or what
prayer to recite, I want you to study these examples. Read every Scripture that I cite—look it up for yourself in your own Bible to make sure I'm not off in left field somewhere.

Then, observe what happened with Susana Carillo. Then, read about the street prostitute who was bitten by devils—I've got all sorts of news articles, official reports, and film evidence on that one.

Read about the businessman's daughter who was starving to death and the invisible boy—yes, he actually disappeared while he was being tormented. We have this one well-documented, too.

Don't put together any mystical formulas of your own. Of course, we must let demons know that they must go because of the authority given you by Jesus Christ.

Drop His name a lot. The Bible tells us to do so. But for now as you read, watch and see. See how it is done.

If you need relief from an evil spirit, I would like to pray a prayer of deliverance for you right now, straight from my heart.

Lord Jesus, in the place where this book is being read at this moment, I ask You to stretch forth Your mighty hand of great deliverance.

Let the power of God come to these friends right now. Satan, I bind your evil influences and your power, and I command you now to go. I command you now to go.
I command you to leave the person who needs deliverance now, and not come back.

I ask that the blood of Jesus Christ shall cover this person and they shall be cleansed.

I ask that His divine presence will be with them every step of the way until they see Him in heaven. I ask that the blood of Christ shall cover the home and the children and the parents in the home. May the blessings of God flow like a river in this place. Lord keep these people free from every power of the devil, and we thank You for it. In Your name we ask it. Amen!

Now, if you are oppressed, perhaps reading this prayer will not be enough. So, I encourage you to read the rest of this book. It will show you the kind of Christians that you need to seek out.

Of course, you can call my church in South Bend. Just tell the operator that you need to get in touch with Lester Sumrall Evangelistic Association--"LeSEA"--in South Bend, Indiana.

And seek the Lord. Ask Him to send you the right people.

I believe He will.

He'll send people who will pray with you, who will love you--and who will really want to help you.
"I DON'T WANT TO BE A DEMON CHASER"

How I got involved in casting out evil spirits

Although I was raised in a good Bible-preaching church, I do not remember being taught much about deliverance from demonic power.

No evil spirits were exorcised from tormented persons in our services.

Demons were the stuff of old Bible stories. Nobody talked about what they were except maybe visiting theology students who piously preached that biblical demons were symbolic representations of the bad side of the human psyche (YAWN!) - or perhaps unexplained illnesses not understood by the primitive, superstitious people of Jesus' day.

The devil himself, when I was a boy, was something from the Sunday newspaper funny pages. Beelzebub
had horns, a tail, and cloven feet--and carried a pitchfork. He whispered temptations in L'il Abner's ear while an angel on the other shoulder nagged at him to do the right thing.

Lucifer, Belial, Beelzebub, and Satan ranked right up there with Paul Bunyon and his blue ox, Babe. I remember reading in school the humorous account of famed American orator Dan'l Webster debating "Ol' Slewfoot" for some cause that I now forget.

Dan'l, of course, won.

I do remember some preachers, particularly traveling faith healers, rebuking the devil and demanding that he go back to hell. Why? The Bible is clear that Satan is not in hell and never has been there. In fact, his being sent there soon is really what today's battle is about.

He's going to be punished there--not rule over anybody. He'll be powerless, forever banished from God's sight, and horribly tortured in the burning lake of fire.

And today, as his time grows short, he is angry.

But I didn't learn any of that in Sunday school. There, I never saw a person manifesting a demonic spirit. According to the way I was taught in the church and society to which my family and I belonged, if a person became ill physically we prayed for him to be healed. If he went crazy, we just put him in the insane asylum--no problem at all, he was just put away. We
thought that was the only thing we could do, since nobody could really understand such mental problems anyway.

We never realized that a person could be attacked by the devil and could be set free by the same kind of prayer as if he had appendicitis. Somehow the two never were related in our minds.

Filled with a desire to win the lost, I began to preach. In the pulpit, I spiritualized everything. I said, "Demon power reveals the fury of sin. Palsy in the Bible reveals the helplessness of sin. If you have leprosy, it will show you how sin eats away your life, that you are helpless before the power of sin."

As a young man in my twenties, I felt an urgent call into the ministry and traveled around the globe preaching with a true giant of our faith, British evangelist Howard Carter.

He was an incredible teacher.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit was heavily upon him. He taught a simple gospel of sin, salvation, and Pentecost - but with fiery conviction. Thousands came to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In the mid-1930s, Brother Howard and I spent three months in densely populated but deeply jungled Java, one of the larger volcanic islands of the Netherlands' East Indies colony, off the coast of China - what is now Indonesia.

It was a very pagan place. The people were either
native idol-worshipers or else had been converted to Islam. Many businessmen were Chinese or East Indian and were a broad mix of heathen religions and ancestor worshipers.

Astrologers and mediums who could summon spirits were respected--and well-paid by plantation owners or merchants seeking protection from the evil eye or the many devils that they feared.

Understand--they did not believe in Satan. They had thousands of devils that they feared. Some of their gods were demons that had to be placated.

And these people talked freely about demon possession. Native preachers told us about casting out evil spirits, just like Jesus had done in the Bible.

I winced, then nodded patiently. This stuff was not for me. I was too rational and modern.

But in the town of Surabaya, I had my first encounter with a demon-possessed person. She was a young girl of twelve or thirteen, seated on the front row in a crusade where I was to minister.

During the song service, she slipped off the pew and began to writhe on the floor like a snake. A repulsive, green foam oozed from her mouth. The native Javanese song-leader paid no attention and went on with the service.

Then she began to slither back and forth across the altar area of the church. She would stick out her tongue. Her eyes became like a serpent's eyes and green froth.
continued to come out of her mouth. This was a new experience for me.

I thought, *I'm sure the pastor will take care of this situation.*

But he didn't. Neither the pastor, nor the church officials, nor the ushers paid her any attention. For a full forty-five or fifty minutes she slithered back and forth in front of the altar grinning, always looking at the platform. When she would crawl one way, she would face the platform. Then when she crawled back, she would turn her head around to keep facing the platform. It seemed to be the center of her attention.

I prayed silently, "Lord, just save souls."

God spoke to my heart that first I had to deal with that problem down there.

"Lord," I prayed, "You take care of it."

God answered back, "That's your problem."

I had never had such a problem in my life. I had no idea what to do nor how to do it. I just sat there in utter hurt and confusion for the whole fifty minutes, wishing somebody would take care of the situation, but nobody did a thing about it.

I was a foreigner there. That was the first time I had ever been in that church. I didn't speak the language.

I was seated about four or five steps back from the pulpit on the large platform. When I was introduced, I walked to the pulpit to speak. But I couldn't.

Something within me was stirred by this little girl
Dr. Lester Sumrall

leering at me from the dust of the aisle. I was deeply indignant at this child's uncorrected behavior. So, rather than greeting the people by saying, "Good evening, how are you?" I leaned over the pulpit and ordered, "Get up off that floor!" The interpreter, scared, never opened his mouth.

I did not know one word of her language, and the girl didn't speak any English.

But the devil within her understood me.

That poor little girl wiped the green foam off her face, backed up and sat on the pew. She didn't sit there like a human, though. She sat there like a zombie and just stared at me without moving a muscle all the time I was preaching. When I got through with my sermon, I leaned back over the pulpit again and said, "Now come out of her!"

I'd never heard anyone do that before. I just did it, and I spoke loudly, too. I said it so loudly that you could have heard me down the street.

I never did get close to the girl, but when I spoke, immediately the Spirit of the Lord came upon her. Her eyes came back into focus, her face that had been contorted was changed. Her body became relaxed and she smiled.

There was no struggle.

She was instantly healed.

The child looked up in bewilderment. "Where am I?" she asked. "What am I doing here?"
The native pastor told her that she had been freed from an evil spirit.

She shouted her delight—and told us how she'd been oppressed by the thing for quite some time, but did not know how to get rid of it.

"Is the demon gone now?" I asked her.

"Yes, yes," she shouted joyfully. She had been so full of Satan that she didn't even know where she was or how she had gotten there. But by two strikes of the Holy Spirit, she was set free.

Hundreds of people got saved that evening. They came flocking down all the aisles. When that girl was set free, they began to come from everywhere to receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

After the service, I slipped back to my room. I had begun to regret what I had done.

"I got into a mess tonight," I confessed to Brother Carter. I told him the details.

He laughed. "You did exactly the right thing."

"But," I protested, "my reputation is shot."

"Forget it," advised the famous preacher.

"Brother Carter, you may not want to travel with me anymore."

"Why is that?" he asked.

"I screamed at her," I told him. "She got set free, but I have never seen anything like that in church before."

Brother Carter just smiled and remarked, "It sounds all right to me."
It may have sounded all right to him, but I was not sure it was all right with me. I had never seen such a thing in my life! "I don't know," I told him. "I think. my reputation is shot."

He just smiled knowingly. "Forget it," he advised.

I tried. "Lord," I prayed fervently, "I don't want to be a demon chaser."

Because of that experience, I was hesitant to go out on my own again for a while. Seeing how shaken I was--and how worried I was about my reputation--Brother Carter agreed that perhaps we should stay together if possible.

In those countries, however, we had so many people begging for us to come that we would often split up. He was a teacher and I was an evangelist so he would be in one place ministering and I would be in another.

So, it just wasn't possible for us to stay together. Sure enough, it happened again, the next time I went out alone to preach.

As I was being escorted down the aisle to the platform at another crusade, a woman slipped up beside me and took my arm.

She smiled warmly and began caressing my hand in a very erotic manner. Her intentions were clearly seductive.

I was shocked. I thought that I ought to slap her. I leaned over toward her and she grinned a strange
smile, her eyes darting like serpent fangs. She said in English, "You have a black angel in you, and I have a white angel in me." She ended her sentence with a hideous giggle.

The Spirit of the Lord rose up within me. I became angry. Suddenly, I laid hands on her head and cried: "That is a lie! You have the devil in you and I have Jesus Christ within me!"

Instantly, she released my coat. Her contorted face changed expression. She smiled and her eyes softened. I asked her, "How long had you been possessed?"

She replied, "Fifteen years ago, I went to a witch doctor with some domestic troubles. That is when the spirit possessed me. I have been abnormal ever since. But when you commanded that evil spirit to come out, it left me. It is gone now."

We had a great church service that night. The power of the Lord had come. I didn't have to preach much. I just exhorted the people for a few minutes and again the crowds came rushing down to give their hearts to God.

Then I began to put things together. If you set people free from the devil's power, all kinds of people get saved. The Lord began to whisper to me, "If you can bind the strong man, you can spoil his house."

All sinners are the devil's prey. When you bind him first, even before you preach, then you can get the prey. You can get the ones he has been holding captive in his
prison house. You jar his gates loose and you get his prey, when you first set the people free.

We went through the whole island of Java. Over fifty million people lived there then. We found that in almost every city this same situation occurred. When it did, God provided a deliverance that everybody in the service could witness and respond to.

However, I had not been taught this kind of ministry. I had read no books on the subject, except the Bible. Yet, when I met the adversary, the Spirit within me was moved and my heart went out to the afflicted to help them and bring them back to health.

As we ministered throughout the island of Java, I encountered the devil many times. The greatest thing I learned was that I was not personally in the conflict. It was Christ in me. Also, it was not the person who caused the battle, but the devil within him or her.

I discovered there was no reason to fear. I found that although they would scream and tear themselves, they did not seek to harm me or touch me. I was perfectly safe in exorcising demons. I found usually that the demons wanted to run away and avoid confronting me. They would often say, "We are not here. We are gone. Leave us alone."

They do not tell the truth.

Brother Carter and I discussed these incidents. Almost every time they took place, it would be when he wouldn't be there with me.
I began to think the devil was manipulating things to try to pick on me because I was young and new in the Lord's work. Brother Carter was twice my age.

We went throughout the Orient, Japan, and Korea. Then, we came back across Siberia and Russia.

I thought, *Man, these people over here have it bad.*

This sort of thing happened so much I named it "the Oriental disease."

When we got to Europe, I thought I had left all that kind of thing behind. I was sure I wouldn't find it in modern, sophisticated Europe.

However, we hadn't been in Europe a week until Brother Carter and I found ourselves separated from each other. We were each preaching in different places due to the demands on us.

In one service, a woman of about thirty sat on the front row of the auditorium. Throughout the service, from the very beginning, she would say, "Hallelujah!" in a strained and peculiar voice.

It sounded awful, and she said it about every minute.

I was wondering why somebody didn't stop her, because what she was doing wasn't normal or natural, and it certainly wasn't spiritual. Again I thought, *I'm sure the pastor will take care of this situation,* but he looked up at the ceiling and ignored her.

*Surely the ushers will come down here and stop all this,* I thought, but it went right on, through the whole meeting.
I kept thinking, *God, stop that woman.*

He spoke to my heart that I was going to have to take authority.

Finally, after almost an hour of preliminaries, it was my time to preach. I walked up to the platform with my interpreter. When I got to the pulpit, I leaned over and said to the lady, "And, you, shut up!" The interpreter never said a word, he just stood there.

But she didn't shut up.

She started barking like a dog!

I thought, *I could have done better with the hallelujahs!* Suddenly down the aisles came the ushers. That made me angry, because they didn't do a thing when she was yelling hallelujah like a donkey, but when she started barking, they didn't like it. One was as bad as the other to me.

I grabbed my interpreter and told him. "You tell them I said to sit." They hadn't come to help and I didn't want them down there, so they went back to their places and the lady was still barking.

I commanded that spirit in her, "Come out of her!"

God set her free instantly.

She smiled and didn't bark, and she didn't say the strange hallelujahs, either.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon her, but the sweet thing is that the Spirit of the Lord came upon the whole place. That night, many people were saved.

Later I told Brother Carter, "I'll tell you, Brother
Carter, that Oriental disease has made it to Europe. It's bad. A woman said *hallelujah* like an animal and then she barked like a dog. From the platform, without touching her, God set her free, and she is free."

Brother Carter replied, "God is going to use you that way."

"I hope not," I told him, "I want to be a nice, clean evangelist."

We had similar problems throughout France. There were many possessed people there. Then through Holland, Belgium, Norway, and Sweden, it was the same situation. England was one of the foremost places. So many people there needed help to send forth spirits out of them.

I was learning about evil spirits in every country we visited, but I didn't want to learn.

I didn't want to get involved in it.
I wasn't preaching about it.
I wasn't creating the atmosphere.
It was just there.

Most of the time when it happened, I couldn't preach without doing something about it. I had to take care of it or the crusade would be disrupted. This spirit manifestation was blocking the message, and I had to do something.

After months and months, we came across the Atlantic Ocean, back home.

"Brother Carter," I said. "I'll tell you one thing. Those
people in the Orient and those in Europe have a bad disease, but we don't have it in America. I've lived here all my life and I haven't seen any."

When we got back to the States, my brother was the pastor of a church in the St. Louis area. I went to see him and after I preached for his church, I preached for some others around St. Louis.

In one city, after preaching Sunday morning, I went out with the pastor to have lunch in a restaurant. After lunch, the pastor asked, "Would you go with me to pray for one of my members?" I really didn't want to go, but I said, "I guess so."

We drove to a humble little midwestern home, a two-bedroom, white, frame house with a swing on the front porch.

Inside I met a young man of about twenty-five. His mother was kneeling beside his chair saying, "Son, speak to me. Speak to Mama." She had a platter in one hand and a spoon in the other. It was obvious that she had just fed him.

As it turned out, this young man had gone to a spiritualist seance six months before. He had gone just for "kicks," thinking that it would be fun to talk to the dead and feel eerie spirits in the shadows. To him it was just a game. But the next morning, he was found lying on his mother's front porch. He had no shirt on, scratches all over his back, and he could not speak.

When I arrived, he had not said a word in six months.
He also became strange in his body movements. You could put his arm out and he would leave it there for hours in the same position--just like the sleeping sickness patients in the Academy Award winning documentary film *Awakenings*.

He could eat food if it was placed in his mouth, so his mother fed him like a baby. He slept all right when he was put to bed, but he had to be stretched out because he would remain in the same position he was placed in all night long.

The mother didn't know what had happened to cause this state to come on her son. All she knew was that she found him on the front porch in a coma. When she was finally able to get him inside, he couldn't move his body or say a word. The family had asked for prayer, so the pastor had asked me to go with him. The pastor didn't tell me what the problem was, he just asked me to go with him to pray for one of his church families.

As we walked in the front door, we could hear the mother begging her son to speak to her. Just then, there was the strangest little curve at the edge of his mouth.

It was a satanic grin, the grin of victory.

It was the devil's way of saying, "I've got you!"--a devilish little smirk that I could see from across the room.

Suddenly, I leaped across that room like a panther. I grabbed that young man on both sides of his head and I said, "You unclean spirit, you hear my voice. Come
out! You speak to your mother and you hurry!"

The young man said, "Mother, I'm so sorry I've caused all this trouble for you. I promise never to do it again."

In our presence he told her how he had attended the seance and allowed himself to be put under a spell.

Back in my room, I didn't know what to do.

"Lord," I prayed, "I don't want to have my ministry tainted with accusations that I'm some sort of headline chaser--an Elmer Gantry of demonology. I don't want to have a weird gimmick--'Lester Sumrall, the demon chaser.'"

"Lord, I don't want to start a fad.

"Just let me be a preacher of Your Word."

The Lord gave me peace about the whole thing. I was not to bill myself as anything of the sort. I was not to seek attention when dramatic things happened in our services.

I was to move in His timing.

The Lord has gently, patiently taught me how to fight back--and win--over the last fifty years. He has allowed me to concentrate on evangelism and teaching the flock--and other vital areas of ministry so dear to my heart. I praise Him for giving me so many things:

• For my ministry's chain of TV stations proclaiming the gospel across America;
• For the beautiful congregation we have in South Bend;
For our fine Bible college;

For our effective programs to feed the world's hungry--and to teach them how never to be hungry again;

For our evangelism teams worldwide.

What a blessing to be used of God. Today, I have trimmed back my schedule, turned many of my responsibilities over to my three sons, and turned my attention to prayer and Bible study.

Some might say that now that I am nicely past age sixty-five that I am somewhat semi-retired. However, I would challenge any younger man to keep up with my demanding schedule--particularly my worldwide travel.

I never intend to quit proclaiming God's salvation.

I look around me and am so grateful for these things in which the Lord has let me be a part. He heard the heart-felt prayer of an ambitious young preacher who was dead-set against being a demon chaser.

But, just as during that tour with Howard Carter, He has always made deliverance a part of my ministry.

When I came home from my travels, I discovered that the same thing I had encountered in Asia and Europe was also going on right here in this country.

From that time to this, I have seen literally tens of thousands of people set free from the devil's power.

I never sought such a ministry.

It was thrust upon me.
I have never done any of this to promote myself, to receive anything for myself, nor to cause others to think well of me.

Always, it was almost a case of desperation. I have had to lean heavily upon God and give Him all the glory. He is worthy of all the glory, because He does the deliverance. It is He alone who sets the people free.

Delivering the tormented is something that every Christian is going to have to deal with in the coming days. The evil power of Satan and his vengeful horde is sweeping down.

Look at the churches who are refusing to pay attention. Great, evangelistic denominations are disintegrating into ineffective, impotent mumblers forced to take pride only in past glory.

So many great movements are dominated by timid little men with pretty manicures, hiding behind official policy and standard procedure manuals.

The supernatural is reality. But our religious leaders are hiding under their desks! So many have been seduced by power and prestige and money. Instead of marching into battle, they have turned to the very gimmickry that the Lord hates.

I tremble as I observe friends in the ministry look to material things for security. My friend, God will prosper you, but not to squander your resources on yourself. God will bless you so you can bless others. That is where true faith is proven.
I intercede for my own evangelistic Feed-The-Hungry Program as I watch some TV evangelists turning Third World starvation into a gimmick to raise cash to stay on the air.

I get so skeptical as I sit and talk with Christian leaders who are so determined to be respected by the very world that the Bible tells us to disregard and leave behind.

One of my favorite Christian movements has been dragged down by a misguided desire to leave behind its enthusiastic past, when it was led by anointed, Bible-reading preachers intent on hearing the Lord.

Instead, its leadership wants to be accepted by fellow theologians in the other dead, powerless denominations that today seem to concentrate most of their efforts on churning out inoffensive, ineffective self-congratulations to be passed out among themselves!

So many superstars have fallen, my friend.

Much of the battle is going to be up to you. The anointing is falling on the little guy who will hear the battle cry!

The fields are white unto harvest.

Flip through the TV guide in your local newspaper and you'll be amazed at what is going on while so many Christians are asleep in their pews. Just last week:

One talk show was dealing with exorcism. Another's theme was multiple-personality manifestations. Another dealt with the Soviet Union's fascination with TV
psychics who supposedly work weekly miracles on live television for all to see.

The week’s movies had such plots as:

• A hotel where guests were being sacrificed by a satanist coven on the thirteenth floor;
• Two vacationing couples that stumbled onto an occult ceremony and spent the rest of the film fleeing cross-country in their RV from the angry cultists;
• A psychic helping police find a serial killer;
• A husband and wife desperately going from expert to expert, seminar to seminar, trying to rid their home of a vengeful ghost.

A documentary was re-enacting UFO abductions and examining the messages given the victims.

A news show was visiting haunted houses and, through special effects, showing the spirits that the occupants claimed lived within.

Incidentally, this was the same week that the "Missing Squadron" of World War II airplanes was finally found on the bottom of the ocean in the Bermuda Triangle, rekindling interest in that supposedly mystical wedge off the coast of Florida.

This is not something I have generated. It is something God prepared me to speak to you about.

In my crusades and our church services in South Bend, when God sends the demon-possessed and possessed to me, I deal with them in sincerity and truth.

Many are set free.
At times, I do not see a visible change, but if the person wishes to and will obey instructions, I will keep ministering to him.

The Lord wants us all to have victory, strength, and power. God will lead you, just as He has led me and many others.

He never leads any two persons in exactly the same way.

He will lead you individually and personally.

You will be unique in the biblical way and the scriptural manner in which you set others free.

Here is what the Lord wants you to do:

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Put on the full armor that He provides you so you will be able to stand firm against the increasing assault of the devil.

Remember that your battle is not against flesh and blood, but against supernatural rulers, evil powers in the air, against the world's forces of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness.

Yes, take up the full armor of God so you may be able to resist Satan in the evil day.

That is not some South Bend preacher's personal prophecy for you, my friend. It's straight out of the apostle Paul's letter to the persecuted believers in Ephesus. Read it for yourself in Ephesians 6:10-13. And keep reading.

Verse 18 tells us to be on the alert at all times.
That is pretty good advice.
Particularly since a spiritual Pearl Harbor is upon us--
and so few Christians have even noticed!
THREE

TODAY'S RETURN OF ANCIENT EVIL

Why we can't pretend demons don't exist

Recently, I was in the Soviet Union. At the close of one of my sermons, the power of evil actually levitated a young man six feet into the air.

As I preached from Matthew 24 and 1 Timothy 4:1, hundreds pressed through the crowd to the platform to be saved. When I began casting out a demon that had manifested itself, a man near the front was thrown into the air horizontally above the seats.

When I commanded the demons to come out of him, he went limp and fell to the floor. They carried him out, delivered and free.

We went on with a powerful evangelistic service where many were saved--all of which was recorded by our TV cameras.
In Budapest, capital of the former communist republic of Hungary, I prayed for a large number of demon possessed people who crowded to the altar.

What I'd done was ask that all who were demon possessed come up.

About 300 responded.

I was sure there had been a mistake. I told the interpreter to explain that I only wanted to pray right now for people who were demon possessed.

He squinted at me and smiled. "Sir," he said. "They understand. Can't you see? All those people are demon possessed and want to be free."

So, I prayed for them.

What a mess! If you ever saw a pigpen, we had it. They kicked, they wallowed, they screamed.

The Lord drew my attention to one young lady in particular. I told her bluntly, "Shut up. Stop shaking. I'm going to cast the demon out of you."

Still convulsing, she proclaimed with a loud, masculine voice: "I am Old Man Danube."

Sometimes demons claim to have all sorts of oddball names. The Danube River, of course, runs through Budapest and much of Europe. Why this spirit wanted to be named after a historic river is beyond me.

I answered the demon, "Old Man Danube, I am Pastor Sumrall and I come against you and I cast you forth in Jesus' name." The young woman was delivered immediately.
It was like throwing a rock into a pond. The ripple effect was incredible. All around her, the people fell to the ground, delivered and free.

Recently, a concerned parent came to me privately with his lovely daughter--who obviously had lost too much weight.

She was anorexic--refusing to quit dieting, deceived that she was too fat, although her skin hung on her bones like parchment.

You know what the Lord did for this businessman and his daughter?

In my office, I prayed with her.

I told her father, "Put your hand on her belly." He spread his hand out all over her belly. I began to praise Jesus and thank Him.

I said, "I thank You, Lord. You're going to set her free." And I put my hand on her back, and I felt the presence of a demon running around in there, moving about.

"Sir," I asked, "did you feel anything?"

"Yeah, I felt that evil spirit."

"How do you know?"

"It was running around all over her stomach in there," he responded.

"Are you sure?" I asked

"Yes."

I felt it, too, but I didn't want to be the one to say anything about it. I told him, "When she's healed, I
Dr. Lester Sumrall

don't ever want you to say, 'She just got better,' I don't want you to say, 'It didn't matter much whether I went to Sumrall or not.'"
  
  What was wrong with this girl?
  
  She was possessed. That spirit came to her so that even if she ate, that spirit made her stick her finger down her throat and vomit up her food. She was committing suicide although she didn't know it. She had a devil in her, a spirit of self-destruction.
  
  We prayed for her over several days.

  And she was healed.

  I don't have this one on videotape. Why? Because these fine people are just a bit self-conscious about what happened. They are leaders in their community.

  The last thing they'd want for their daughter would be TV cameras thrust into her face and reporters demanding to hear how she was demon possessed.

  What would her friends say?
  Demon possession?

  Today?
  How can this be?
  In America?

  You can imagine the scoffers that I encounter. Demons?

  Ho, ho! Ha, ha! Poor Dr. Sumrall!

  We call Africa and India ignorant, but they know more about the spirit world than the supposedly civilized world does.
I don't run into many who doubt the existence of demons when I preach in the remote areas of the Third World--or even the big cities of Bangkok or Soweto or Calcutta, where you can pay local priests to protect your business from devils.

It's a common thing to do.

If an enterprise is not making a profit, one of the first things a devout Thai Buddhist will do is arrange for a ceremony to banish vengeful spirits. It becomes quite a festive event, complete with gongs, incense, orange-robed monks chanting incantations, and small children scrambling to get food delicacies placed before portable idols.

Here in the United States, I see less skepticism against the idea of demons in places such as Hawaii where locals have a quiet respect for *kahunas* or witch doctors and talk about *menehunes*, the unseen little people who pull pranks and bedevil those who violate *kapu*--the old Hawaiian religious laws.

I see less skepticism, too, in the rural southwest where old Indian mysticism is still alive, and where corruptions of Catholicism have led to superstitions and spiritualism.

Here is what amazes me.

In the media, great respect is paid to native culture. When in the movies, Mick "Crocodile" Dundee invokes Australian aborigine black magic to evade drug traffickers, the film reviewers marvel about the director's
boldness and his authenticity of detail in recreating the outback's mystical dreamworld.

When *The Emerald Forest* came out amid great fanfare, the media fell all over itself in respect for this mostly true film of a white child kidnapped by Amazon natives. The movie shows how he became a powerful witch doctor traveling on spirit wings to see things hidden from civilized eyes and communing with spirits as he protected his threatened tribe from extinction.

If any of this is presented seriously in the name of Jesus Christ, the media rolls its eyes, smirks, and makes wry references to medieval superstition, the Great Inquisition, and the witch burnings of Salem, Massachusetts.

What a challenge we face here in the supposedly sophisticated parts of the world, where certainly no "modern Christian" is so backward as to believe in such foolishness as demons. Here, I really have to follow the Lord's leading.

One of the solutions in dealing with Christians who won't believe, is to do just what Jesus did--show them the power. Nobody can talk that businessman out of what he experienced as we prayed with his anorexic daughter.

He knows that he felt the thing moving in his daughter's body.

The next day, he and I prayed with her, and I told him, "Put your hand on her belly. What do you feel?"
He said, "Nothing."
"She's free. It's gone," I reassured him.

The man believed—just as many preachers are believing once again. In many fundamentalist circles just a few years ago, preachers who took a stand against demons were criticized as being backward.

It happened among the Pentecostals and the Charismatics, too.

Now, there has been a backlash. In even the most liberal churches, Christians are asking questions particularly with all this stuff about Satan on TV and all the controversy surrounding teen satanism in the schools.

Let me tell you something that may surprise you.

I know many preachers who cast out devils—Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, Congregationalists—and even Catholic priests as well as preachers from the Church of Christ and the Assembly of God.

Without any fanfare, many come here and talk to me and I pray with them. Like Nicodemus, they leave by night, quietly rejoicing.

Some are even conservative evangelicals who don't go for anything like speaking in tongues or prophetic utterances. I can think of one well-known evangelist who confided, "I cast out devils, just like you do, because I do it exactly like you do." Praise God that I can be used like that!
The devil's best defense has been his successful delusion of mankind into thinking he does not really exist. If we swallow that lie, we are simply proving how clever he is and how unbelievably naive we humans can be.

Sadly, his strategy is still working in many circles. Any reference to the devil--and particularly to Demons--is still not accepted in some of the largest and most respected, conservative, Bible-believing denominations.

I'm not talking about the liberals who don't believe the Bible anymore. I'm talking about good, Scripture based evangelicals and conservatives.

Some are so bound by tradition--or dogmatic theologies which they will not admit are just their own traditions.

One group proclaims "no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible," but when it gets down to brass tacks, they fall back on their traditional interpretations of the Bible. If something difficult comes up, do they search the Scriptures? Certainly, but notice how their conclusions remain solidly in the context of whatever their movement's college professors tell them the Bible means, whatever is the safe consensus of their peers at local ministerial meetings--or whatever will not offend the old-timers of their congregations!

So many preachers are so bound up by their own group's tired traditions that they are unable to move in
any freedom of the Holy Spirit. Most of them don't even remember what it means to preach under the anointing.

They think freedom in the Spirit means never studying for a sermon--just rambling whatever comes to mind when they step up to the pulpit.

What a shame!

Listen, I have to preach in the freedom of God's Spirit. But that doesn't mean I don't study for hours and hours and pray even more before I get up to preach.

I must.

When what I preach becomes my own cleverness, the power will not be there. It must be Scripture: book, chapter, and verse. And it must be anointed by the Holy Spirit moving within me, giving me wisdom and the right words.

It's no different with you, my friend.

Try to do any of this in your own strength and you'll be running the risk of the same embarrassment suffered by the ambitious sons of a Jewish priest named Seeva. Their misadventure is told in Acts 19.

These seven boys tried to exorcise a demon from a man in Ephesus. They even said all the right words, as if proclaiming "In the Name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches" were a magic incantation.

But the demon knew they lacked power.

It knew they had no authority.

The Bible says in verse 16 that the demon-possessed
man jumped those boys, ripped their clothes to shreds, beat them up, and sent them running into the street bloody and naked.

How humiliating!
I have learned that I must listen to His guidance.
I have great authority given to me. But it never comes from me.

Is all this demon stuff something that will just go away and leave us alone if we will be patient?
Let me give you some stern advice:
It's here. It's a problem that cannot be ignored.

You can put on rose-colored glasses like the leaders of 1930s Europe, who tried to convince themselves and each other that Hitler would not cause their countries any trouble if they just placated him.

If you remember, he laughed at them as he quietly annexed Austria, belligerently swallowed up Czechoslovakia, encircled Switzerland, made pacts with Italy, Imperial Japan, and Bolshevik Russia, then rolled across Poland, Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Greece, the Baltics, and North Africa before he invaded France, betrayed Russia, took Italy hostage, and attempted to bomb England back to the Stone Age.

Remember the terrible toll America paid for closing its eyes to Hitler's world threat?
Churches today that ignore the current demonic onslaught are doomed to repeat that humiliation.
Hiding under the pews won't work.
Preaching about positive thinking isn't enough.
Rationalizing that the power of the Holy Spirit somehow dissipated with the death of the Twelve Apostles just doesn't ring true anymore. That powerless concept is nothing but an excuse for pseudo-intellectual theologians clutching for justification of their own weak Christianity. Scripture must be read in context!

They don't care what's going on in the real world. They cannot accept that they lack what the Bible offers to anybody, regardless of education: the real, available power of Jesus Christ in their own lives.

They look more to fellow men than Jesus. Rather than suffer the scorn of their fellow academics and powerless shepherds, they shrug off Scriptures that offend their group's officially stated beliefs.

They are more at ease denying that anybody has the power of the Lord today than suffering criticism, stirring their sleeping flock, or bucking their denomination!

The power of God is all over, they agree, sadly.
That is a demonic lie.

They preach godliness, but deny the Lord's power! In 2 Timothy 3, the apostle Paul warns us very, very strongly about having anything to do with such religious leaders. Listen to them and you'll put down your weapons, hoist the white flag, then deny that Satan has
rolled over you like a steam roller. Yes, we must search the Scriptures. Certainly, we must study the Word. Of course, we must listen to the wisdom of our elders.

But we must also listen to the Spirit of God.

And we must not run and hide when the Lord presents us with evidence and truths that disrupt our tidy concepts of how He should behave.

Experiential evidence—testimony of what God is doing today—must be considered or else theological stands become purely academic and dead—inapplicable to anybody but religious lecturers hiding in their university libraries or behind their Bible school pulpits.

Christianity was never meant to go on the shelf with the stale, cerebral writings of Socrates, Sartre, and Spinoza! Jesus took God's simple, practical truths to the unwashed masses—illiterate fishermen, shady tax collectors, and impure street women! It changed their lives.

It showed them how to live.

It gave them power, hope, holiness, and joy.

Pretending that we today are too sophisticated to believe in anything so primitive as Satan or his demons is about as strategic as burying our heads in the sand.

But what is really sad is that many influential Christian leaders believe this terrible deception—this lie that God withdrew His supernatural power sometime around A.D. 100.

Thundering this feeble gospel from their high offices,
these impotent preachers keep millions of good people from enjoying God's blessing, protection and provision.

They denounce sin, but give their flock no clue as how to resist it! I'll tell you how: by the power of the Holy Spirit within you.

My friends, salvation is not the only thing the Bible teaches! My Bible tells me how to live today! How to thrive! How to live life to the fullest! How else can we survive today, but with the Holy Spirit helping us daily?

Living for Jesus is a daily fight. A glorious one! On our knees, we receive loving protection amid the storm. Peace amid the tumult. Calm as we keep our eyes on Jesus.

With His help, with His power, we can win. We can grow. We can prosper.

*The battle is underway.*

Are you going to fight or surrender?
WHO IS SATAN, ANYWAY?

Exactly what are we fighting?

In a dream one night, I saw a serpent going across a fence going real fast. I never did see his head nor his tail, but he was moving across a wooden fence that had slats in it.

I woke up and I said, "My, that's interesting. I saw a serpent, but I didn't see any head or tail, but fast movement."

The dream meant little to me.

A few nights later I dreamed again. I was walking down a path and there was a rustling by the path. I was conscious that it was the serpent.

I said, "God, what's this thing doing here?"

And in my dream, He said, "He's observing, very carefully, everything you do and everything you say, he's observing."
If I moved, that thing rustled right by me in the bushes. I didn't see it. Then if I stopped, it stopped. If I started, it started.

In the third dream that I had, I was walking down the path again, and I heard something. Suddenly a serpent, that was not a serpent, stuck his head out of the bushes.

It had a man's head.

He grimaced at me, but he never said anything or did anything.

Then I had another dream. It was so real that I could hardly tell if it was a dream or a vision.

I was in my bed, over at my house. I looked where the ceiling and the wall meet, and there was a TV set up against the ceiling and a man's face came on it.

A big, big man's face.

He screamed at me, out of the TV screen, "I am not a scarecrow."

He was so angry.

Again, he screamed, "I am not a scarecrow."

I was almost petrified, so I didn't answer back.

At the time, I was writing a book that I have now put aside. In it, I was going to say the devil was a scarecrow.

I had written that his arms were just an old board with a worn-out shirt on it. I had said that his head is nothing but a shock of corn with a worn-out hat on it.

My point was that he is powerless against us.

Now, this thing in my dream was shrieking at me, "I
am not a scarecrow. I am Apollyon."

I knew that Apollyon in ancient Greek means Destroyer. I also knew that in Revelation 9, the bottomless pit is opened and terrible insect-like plagues are unleashed on the earth. Their reign of terror is described for ten verses. Then, the text identifies the angel of the abyss and king of these plagues as Apollyon.

In my dream, the creature told me, "Have you not read of me? I am the one that destroys cities. I am the one that destroys empires. I destroy homes. I am not a scarecrow."

I was trembling all over, as he was saying it. Then, he said, "I am going to destroy America." I couldn't say anything.

I didn't have the ability to say anything. Then, the dream ended.

Do you know what this told me?

It reminded me that everywhere in the Bible, the devil is treated with respect and wary caution. Jesus did not insult him in the wilderness, but countered his every temptation with Scripture verses.

In the book of Jude, we encounter the Archangel Michael, the great warrior angel who defeated Lucifer in the war in heaven and threw him and his angels to earth. In Jude 1:9, it notes that Michael did not chastise Satan when he disputed with him over Moses' body.

No, instead, Michael calmly said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you."
So, I put aside the book I was writing. He is not a scarecrow.

Was this Apollyon from my dream actually the devil? Was he one of Satan's lieutenants? Do the demonic angels have names?

The evangelist Nicky Cruz of The Cross & The Switchblade fame tells of the demons his father—a spiritualist healer in rural Puerto Rico—summoned by name to treat illnesses and counteract voodoo curses.

In the highlands of Guatemala, Central America, the Tzutujil Indians of Lake Atitlan still venerate a Mayan demon-god that they claim walks among them every night. Rilaj Mam is a tormenting, laughing trickster who protects the ruins of their ancient capital of Chuitinamet.

Some years ago, our church hosted Arlindo Barbosa de Oliveira of Brazil and sponsored a tour of forty American cities where this former witch doctor gave testimony of his deliverance from evil spirits—which he called by name. People across the country still remember Arlindo relating how hundreds of devils possessed him at once. He knew their names and worshiped them in different ways.

By day, Arlindo was an influential bureaucrat in the office of the president of South America's largest and richest nation, Brazil. While at work, Arlindo dressed in coat and tie and looked like any other governmental official.
At night, he ran naked, screaming through graveyards. Dancing before open flames, he put on feathers, paint, and animal skins as he cried out to demonic spirits and practiced his craft.

He didn't leave the magic at home, either. It was a reason for his rise into such a politically influential place--the powers of darkness love to be able to meddle in men's affairs.

He told me that at times he would go into a trance in the privacy of his office in Brasilia and the demons would give him vital information about secrets behind closed doors in Washington.

Arlindo's story was so amazing.

After he came to Jesus and put aside all his demonic powers, I invited him to America to give his testimony in Washington, DC, in New York City's Carnegie Hall, in Philadelphia's Constitution Hall, and in auditoriums from Florida to the state of Washington.

I point out this fact to show that a person can be possessed of the devil and still hold a good job. We must remember that we are not talking about insane people when we talk of witchcraft. Many involved in demonic activity are well-educated, intelligent, successful human beings--which makes them all the more dangerous and all the more difficult to identify.

Arlindo knows more about witchcraft that any person I have ever met. His deliverance from forty years of witchcraft is an amazing story in itself.
One day when Arlindo came home from work, he found that his wife had packed up and left him. She just couldn't stand the devil in him anymore, so she moved out. She took all the furniture, the stove, the bed, everything she could. The house was almost bare. Arlindo never found her.

Since he had no other place to stay, Arlindo moved in with his sister, who happened to be a member of a good church. The pastor lived right next door. As soon as he learned that Arlindo was a witch doctor, the pastor set in to free him from his demon possession. He persistently rebuked the devil in him until God set him free.

Thank God for men of courage who will do that. Now this man was not a celebrated minister, just the humble pastor of a church with fewer than 200 members. But he was used to set a powerful witch doctor free. That is what we want to see more and more in this country.

In my seminars, people will sometimes travel 700-800 miles to be prayed over. No one should ever have to go more than five blocks to find deliverance. Some servant of the Most High ought to be right there in the neighborhood to help set them free.

Arlindo was dedicated to the devil before he was born. His mother, a Macumba spiritualist, dedicated him to a special demon prince before his birth. A few days before Arlindo's birth, a reputable witch doctor cut off a chicken's head and in the hot, spurting blood, drew a cross on his mother's stomach. Spiritualists
often use religious symbols, even Christian symbols, in their rituals--but with perverted meanings. Arlindo's mother then heard a masculine voice from her belly saying, "He is my son."

When Arlindo was three years old, evil spirits were moving within him very strongly. He was unruly and disobedient. The spirit said it had manifested in a German doctor in a former life. When this spirit manifested, Arlindo, at three years of age, would write prescriptions in Latin. Sick people took these prescriptions to the druggist and he could read them. This caused Arlindo to be both hated and praised.

I once asked Arlindo how many spirits had manifested in him in his lifetime and he replied that there were at least 300 that he knew by name. I asked him which spirits manifested in him most often. These are the names by which he called them:

- Oxala - the head of all spirits.
- Oxun - a female spirit identified with the Virgin Mary.
- Obum - known as St. George.
- Oxafun - also called the Holy Spirit.
- Oxaci - prayed to as St. Sebastian.
- Abaliuet or St. Lazarus - king of the cemeteries.

Arlindo said that when Abaliuet manifested himself, he would twist Arlindo's body so terribly that his assistants would have to pour oil on his limbs and work with them to straighten out the contorted joints.
Abaliuet made him eat meat that had been left in the sun until it was rotten. Arlindo had to wash it down with olive oil.

- Quinca Araviei Sara—this spirit was crippled and limped. He had a wife.

Why did the demons have Christian names, too? Because Satan loves to counterfeit the truth.

On Lake Atitlan, the Tzutujil Indians who worship the demon-god Rilaj Mam also pay careful homage to a whole pantheon of ancient Mayan gods, who are also Christian saints. For example, St. John is also the Mayan god of wildlife. Peter and Paul are worshiped as the gods of the three surrounding volcanoes and the lake.

Arlindo told me that some devils with whom he communed manifested themselves rarely, perhaps only once a year. Others called themselves by such titles as "King of the Sun," "King of Man," and "The Morning Star."

He said various spirits claimed to rule over different zones, such as the jungle, forests, seas, rivers, and other areas set off by natural boundaries.

Arlindo, a handsome black man, said with a strong voice: "The devils spoiled my life. I never had a normal childhood because of the devils in me, and I never knew the love of a mother or a father. When I went to school, the spirits would make trouble. They wouldn't let me study and they caused me to fight with the teacher."
When the teacher would give me work to do, a spirit would give the answer before the teacher was through presenting the problem. This would make her angry. Then the spirit would speak through my lips saying I knew more than she. This would make her even more angry.

"One day when I was just eight years old, a spirit manifested in me while in school, and I began to argue with the teacher. The spirit said, 'You are the teacher, but I know more than you do.' The teacher complained to the principal, and I was discharged from school."

By the time Arlindo was sixteen, the evil spirits were very strong in him. He would often faint on the street. Once he was picked up and taken by ambulance to the hospital and then to jail. Now Arlindo was back living with his parents. One night a spirit manifested in him and he did not come home until 2 a.m.

Arlindo says, "My father met me and said, 'What kind of hour of the night is this to come home?'"

Arlindo remembers that the spirit replied to his father, "It's no business of yours."

"This angered my father," says Arlindo, "and he spoke bitterly to me. But the arrogant entity in me just mocked him.

"My father's arm became frozen in mid-air and he could not bring it down. 'What are you?' my father asked.

"The spirit from within me responded, 'I am Summa
Quis Summa Qua. I lived long before you.'

"My father did not believe until the spirit told how he was the spirit who gave the enchantment which made it possible for my father to get my mother to marry him when she did not want to. My father broke down and confessed that the spirit was right and he now believed in the spirit. After that, my father supported me and my spirit work."

According to Arlindo, the entity claimed that over the years it had possessed 350 people.

When asked if the spirits ever showed kindness or affection, even to their mediums, Arlindo said, "There has never been a demonic spirit who had an affection for any human being." He went on to say that they would help a person and even protect him for a while, but they showed no personal interest in him at all. They never showed any kindness or love for any human.

Perhaps that is one reason the Bible is so clear about the occult. God, who loves us so, has forbidden for us to have anything to do with these evil beings who hate us so. In Leviticus 19, Moses commanded the Israelites not to regard those who have familiar spirits or seek after wizards. In 1 Samuel 28, King Saul's kingdom and life were taken from him the day after he disobeyed God and went to the Witch of Endor.

The occult is real.
Satan exists.
In the Bible, Satan is taken very seriously.
He is directly mentioned more than 200 times. He enters the realm of human activity in Genesis 3. In Job 1, he is an oppressor of good people. In Matthew 4, Satan audaciously tempts Jesus. His final incarceration and eternal confinement are described in Revelation 20.

We have the full story of the fall, the works, and the destiny of the devil in Ezekiel 28:12-19.

Satan was created an archangel, one of the highest order of God's creation. This description in Ezekiel can only be applied to a super-being, not a man.

The prophet Isaiah describes the devil's actual fall from his place of honor and glory as one of the archangels.

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations! For thou has said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:12-14).

The apostle John supplies more description of Satan's fall: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 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.

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. .. . Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12: 7-10,12).

Not content to be the beautiful, intelligent creature of God's creation and the highest order of angels, Satan aspired to equality with God. His contest seems to have been most specifically with Jesus Christ, although the entire Godhead was challenged. This conflict has endured through the ages and will not be consummated until Satan is cast into the lake of fire forever and ever.

The devil's titles, abilities, and sphere of influence are clearly defined. In the tabernacle and temple in Jerusalem in Ezekiel 28:14, he is called "the anointed cherub that covereth." The cherubim were in the most holy place of worship during Old Testament days. Two golden-winged cherubim formed a part of the mercy seat or covering of the holy ark of the covenant, the symbol of Israel's holiest devotion to Jehovah. The anointed cherub had to do with the very holiness of God.
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He was perhaps the most gorgeous creature of all. His form was "covered" with gold and the most costly of stones. Ezekiel 28:12 says that he was "perfect in beauty."

Ezekiel 28:13 includes a reference to musical instruments - "tabrets and pipes" - suggesting that he could create lovely music. I believe that before his fall, he led musical praise to God. Certainly the devil today makes tremendous use of music.

Satan fell first because of pride over his personal beauty (Ezek. 28:17). His greed and lust for physical and material things supplanted his spiritual service to Jehovah. He is spoken of as having a "multitude of iniquities" that led him to be full of violence. Perhaps this is a reference to his seeking after all things with no regard for whom he hurts in the quest.

These elements - pride and greed - have been major tools in tempting man to sin ever since. How many of us commit sin out of pride of possession and pride of physical beauty? If these could produce iniquity in the "cherub that covereth," how easily will they produce iniquity in sinful flesh like ours!

As I mentioned earlier, in Jude 1:9, Michael, an angel of great power and position in heaven, did not presume to pronounce a "reviling judgment" upon him when disputing over Moses' body. Thus, even in his fallen state, the devil is one of the most intelligent and keenest personalities created by God.
The devil is not an influence or an idea or some abstract design. He is a person. Personal names and titles are given to him in Revelation 20:2. Personal acts and attributes are ascribed to him in Isaiah 14:12-15. Jesus dealt with him as a person in Matthew 4:1-11 and waged war against him in Luke 13:16.

Paul, in his Epistles, described the believer's battle with Satan as with a real person (Eph. 6:10-18). The devil is spoken of as having personal characteristics—heart, pride, speech, knowledge, power, desire, and lusts.

In several places Scripture speaks of angels that are aligned with the devil. In the famous passage about the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus speaks of "the everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

No doubt this world is filled with devils, as Martin Luther wrote. When the incarnate Son of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, moved in righteous power through the countryside of Galilee and Judea, the demons began to show themselves. Without question, the Spirit is moving in greater power in our day than He was for centuries, and the demons are again stirred up. We can learn how to deal with these devils by observing Jesus.

The spiritual warfare that raged around Jesus was evident even before He was born. Matthew wrote of how King Herod became increasingly alarmed over reports that a new king was to be born in his realm.
When the magi from the East came asking how they might find "Him who was born King of the Jews," Herod told them to keep him informed. He meant later to do away with this one he feared would take his throne. Upon discovering he had been tricked, that the wise men were not going to return to give him word, Herod ordered soldiers to fall upon Bethlehem and destroy all male infants two years of age and younger.

This extraordinary measure was not the action of a reasonable man! Far from it. Herod was inspired by the devil to commit such slaughter. Jesus was spared, of course, because an angel had warned Mary and Joseph to flee into Egypt for a time.

The conflict with Satan was further demonstrated in Nazareth where Jesus lived for thirty years. The townspeople had watched this son of Joseph grow into manhood. They had not heard Him blaspheme, nor curse, nor hurt anyone. Yet, when He returned to Nazareth and spoke in the temple (Luke 4: 16-32), they flew into a rage, seized Him, and "led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong" (v. 29). Why would normal people try to kill a good, kind fellow citizen? It was abnormal. It was the devil seeking to destroy Him before His time.

We find this also with the "demonic" of Gadara. The man had a legion of devils in him (Mark 5). According to the Bible, everyone was afraid of him and were afraid
to pass that way. Strangers and visitors took another road because of this wild man. When Jesus came by, this demoniac roared out against Him. He wanted to destroy Jesus. But Jesus stood before him and asked, "What is your name?" When the spirits identified themselves as "Legion: for we are many," Jesus commanded them to come out.

Another indirect meeting with the prince of darkness happened when Jesus was asleep in the boat on the Sea of Galilee. A storm arose abnormally fast. The Scripture says it came up "suddenly." The devil has some control over the elements, as we learn from the book of Job, and while Jesus slept, Satan tried to dump the boat to the bottom of the sea. No doubt the devil thought if he could attack Jesus in an indirect way, he could destroy Him. But of course, his attempt failed the disciples aroused Jesus, He rebuked the storm, and a great calm came over the waters.

The devil also sought to destroy Jesus through the hatred and cunning of religious leaders. I do not believe those priests and Pharisees were normally men of hate. Something came upon them. It began with pride. They thought, "Now, if this Jesus stays around He is going to steal our prestige. We have to get rid of Him!"

The devil helped them right up to the point of murdering Jesus.

Satan also attacked Jesus indirectly through Judas, who betrayed our Lord. Luke says, "Then entered
Satan into Judas..." (Luke 22:3). Judas was not Jesus' real enemy - the devil was using Judas. Avoiding a face-to-face confrontation, he chose rather to try to destroy Jesus by deceit.

The best example of direct conflict between Satan and Jesus is the wilderness temptation. Matthew 4 and Luke 4 both record this in detail.

The devil came to Jesus when He was alone, preparing for His earthly ministry. For forty days He had prayed and fasted, and His body was weak. The devil thought this would be Jesus' weakest moment. He did not know that although a fasting person's flesh may lack strength, his spirit can be stronger than ever.

Satan first approached Jesus in the area of his fleshly appetite. "There is a stone," he said. "If you are God, turn it into bread."

Satan knew Jesus was God. After all, Jesus had made him. He knew Jesus was his Creator. But the devil is a deceiver and a liar. He said, "If you are the son of God....."

Jesus answered, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (v. 4).

He stood upon the Word of God, quoting to the devil a passage from the Old Testament and thus setting an example for you and me. We must answer satanic attacks not with our intelligence nor our feelings, but with God's Word.
Jesus won the first round of this temptation, and so will we when we use the Word of God.

Next, Satan tried to appeal to Jesus’ ego. Taking Him to the highest point of the temple, he whispered in His ear, that He should jump. After all, he must have whispered, just think of the publicity that would result if somebody leaped seventy-two feet from the highest point of Judaism's most sacred structure—and lived...

or even better, was rescued by angels.

Don't think the devil is not clever. He is.

But Jesus answered immediately, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (v. 7). He knew we must never believe the devil and that Satan was misusing Psalm 91:11,12.

Occasionally a magazine or newspaper will carry a story about people who handle snakes as part of their religion. I lived for a time in the jungle and deadly snakes were all about me. It would have been tempting the Lord for me to have taken one of them up in my arms.

. However, I know stories of Wycliffe Bible translators whose children were bitten, or who were bitten themselves, sought the Lord, believed this promise and lived. And the natives gawked in stunned amazement, just as they did in Acts 28 when Paul was bitten and lived.

I have benefited from the Bible's promises in Mark 16:18 when I have accidentally eaten things that were
poisonous. God has healed me. But I did not tempt the Lord by intentionally eating poison.

After failing to tempt Jesus twice in the wilderness, the devil had one more trick up his sleeve. He asked Jesus to bow down and worship him. Satan promised Him "all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them" (Matt. 4:8, 9), but Jesus neither yielded nor bowed.

Jesus had come to earth for the very purpose of reclaiming mankind for His heavenly Father. But with this third temptation Satan didn't intend to grant what he was offering, and Jesus knew that. It was an attractive shortcut, another of the devil's lies. Jesus answered, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written..." (v. 10), and the devil left Him!

The Lord Jesus identified demon spirits. He recognized some as deaf spirits. He identified dumbness, infirmities, and wildness. Christ knew the number of demons a person had - He could bring out one or He could bring out a thousand. From Mary Magdalene, He cast out seven demons. The number had no relationship to the deliverance. When He spoke the word, the demons had to go, and the people were set free.

The most explicit description is in Revelation. John is shown a vision of a "wonder in heaven... a great red dragon" (Rev. 12:3). There, Michael and his angels wage battle against this serpent. "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" (v. 9).

Do those angels have names, too? -like Arlindo said they do? Very often demons that I cast out declare themselves to have names. The spirits in the demonpossessed man of Gadara called themselves "Legion," according to Mark 5:9.

I have heard of demon spirits who claimed to have been Napoleon, Alexander the Great, and other world leaders. They are lying, of course. The dead do not become demons, even if they are condemned to hell. Demons are not dead people any more than angels are believers who have died and gone to heaven.

Demons often state the names of people they have lived in before. Again, we cannot put much stock in this information. Perhaps it is true. Probably it is not. Satan only offers information that serves to his benefit in some way.

Thus, I rarely quote the things that some demon said. I've recounted a number of conversations in this book - but only to show you what you should expect when you begin using the authority given to you by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Demons are liars and probably will not tell the truth about their names, numbers, or strength. Invoking them is dangerous.

I would no more call on one of them than I would
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attend a seance or give my grandchildren a Ouija board.

I believe most of the pagan gods of India are demons. I once cast out a spirit that claimed to be Cali, the demon goddess for whom the city of Calcutta is named.

In China, many years ago, I went into a pagan temple and they had a great big idol out in the middle. That monster must have been almost thirty feet high. I called the priest over, and I said, "You know there is nothing to this. Mud. Painted mud."

He looked at me, and he said, "You're wrong."

I said, "Well, there is nothing to it. You're burning that incense down at the bottom of it, and you have some food laying out there that the rats are going to eat. You know there is nothing to this."

He took me around to the back of that image and there was a round hole. He said, "The spirit of the image is not there right now. He's offin the mountains. But I could call him and you wouldn't say that anymore. It's a strong spirit that possesses this idol, and all I have to do is kneel down in front of it, and start calling his name, burning that incense, and he'll come. And when he comes you'll know he's here."

Perhaps you remember from Sunday school the many references in the Bible to Baal, the demon-god of the ancient Canaanites. History and the Bible describe him as a very real entity - a demon that posed as a god.

Notice how in the Ten Commandments, the Lord
commanded first that "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Then, in a separate commandment, He prohibited idols. So, they are not the same thing.

The apostle Paul underlined that distinction. "What say I then? That the idol is anything? ... things that the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils" (1 Cor. 10:19, 20).

So, there are other "gods!" Certainly! And they are demonic pretenders - false gods. There is only one Creator, only one Father - only one that we call Lord.

The others are counterfeits, existing only to seduce humanity down yet one more side road to damnation.

These pagan gods were not the figment of some creative ancient's imagination.

Baal is described as a terrifying presence, perverse, evil, and demanding terrible things as part of his worship throughout history.

I see this as a clue that he was no mere idol, but instead a real demonic being. Through his possessed select, he made very real and terrible demands. Ritual prostitution was part of his worship - mentioned in Judges 2:17, Jeremiah 7:9, and Amos 2:7. Child-sacrifice to Baal is detailed in Jeremiah 9:5.

Another demon-god called Molech required human sacrifice - the burning to death of children. Most Bible references to Molech are about human sacrifice.
specifically, making one's children "pass through the fire" - as in Leviticus 18:21, 2 Kings 16:3, 2 Kings 23:10, and Jeremiah 32:35.

A backslidden Solomon allowed Molech worship to placate his pagan wives and concubines, according to 1 Kings 11:7. He even built high places for Molech in Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives that stood until Josiah's time, according to 2 Kings 23:13.

Punishment for worshiping Molech was death by stoning (Lev 20:3). 1112 Kings 17:17, we read of how Israel fell under Molech's spell during Ahaz's reign in Judah and in Hosea's time.

Ashtoreth was Molech's female counterpart. Israel became involved in her idolatrous worship in Judges 2:13 and 1 Samuel 12:10. Solomon also allowed temples built to her in 1 Kings 11:5,33. There was a temple of this goddess among the Philistines in the time of Saul, mentioned in 1 Samuel 31:10. Ashtoreth worship generated insane acts of devotion. Children were thrown by their mothers from the top of the temple walls during her feast to be burned on the altar.

Small wonder then that God jealously guarded His people from unhealthy fascination with these demon gods that infested Palestine.

He ordered that their temples and idols be torn down. The Israelites were not even allowed to salvage the gold and silver from their images.

God told Joshua to destroy the cruel, fierce, fighting
people whose moral and religious practices were exceptionally wicked and repulsive, according to Leviticus 18:22-30 and Deuteronomy 12:30-32.

Today, we are cautioned throughout the Bible to have nothing at all to do with the works of the devil.

This means that we simply cannot sit and chuckle at the Ghostbuster movies, where terrible, ancient deities come to life to do battle with the comic scientists of the film.

Nor do we allow such idols into our homes. The Israelites were never allowed to bring such stuff home. If you have a lamp in the image of Buddha, I urge you to burn it.

Get rid of any Mexican idols, too - those cute, grimacing images that you may have picked up at a curio shop on your honeymoon.

They are nothing with which to play.

Nor is Satan.
He is real.
He is terrible.
He is cunning.
He is filled with anger and vengeance.
But we have all the power needed to defeat him, drive him back, and keep at bay.

The blood of the Lamb that was slain for our sins. Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah!
WHY EXORCISTS FAIL

Tips on how to avoid disaster

This story didn't happen in some remote jungle. Nor did it take place in a backward corner of rural, mountainous America.

This happened to a noted pastor of a somewhat large church. He had three women in his congregation who were admitted, practicing witches. They made their living telling fortunes.

Why didn't he throw them out? I would have.

But he didn't. One of the witches had a son who got sick. The preacher prayed for the boy, but the boy died. That witch said, "I'm going to curse you. You killed my boy."

This preacher said, "No, I didn't kill him. I just prayed for him and God took his life."
Of course, God didn't, but that is what he told her. She waited several months, and kept coming to church, and one day she asked this pastor's son, "Come cut my lawn. I'm going to give you $30 for it."

It was worth about $10. He was delighted at the thought of all that money. He was maybe fifteen years old.

He got his lawn mower and he went over there and cut the grass. When he got through, she said, "Come on in." She had some lemonade, and got the $30 and laid it on the table.

She had a daughter just the age of this preacher's son. She said, "Come in here, in this room." She led both of them inside, the boy told me. She began to undress them. She undressed the girl first - evidently the girl had already had sex and knew all about it.

He told me that as the witch undressed him, he was almost insane with passion. She locked the door and said, "I'll be back after awhile. Have all that you can."

The boy came home and never did tell his dad. I think the boy told me first.

But once he got home, he began to get sicker, and sicker, and sicker.

The pastor told me that he could see black shadows across his window outside his house. He'd get up in the morning and this piece of furniture that was over there last night was over here.

I said, "Why didn't you fight the devil?"
"I don't know how to fight the devil," he answered. The boy got down close to death. I've never told anyone this whole story before. The pastor's wife told a leader of his denomination, "I think my son is demon possessed by these witches. I'm going to send for Lester Sumrall."

"Oh, my God," exclaimed this official. "Have you gotten to that? Lester Sumrall! Do you know how that will look? He's a devil chaser. We don't believe in all that silliness."

The boy's father retorted, "Well, you haven't helped him."

"I'll come over," exclaimed this official.

He went over and had one look at that kid. They had to strap the boy in bed now.

This official took a look at the fifteen-year-old and said, "Oh, my God Almighty! Send him to the insane asylum. They're the only people who know how to deal with people like this."

And he walked out.

He never did pray for the boy. He took one look at him and walked out.

So, the parents called me.

I went over and prayed for the boy and I talked to them. They brought him out to a church service. I've been going there for many years. They're very nice people with a big church.

They brought that poor boy to church and had him
there in that service. We cast out the demon.

However, they weren't interested in learning how to take care of this sort of thing themselves. Isn't that odd? They'd rather bring in a big expert and let him get his hands dirty.

They called me, as if I were a traveling exorcist like in the movies. They thanked me when the boy appeared to be completely healed. I tell you, when I left, the child was freed.

After I left town, evidently that thing came back on him. I don't really understand what happened. I guess I didn't get through to the boy that he could resist the devil— and Satan would have to flee. I certainly didn't get through to the preacher or his staff that they had just as much authority as I.

That poor boy died.

As far as I know, the hospital never could figure out what was wrong with him.

He just died.

He wasted away.

Do I feel like I had failed? No, no. I told them what to do. The first thing that they had to do was to clean those witches out of their church. That was too harsh a theology, they told me.

I told that preacher, "No witch is going to come to my church but once. They'll either get saved or they don't come back.»

This preacher played with them. He liked to debate
with them. He thought it was funny. He was dabbling in the darkness. He was playing with a viper.

And it bit him. It killed his boy.

The terribly pathetic thing about all this is that this is a supposedly Bible-believing church. Well, if they believe God's Word, then what on earth is wrong with them when they read Mark 16:17? "And these signs shall follow them that believe," it proclaims as big as anybody should need - "in my name shall they cast out devils."

When the movie The Exorcist was popular, I received a call from a major television show in New York, asking me to appear on this program.

When I wanted to know why they were inviting me, they said they had read a booklet I had written and that they wished to bill me as an exorcist.

I agreed to go on one condition - that I not be singled out as some phenomenon. I told them there is nothing peculiar about an exorcist and that every Christian could be one.

I said I had never gone about looking for devils, to cast them out.

They must have changed their minds and decided they didn't want me after all.

Apparently, I wasn't peculiar enough.

I meant what I told them. I do not consider myself unique. Dominion over Satan is every Christian's right by the blood of Jesus Christ.
Who can cast out demons?

Any born-again person, anyone who knows the Lord Jesus Christ personally can cast out devils.

What does Mark 16:17 really say and mean?

It is quoting Jesus, the Son of God himself! Our Lord tells us that certain signs follow those who believe. The very first on the list right there in your Holy Bible is that they - all those who believe - shall cast out devils. This ability does not depend upon our own power, the century you were born, or your denomination.

Jesus Christ, who now sits at the right hand of Almighty God, said that we shall cast out devils in His name.

Can it be any more simple?

But how does a person become able to do that? By coming to Jesus Christ. When can he begin? The moment he is born again.

A person can be born again and then immediately walk out on the street and set somebody else free from demon possession - by God's power. He is on the team already. The instant he comes into the kingdom of God, he has Kingdom power and authority - if he knows it and believes it.

That is the problem. Most Christians do not believe they have that power and authority because they have not been taught that they have it. One of the greatest tragedies of our time is the teaching of unbelief by the clergy. They not only do not teach people to believe that
they have power and authority over Satan and his demons, but they actually teach the contrary.

Here are some terrible untruths being taught today by good Christian pastors - who were taught the same lies by good professors who genuinely believe what they were taught.

Lie #1: The power has passed away.

So many Christians are taught the ridiculous lie that 2,000 years ago believers could cast out demons, but not today. According to this heresy, miracles were only given by God to a select few to launch the ministry of the early Church, but that once the Bible was written, all the miracles ceased.

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The Bible does not support it. Those who teach it love to trot out a few verses used badly out of context and requiring real imagination. You can only believe them if you are willing to accept the human interpretation of these few, favorite Scriptures. Some of these people are incredibly determined that you will agree with them. They want you to believe there is no power in Christianity. Why? It justifies their powerless lives. The power within you drives them crazy.

If they continue hammering their human doctrines at you, ask why the Bible says so plainly and repeatedly that you and I have power. Ask them this:

• If you believe that the Bible is perfect, then you
believe that it has no flaws - that it is straight from God. Amen? Amen!

* Ask them if they believe Luke 9:1 and Matthew 10:1-8, in which the disciples were given power.
* Then, ask them if they believe the Great Commission, given by Jesus in Mark 16. Ask if the Great Commission is still valid. Ask if we are to evangelize the world. Then ask why they think the promises of power in the verses that follow are no longer valid.
* Ask them to read with you 2 Timothy 3. In it, Paul warns young Timothy to have nothing to do with people who teach godliness, but deny the power of God. Ask them how they think they are not guilty of this.
* Then tell them of miracles and wonders in your own life, in the lives of those you know and trust - and miracles about which you have read or heard. Here’s where the rubber will meet the road.

You will have a convert or at least someone interested in hearing more - or else you'll find that these people will absolutely close their ears, just as Isaiah foretold in Acts 28:26-27 and Isaiah 6:10. They will want to talk about something else. They will begin downplaying what you say happened.

They will begin explaining it away.

Don't let them shake your faith. You know what is true. Notice that as you begin shaking their lack of faith, they will retreat to their religious leaders, who will probably tell them not to talk to you anymore.
Jehovah's Witnesses, Moonies, and Mormons are particularly guilty of that. When you show them a living God who lives today - they retreat to their church overseers, who tell them to stay away from you.

Here's what hurts. It is really sad when the person is not in such a cult- but is in a good church that merely denies the power of God today. They may pull out their favorite Scriptures, such as 1 Corinthians 13:10, which says when "the perfect" comes, "that which is in part will be done away." They will tell you that the Bible is "the perfect" and when it was finally completed around A.D. 100, all miracles ceased.

Well, that verse is no proof at all, my friend. "The perfect" is Jesus. When he returns, miracles and prophesies will cease since they won't be necessary. In heaven, we won't need healing or deliverance from demons.

Historically, there are big problems with this weak explanation of "the perfect." Throughout the Roman persecution, incredible miracles continued. The inexplicable blessings, protection and provision of Christians convinced the Emperor Constantine to end the martyrdom and accept Jesus! Around A.D. 420, long after the Bible was finished, the Christian leader Augustine wrote of continued healings and wonders in his classic books Confessions and The City of God.

Those who teach this powerless theology also like to insist that only the apostles were given divine power to heal. They define the apostles as the Twelve~ plus Paul.
But there's another problem: *those thirteen weren't the only ones the Bible calls "apostles."* Look up Acts 14:14 for yourself - Bamabus was referred to as an apostle! In 2 Thessalonians 2:6, Paul speaks of the missionaries who traveled to Thessalonica as apostles. Who went? Silas, Paul, and Timothy.

Miracles were performed in the Bible by quite a number of people other than these thirteen. Moses, Elijah, and Elisha performed great miracles. Acts 6:8 tells how Stephen moved among the people performing signs and wonders. Acts 8:6 notes Philip's miracles.

Acts 14:20 tells that after Paul was stoned by a mob and left for dead, believers gathered around him. It's difficult for me to imagine that they just stood there and cried. After they circled him, he stood up, alive!

In Acts 21:10, the Bible tells how a prophet named Agabas had a valid word from the Lord for Paul.

Those today who do not believe in the continuing power of God sometimes begin to make excuses that power actually was given to the Twelve, Paul - *plus anybody on whom those thirteen laid hands.*

Then it stopped, they claim.

Those who received healing power from the Twelve and Paul could not pass it on, they say. This is very tidy, except that the Bible does not say this anywhere. It doesn't even hint at it. Sure, the only healings in the New Testament were performed by the Twelve, Paul, or by those on whom they could have laid hands. But
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does that prove that miracles then suddenly ceased when the Bible was completed? If it does, why are sick Christians told to call on church elders - not one of the Twelve or Paul or somebody on whom they laid hands?

James 5:14-15 says that those elders' anointing with oil and prayer "offered up in faith" will bring healing.

1 Corinthians 12:29-31 tells us to earnestly desire the Holy Spirit's gifts, such as healing. Was this Scripture written only to the Twelve, Paul, and to those on which they laid hands? Certainly not! Read Romans 4:23-24 and the whole chapter preceding. It assures us that the Bible was not written to just a few people.

God is very clear when a biblical instruction is directed at only a few, such as Noah to build an Ark, Euodia to quit fussing (Phil 4:1), or for Timothy to stay away from worldly debates (2 Tim. 6:20), and hurry to bring Paul his books and a coat (2 Tim. 4:13).

How can you tell if any other commandment or instruction or promise is directed at all of us - or just the Twelve and Paul? Read the context! Is the Scripture directed specifically to somebody - or to all of us?

Try this test on John 14:12, in which Jesus told His disciples that those who believe would perform miracles just as He did, and, furthermore - "greater works than these" will result. That promise has no qualifications. It wasn't given only to those on whom the Twelve and Paul laid hands! It's for everybody!

Does it matter that the Bible doesn't record miracles
that were performed by those who lived after the Twelve, Paul, and those on whom they laid hands? No! The Bible does not record any specific acts of individuals past the time when John laid down his pen after writing Revelation! It does not mention the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, nor the arrival of missionaries in England, nor the miracles in Augustine's church, nor how believers survived the fall of Rome.

Why not? Because the sacred text was completed long before all that happened.

So, I encourage you to ignore religious rationalizations by powerless preachers trying to justify why there are no miracles in their lives! Their arguments gained popularity during the early 1900s, when signs and wonders began to shake up dead American churches.

The Bible doesn't say what they want it to say.
Nor does real life.

Why do people stay in a powerless religion?
They don't! Haven't you noticed that fewer and fewer people in our society are attending these churches? Many non-attenders still claim to be Christians meaning they are God-fearing as opposed to ignorant heathens. But they are not interested in sleeping through church any more.

Their parents inflicted a pointless, powerless religion on them. So now, a generation taught to question tradition and to defy authority sees no point in it. They pray when they need God, but when they need pastoral
help - the power of Jesus Christ applied to their lives - they don't return to mamby-pamby clergy denying the power of prayer and mumbling about the psychotheoretical conundrums of Jung versus Freud.

They won't subject their kids to dead sermons delivered by defeated men with nothing to say. And they won't tolerate pointless worship conducted as if we must earn our salvation by enduring musical punishment. They just stay away.

Our stressed-out society today is re-evaluating the rat race of past years and is getting back to basics. Increasingly, this generation's search for real values does not result in returning to the little brown church in the wildwood where argumentative hard-liners insist on having church exactly the way they've always had church - even if nobody can remember why.

Nor is this generation finding truth in battered, liberal congregations constantly jerked around by this or that new man-made program to liberate the oppressed, feed the world's poor, or, frankly, just engineer congregational excitement - and thus fake the move of the Spirit for which all their souls are yearning.

As a result, some of the greatest old denominations are dying - closing hundreds of churches each year. Even some of the biggest groups are suffering from a serious preacher shortage.

Why?

Because fewer and fewer of the ide“ lists who make
good preachers will devote their lives to perpetuating dead tradition. The great spiritual revolutions that launched some of the finest movements of history are no longer remembered - at least not accurately. Instead, the revival has been institutionalized, packaged, explained away and homogenized into something that would absolutely baffle Martin Luther, Charles Wesley, Alexander Campbell, or Smith Wigglesworth.

There is no fire, no freedom, no joy.
Increasingly, there is no anointing. Or presence of the Lord.

The denominations and movements that are dying are the ones who deny or seem embarrassed by the message of the power of Jesus Christ.
They're the ones closing their doors. There is no point in attending. Who wants a religion that doesn't work?

Many churches today are attended only by a staunch, determined, dwindling corps doggedly trying to preserve past victory by doggedly droning the same old hymns that will be sung at their funerals. A spirit of death infests their sanctuaries, suppressing any real worship, and oppressing any message of life whimpered from their pulpits.

Let me warn you - as the final battle grows in intensity, these poor churches are going to be among the first spiritual casualties. The few leaders they have left will try to fight back with the weapons of man since they don't believe there are any weapons of the
Holy Spirit. They will be soundly beaten. Whether they like to admit it or not, their *Christian humanism* is a lie. They teach that we are our own hope and our own salvation. Of course, James tells us throughout his book of the Bible that we *must* put our faith to work. But such practical faith must be solidly rooted in Jesus, not the proud, powerless, uninspired strategies of men.

These folks proudly, foolishly run after great moral causes -butting their heads against our real enemy's shields, struggling against the devil's great strongholds in their puny, man-inspired strength. And they fail without the leading of the Holy Spirit and without the supernatural intervention of a God who never fails.

Such a powerless religion is going to leave them in the middle of a battlefield with no armor, no weapons, no chance of survival- and no belief that there even is a God ready to march to their rescue with legions of angels.

How many churches do you know that really have no effect on their community anymore? They're just a benign community club where people meet and feel somewhat good about themselves.

They are without power, just like the prophets of Baal, ridiculed by Elijah. Well, like Elijah, I am glad to proclaim that my *God is real*. He is full of might and power. He still cares. He's still there.

He's still fighting daily on my behalf. People in my church do not die of curses.
No, God's power has not passed away. We are not eating the leftovers of yesterday's feast. We are right in the middle of today's great banquet, the best that heaven has to offer. God didn't do any more for those people back then than He will do tomorrow and is doing for us today. The only difference is, those people back then simply released themselves more to God than we do now. The more we release ourselves to God, the more He does for us and through us.

Lie #2: Only the "clergy" can cast out demons. I can't find the word clergy in my New Testament.

All I see is that we are all members of the new, royal priesthood of Jesus Christ. We are all called as witnesses. The Old Testament had a priest class.

It, like the curse of the Law, was nailed to the Cross. So many people do not use the power within them as Christians because they do not think they are "authorized" to do so. They are waiting for their church or denomination or some clerical hierarchy to appoint them to some office or grant them some certain title before they feel they can fulfill this responsibility.

Jesus is the giver of authority. No church or church officer can grant you that power. No one can appoint you. Only those who have divine authority from Christ himself can do it. And it begins with the born-again experience of knowing Jesus personally in our hearts. From that moment, a person has power over Satan.
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The fact is, a person can cast out devils when he knows he can do it. But how does a person know that he is able to cast out demons?

In considering this question, we must decide who gave the commission in Matthew 10 to cast out devils and to whom it was given.

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease (Matt. 10:1).

That is what it says. Jesus Christ commissioned His first twelve disciples to go and cast out devils.

In Luke 10, He appointed seventy others to go and minister. When these seventy apostles returned to Him, they were rejoicing that even the devils were subject unto them by the pronouncing of His name against them. And the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name (Luke 10:17).

Then just before he returned to heaven, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for a while, telling them in Acts 1:8: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Jesus authorized and commissioned all believers to carry on His ministry:
And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved - but he that believeth shall not be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe - In my name shall they cast out devils - they shall speak with new tongues - they shall take up serpents - and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them - they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (Mark 16:15-18).

The Lord Jesus specifically said that those who believe would cast out devils. Of course, these are persons who believe and accept the gospel. They personally know God's power and have become holy vessels unto God. They can accept by faith the sign ministry and therefore exorcise evil spirits.

This simply means that the casting out of spirits does not belong especially to the hierarchy. It does specifically say that those who exercise faith have this power to relieve those who are tormented by spirits.

Lie #3: Exorcists must follow complex rituals Did you see the exorcism on TV some time ago? A Catholic priest went through the mediæval liturgies - but without dramatic effect. As the TV cameras rolled, the afflicted person cried out for mercy. It was a sad display.

Why did the priest fail?
Because he did not order the demon to go in the name
of Jesus - filled with faith in the power of our Creator, believing in
the authority given to us as a believer, and armed with what he
knows to be true in the Word!

It is always best to stick only to what the Bible says about
such matters. Traditional rituals, mysticallitanies, and dutiful
adherence to some theology book's rules written by a
committee on church doctrines 500 years ago will lead you
around and around in circles.

The devil loves to dance.

So, sure, he will respond to that kind of stuff. But in
the end, simple Bible works best.

Of course, it doesn't make good movies.

That is why exorcists in the entertainment media
are tormented, cassock-cloaked mystics who have attended
decades of seminary and are filled with selfdoubt and have to
deal with all sorts of dramatic personal problems.

How are we to speak to a demon?

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in Matthew 4:4,
He spoke directly to the devil: But he answered and said, It is
written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Notice that Jesus did not ask His Father to rebuke Satan, but
rather He dealt with him personally. In so doing, He was
giving us an example of how we are to deal with the adversary.

Jesus did not say that the devil was lying when Satan offered
Him the nations of the world and its
glory. But neither did He succumb to his temptation.

Jesus resisted the devil by the Word of God: *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve* (Matt. 4:10).

Jesus showed that the Word was the sword by which Christians overcome the devil.

In the synagogue, where Christ worshipped and read from the law of Moses, He discovered those who had evil spirits:

> *And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,*

> *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.*

> *And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not* (Luke 4:33-35).

The spirit cried out the identity of Jesus, that He was the Holy One of God. Christ silenced the man and commanded the spirit to come out of him. In anger the spirit threw the man violently, but Christ would not let it hurt him as he was forever loosed of its power.

Lie #4: The devil is too powerful for us. Jesus recognized the devil's power.
But Jesus was more powerful.

Notice that the possessed man in Luke 4 did not cry out with a loud voice until Jesus got there. Those people sang their songs, said their prayers, read their Scriptures, and the devil enjoyed it all. But when the power of God came on the scene, suddenly the devil became upset.

Why? Religious ceremony is no threat to him. We can hold regular church services and demon-possessed people can sit right through them undisturbed.

But when the glory of God is manifested and the Spirit of the Lord moves, the devil can't stand it.

That is why I stress so much the importance of exercising our divine authority over demons. As long as we confine our Christianity to religious observances, we pose no threat to Satan and his kingdom. It is only when we come against him in the power and authority of Jesus Christ that we win any victories over him.

Satan can and does infiltrate the Church, and religious people are never even aware of it. They do not discern it until someone comes in with divine authority. You and I are to be that someone.

Is fasting and praying important in exorcising demon spirits? Can some be cast out without fasting while others cannot?

Since Jesus Christ is our chief example and we are exhorted to follow Him, we should consider that the Bible repeatedly says that Christ fasted often. I person
ally believe that fasting is a source of spiritual strength and power.

Just before Christ’s triumphant entry into his public ministry, He fasted for forty days: And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward hungered (Matt. 4:2).

Before the major experiences of His life, our Master did fast. For us today, it is very important to fast, especially before seeking to cast out some evil spirit.

We are taught there are varying degrees of power among the demonic forces in the spirit world. After casting out the epileptic spirit from the boy who had suffered seizures, Jesus told His disciples that they had not been able to cast it out because "... this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" (Matt. 17:21). Therefore, it is sure there are certain spirits that will resist one until he has prepared himself for spiritual encounter.

The Word of God is either true or not true. If Christians actively, persistently, dogmatically, and spiritually resist the devil, then the Bible says that he will flee.

If the devil will run from us in terror, why should we Christians be afraid of him?

How can he hurt us? How can we fail?

Stand firm in that security and use that power at your disposal to tear down the strongholds of Satan and to "set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18).

Why do some exorcists fail?
Reason #1 for failure: Lack of preparation.
Of course, Jesus never failed, but you and I can run into the same sort of thing that the disciples experienced when they failed in Matthew 17.
There, Jesus told them that this sort of demon came out only through fasting and prayer.
They had jumped into it without enough spiritual preparation.

Reason #2 for failure: Poor judgment.
Another reason for failure is when we try to battle Satan on his ground.
Almost everything I know about demon power, I learned it from experience - as I searched the Scriptures and studied God's Word to be sure I was doing the right thing.
I didn't pick any of this up from somebody else. I learned things the hard way sometimes. One of those is that we don't go into the devil's territory unless we go to destroy him.
Don't ever go for curiosity's sake.
He will seduce you.
My wife went to a voodoo meeting in Brazil one time. I told her not to go, but for security I went along. They were beating the drums and were really drunk on the devil's power by 2 a.m.
She wanted to see it. We had never seen those people do this stuff, and they really do some crazy things in
Brazil. I looked around at my wife and she was swaying and staggering, too.

I grabbed her around her middle and I began to scream as loud as I could, "I rebuke you, devils. I rebuke you by the blood of Jesus. You cannot touch any of us."

I picked her up and carried her, put her back in the car, and we left. I said, "You don't go to the devil's playhouse. You don't do that. We had no business wanting to come here. Inquisitiveness can destroy you. We can't do it."

I don't ever, for fun, go to see anything the devil has done. I don't go into his empire. It belongs to him.

He cannot come into my church and operate. I will not permit it.

We cast the devil out of many people who come not knowing what they're getting into. They yell out and we set them free, right there in the meeting.

But if you go into the devil's dominion, he has a power there that he doesn't have anywhere else. You have no business being there.

It is utter folly for you to try, for example, to burst into a pagan temple and begin trying to throw out the demons.

They'll fight back.

I can tell you of stories of foolish people who tried such and were hurled into the air or slammed into the wall- as the demons laughed at them.

Use good judgment.
Once I was staying in the home of a fine Christian gentleman in Denver, Colorado. It was a large house, and the guest room in which I slept was in a back portion of the house, away from the area where the man and his wife were sleeping.

About 2 a.m. I was awakened. There in the door I could see the silhouette of a woman. The room was dark, but I could plainly see her standing there. I could distinguish her features. She was fair faced, a Scandinavian type, with long blond hair and blue eyes. She was dressed in night clothes and was carrying a pistol in her hand.

I immediately knew what it was I was seeing, and what had caused it to appear. Someone had been killed in that room in the past.

The next morning I confronted the owner of the house. "Sir," I said, "someone was killed in this house."

"No."

"Oh, yes. Someone was killed in this house. I'm further telling you that you have had problems here."

We looked at each other. I said, "Go talk to some of the neighbors who have lived here a long time. Ask them what happened. I'm telling you, a woman died in this house."

The man went to the neighbors and asked them, "I just bought this big beautiful home a few months ago. Who lived there before me?"

The neighbors answered, "A Swedish doctor."
"Why did he move away?"
"His wife shot herself in the back room and she died." That was the same room in which I had been sleeping. The man came back to the house, amazed.
When he asked, "How did you know that?" I replied, "I saw her there."
"What did she want?" he asked.
"The spirit of suicide is in this house."
Then the man broke down and told me the truth. He said, "The first time in my life that I ever thought of committing suicide was in this house. I had been told by that spirit four or five times that the best way out of this was to take my life."
I want you to understand something: I did not try to cast the demon out of that house. I told the man, instead, to move away.
Why? He was easily seduced. He loved money. He did not have the faith or interest to take authority over demons. He was too consumed with money and riches. There was little I could do for him.
A friend of mine in England had three daughters. He moved into another house, and one of the daughters lived in a certain room there. She hated it. She begged her father to let her move out of the room. She said, "Father, please let me move out of this room. I'm going to die here."
The father laughed at her, but she died. He put another one of his daughters in the room. After a few
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nights, she too pleaded with him, "Let me out of this room, Father. Please let me out of this room." But he was a hard-headed man. He refused. And she died.

Then the man went to my mentor, the great evangelist Howard Carter and asked, "What in the world am I going to do?" Brother Carter answered, "Well, seeing as you have no power to do anything, you had better move out of the place. You only have one daughter left."

Do not try to battle Satan unless you are prepared and on God's turf.

Of course, if the Lord clearly tells you to go to a pagan ritual and banish Satan, then, you must. If He sends you in, ordering you in no uncertain terms to cast out the evil through His strength and power, then march!

You also had better prepare yourself with intense prayer, fasting, and study in the Word. Pray that intercessors are taking your case before the throne of God as you undertake such battle.

Know without a doubt that God does not make mistakes. If He told you to go, there was a purpose for it.

Just remember that the fight is spiritual - not physical. Pray for supernatural power. Power is two things. Power is authority and power is energy.

When you received the Holy Ghost you received the power of authority. You speak and things obey you because you have the authority under the Lord Jesus promises.
Then you have energy. I've got it - energy that comes from the Holy Ghost. It doesn't come from natural means, it comes from the Holy Spirit.

Reason #3 for failure: God doesn't honor pride.

Don't try to put on a big show in your own strength, hoping that the Lord will bail you out. He may just decide that your pride needs adjusting. He may let you make an idiot of yourself.

Reason #4 for failure: Deception and disbelief.

The devil is an enticer. According to 1 Timothy 4:1, "The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, by giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils."

The devil says, "That's not wrong. That's not bad. You're a preacher, you can learn from this." And he knows he's got you.

Other times, he will roar like a proverbial lion, pushing whatever fearful button that puts the biggest scare into you. "Don't mess with me, because I'll destroy you," he whispers. "I'll get your kids. I'll attack your health. I'll accuse you of adultery and destroy your ministry. I'll expose something terrible from your past. I'll ruin your chances to be the keynote speaker at next year's convention. I'll give your wife cancer. I'll kill you." And some people back away.

His favorite deception is camouflage - the old "What devil? Do you see a devil? You have a college degree."
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You're not so backward as to believe in devils, now, are you?"
Perhaps the most effective deception is the theological quagmire - this tired argument that we have no power, that the power of the Holy Spirit passed away when the apostles died.

Do you see the demonic strategy? If he can't convince us that we are too smart to believe in him or that we have no power over him, then he goes to work trying to scare the socks off of us.

But his fear-inducing lies are merely lies. Don't listen. Just throw him out.

**Reason #5 for failure: Seduction.**

Don't ever open your ears to demons' claims.

They only tell lies.

Some will plead with you - even play on your sympathy. I know of a man who had a dream in which he was taken high above the earth with a demonic being.

It showed him how twisted and ugly life as a demon was - how miserable its existence was. It played on his sympathy - how could a loving God banish such a hurting, twisted creation from His presence forever?

Was it fair that there is no chance of parole? What if the demon wanted to repent? It claimed it had done nothing to deserve eternal torment.

We are to give no sympathy to the devil- none!
It is just as big a lie as the temptation that a little adultery will help you understand what other people go through, or that buying pornography will open your eyes to the depth of the problem. These are lies and seduction. We never converse with demons. If they speak, I occasionally ask them things - but only rarely and only to show the audience what liars they are.

I know of preachers who interview demons. This is folly!

They have nothing to tell us. Anything they say is suspect. They're only saying it to advance Satan's power.

You'll get half-truths, outright lies, terrible accusations - such as the demon in Chapter 1 that disputed whether I had a relationship with Jesus. I rebuke the devil's power almost every time I get up to preach. It says, "All evil, all witchcraft, all occult powers, you have no authority in this place. Go!" And they go.

Remember the story of the fifteen-year-old boy who withered up and died after he was sexually seduced? The witches in his father's church were fortune-tellers.

They made their living playing with the devil, conversing with his lying demons - and deceiving people.

They told the pastor, "We're professional witches." He said he would pray that they would see the truth and that it would set them free.

Immediately, I would have said, "Come into my office, we'll take care of this." I'd have cast the devil out
of them, and said, "Now you can come to church here."

In Acts 16, that girl was walking down the street like any other girl. She wasn't saying anything too bad, just, "These are the servants of the most high god." Paul turned around and said, "Come out of her!" She was set free instantly.

There are many churches today that know nothing about satanic power. So the devil is there. There are pastors who play with demon power and who just don't know. Why? The seminaries and preacher training schools have not taught them the whole truth.

In Matthew 17, the disciples hadn't prepared themselves. They hadn't fasted and prayed with the little boy.

The sons of Sceva didn't have anything inside them. They said, "In the name of Peter and Paul, and the name of Jesus." The demons said, "Yeah, Peter and Paul we know. But we don't know you," and beat the daylights out of them.

That still happens. These people try to cast out devils and they get hit in the head.

Demons don't ever touch me. They have never lifted a finger against me. Never!

Too many churches today refuse conflict. They refuse battle. They refuse warfare. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight." But they won't fight that fight. If an issue comes up, they are content to back off. Leave it alone, they whine in fear.
But this one won't go away.
Satan is here - and he's taking advantage of those
who are happily, blindly pretending that he is not.
Can a godly believer be possessed by demons?

One cannot hope to deal with the subject of demon power without expecting one question above all others: can a Christian have a demon? Can an evil spirit enter and possession a believer?

The controversy on this issue rages around a theory of recognition and definition. Who is a Christian? What can happen in his life?

The Bible emphatically states in James 4:7, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." This is the position of the born-again believer. Jesus Christ, in His ultimate commission to the church, said, "... in my name shall they cast out devils ..." (Mark 16:17).
The Christian should not fear the devil— he should cast him out, dethrone him, exorcise him. However, a person who identifies himself or herself as a Christian and goes to fortune tellers, plays the Ouija board, and depends on horoscopes for guidance is an open door for the entrance of the evil one. Almost every worshiper and high priest of witchcraft in Brazil will tell you he is a Christian. This is what I mean by definition. The apostle Paul had no fear of demons or their power, but the sons of Sceva did. (See Acts 19: 13-17.)

Isn't it dangerous to talk about Satan?

No. He lacks power over us.

I cannot see where discussing our enemy has any wrong associated with it, or any danger. The Lord Jesus told us more about the devil than any other person in the entire Bible. He renounced and denounced the devil more than any other recorded person. He gave strict orders to His apostles to cast out devils: "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases" (Luke 9:1). "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" (Matt. 10:1).

The seventy disciples sent out by the Lord returned, rejoicing that they had power over devils: "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the
devils are subject unto us through thy name" (Luke 10:17).

The less we say about the devil, the greater gains he makes in the world. He would like to silence those who would destroy him and his works. There are people who, if you speak about the devil, accuse you of being negative. However, this is allpart of the devil's strategy to keep people quiet about him.

People in ignorance easily fall prey to the wiles of the devil. Enlightened people know how to stay free from his powers.

In the darkened heathen lands, he walks forth boldly to bind and destroy, and no one can stand up against him. In Christian lands we can speak like Paul who said, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11).

Jesus Christ came to destroy his works and we are in the same business. Every day we should learn better how to destroy him. We do not discuss him in fear, but we speak of him in the light of the great victory achieved by the Lord Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection.

Authorities estimate that thirty-five million Americans need healing from depression. There is an answer! It lies with you and me.

Can a Christian be cursed by demons?

Only if he allows it. According to the Bible, every Christian has the right and power to resist the devil

Can a Christian be cursed by demons?

Only if he allows it. According to the Bible, every Christian has the right and power to resist the devil
and his attacks: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," promises James 4:7.

Ephesians 6:16 advises us to take up "the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Here are some other verses that I highly recommend that you memorize. When the devil attacks you with doubts and fears, you can fight back very effectively just like Jesus did in the wilderness: with the indisputable Word of God.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper - and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Read it for yourself in its entire context in Isaiah 54:17.

I also like Isaiah 59:19: "So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

You are absolutely secure in Jesus.

"He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world," proclaims 1 John 4:4.

Galatians 3:13,14 tells us "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse being... made a curse for us ... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles [us] through Jesus Christ."
If we have been redeemed from the curse, if we are blessed of God, then the devil cannot curse us: "How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? Or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied?" (Num. 23:8).

Can an demonic spirit attack a Christian?
Yes. Satan and his angels do have the liberty to entice, to attract away from God, to tempt a believer in Christ. This is not surprising, because Satan tempted Eve by his lies in the Garden of Eden. She did not have to believe the devil's lies, but her force of will power yielded to her eyes, ears, and taste. She deliberately decided against God. It was a conscious act of her volition, a responsible decision.

In Matthew 4, we read that Satan even tempted Jesus Christ. If he will attack God's very own Son, he will attack the believer.

Can the demon-possessed be freed against his will?
No, he cannot. I have seen this all over the world. Any deliverance of a person who does not want to be free will be temporary at best. If set free against his will, the person will be possessed again when the demon decides to come back into him.

In Luke 11:24-26, Jesus tells us: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he
cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him 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."

If a person does not really want to be free of demon control, he will soon allow the spirit to re-enter. This time, there will be more spirits and the person's condition will be worse than at the beginning.

However, if a person is completely insane, like the demoniac of Gadara, you can set him free and then ask him if he would like to stay free. If he says yes, then he can remain free forever. But if he says no, he will soon allow himself to be repossessed by the devil.

So, witnessing to, showing Christian love to, and following up with people freed from possession is absolutely vital.

Is possession by evil spirits constant or sporadic?

When a person is possessed, the manifestation of that possession can be sporadic. The possession itself is constant and continuing, though there may not be any evidence of it all the time.

The spirit possessing a person can manifest itself at different times. For example, the witch doctor from Brazil had some spirits in him which only manifested themselves once a year. Other people may have demonic spirits that manifest themselves every day.
The demoniac of Gadara had become an uncontrollable wild man living in a cemetery and cutting himself with stones. When Jesus came, the demoniac screamed out, "I know you! Have you come to torment me before my time?" But the possessed man in the synagogue was comfortable at church among other people. Yet both were possessed of demons.

How many demons can one person have?

It can vary from one to thousands. Many people in the Bible were plagued with only one demonic spirit. In Mark 9:25 we read: "When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him." This person was possessed of one spirit that manifested in two ways, deafness and dumbness.

In Luke 11:26, we read of a person with eight evil spirits living in him: "Then goeth he, and taketh to him 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."

The demoniac of Gadara was controlled by a legion of at least a thousand demons (Luke 8:30).

Can demons be inherited?

Yes. In Java, I met a man who had seven spirits that manifested through him. He had "willed" these spirits to his teenaged son. The lad was happy to receive these
evil spirits and was eager for them to come into him at his father's death.

Can a person be possessed and not know it? Yes. Many people have demonic problems that they do not recognize. Usually these people realize that they have a problem but do not understand exactly what it is. Often they do not even believe in the reality of demons. This is one of Satan's greatest deceptions.

An example of a time when even the disciples were under the influence of spirits that they did not recognize is found in Luke 9:55: Jesus "turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.»

In Matthew 16:23 Jesus declares that Satan is working as an alien influence through Peter without the Apostles' knowledge: Jesus "turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.»

Can animals be possessed?

Yes. The classic example is Satan's entering the serpent in Genesis 3:1.

In the New Testament, we read of spirits entering pigs - Luke 8:33.

Today we have many examples of dogs, horses, and other animals suddenly going mad. Often, they injure themselves or people, even sometimes becoming man
killers, and must be destroyed. This sudden rush of violence suggests the presence of a demonic spirit.

Are there always physical manifestations when evil spirits leave?

Not always.

Luke 8:2 doesn't mention any manifestation during Mary Magdalene's deliverance from seven demons. Nor does Luke 7:21. But in Mark 9:26, "... the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead."

I have often seen people set free when there was no physical evidence. I just sensed the person's release in my spirit and knew that the demonic spirit was gone. Paul describes this spiritual witness in Romans 8:16.

Can a house be possessed of demons?

Yes, evil spirits prefer human beings, but they will often live in buildings. I have seen this phenomenon in pagan temples around the world. I have also seen it in private dwellings. Often these are houses in which a violent crime or some occult practice has taken place.

Are there religious spirits?

Yes. They are often the most difficult with which to deal. 1 John 4:1-3 warns us that many spirits will work in the area of false religion. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the
world. Hereby know ye the Spirit or God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

Paul confirms this revelation in 1 Timothy 4: 1-3: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them that believe and know the truth."

False religious spirits will become more active as we near the end of the present age: "For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect," proclaims Matthew 24:24.

In these last days in which we live, there is going to be an acceleration of demon power in religion. We see this in our country now in the gurus who have come here from India. They say they have come to teach Americans how to have peace, how to have a mind that is comforted. They are deceiving many. I recently visited a Buddhist temple in downtown San Francisco, close to Chinatown. One whole wall in the temple was
solid gold. As I looked through this gorgeous temple, worth millions of dollars, I looked into a lavish and beautiful theater area. All the seats were plush. Some 300 people were there taking lessons in Buddhism. Every one of those people was an American.

The final struggle of the ages has already begun on the face of this earth today. The final victory that we have just been reading about is apparent. The greatest masterpiece of this struggle will be religious in nature.

The False Prophet will stand beside the Antichrist, and the Bible says that he will bring fire down from heaven in the sight of men. He will cause that idol to speak like a man speaks. All the world will say, "Who is like him?" The greatest deception will be a religious deception.

Those of us with spiritual discernment will understand these things when they start to happen.

But we must have more and more spiritual discernment in all our churches today. Otherwise, the things that are about to take place in this last generation "shall deceive the very elect." That is why I have been moved by the Holy Spirit of God to write this book: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God..." (Acts 26:18) "...to shew unto his servants things that must shortly come to pass..." (Rev. 1:1).
How many evil spirits are there?

From what the apostle John said in Revelation 12:4, when Lucifer was cast out of heaven, he brought down with him one-third of the angelic host: What the Scripture says is: *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman that was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child when it was born.*

This must have been the group over which Satan presided. He had enough power of persuasion to convince them that he could do more for them than the One who created them. Lucifer and his followers had worked together for eternity before their rebellion. There was no history for them to refer to, so they obviously believed him and followed him into rebellion against the Most High God.

Since the angels are without number, "... ten thousand times ten thousands, and thousands of thousands" (Rev. 5:11), the sheer number of Satan's angels is beyond our mind's grasp.

These angels are the demons or evil, unclean spirits of which the Bible speaks. Their name comes from the Latin word *dremo*n, meaning evil spirit, and from the Greek word *daimon*, a divinity.

From the Bible, we understand that large numbers of demons roam the earth and the air. Since they do not die, they have been in the world since the beginning of time.
EXORCISM: The *Reality of Evil ... and Your Power Over It!*

These demons are personalities without bodies, and they are highly organized. As fallen spirits they want to dwell in a body to manifest themselves. They are angry with God and want to destroy what God loves or creates - chiefly man.

Are demons more active in some nations than in others?

Yes. In my travels in more than one hundred nations of the world, I have found that certain lands are more controlled by evil spirits than others. For example, India, Haiti, and Tibet are places where extreme control by demonic forces can be witnessed.

You will remember from the book of Genesis that Sodom and Gomorrah were under especially strong control of Satan (Gen. 18:20). Babylon is referred to in the Bible as a habitation of devils (Rev. 18:2).

Where there is Christian singing and rejoicing, where the Word of God is read and proclaimed, where people live clean lives, the devil has a hard time gaining a foothold. It is in places where sin abounds that Satan develops a stronghold.

What happens to a demon when someone it possesses dies?

I believe that the evil spirit immediately seeks a dwelling place in another person. He cannot walk into just any person's life - he must find one with an open door. If he is a spirit of lust, he seeks a lustful person.
If he is a spirit of anger, he seeks to possess a person who has little control over his temper. A spirit of insanity will seek to enter a person's mind.

   Where do demons that aren't in humans go? Satan and the demons that serve him, inhabit the nations of this world and seek to dominate them. He is called "the god of this world" for good reason. His spirits have their residence in the atmosphere of the planet Earth. His presence can almost be seen and felt in the places of this world where the gospel of Jesus Christ has not entered to challenge his ground.

   The Bible says ancient Babylon had become "the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit" (Rev. 18:2). In Isaiah's descriptive account of the devil's origin, the devil is accused of having "weakened the nations" (Isa. 14:12). Lucifer, as he is called in this passage, "made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms" (v. 16).

   Do demons believe in God? Yes, and as James says, they believe and tremble (James 2:19). Their belief is not one of faith and trust and commitment - it is rather one of knowledge.

   What did Jesus himself say about demons? Jesus said more about devils than He did about angels. He had more to say about hell than heaven. On reading portions of the Gospels, one quickly sees that
much of Jesus' time was taken up with encounters with evil spirits. They seemed to crop up everywhere. In the opening chapter of Mark's Gospel, Jesus encounters no less than five situations involving Satan or evil spirits. One-third of the third chapter deals with the commonplace manifestation of demons, and half of the fifth chapter is used to describe the demoniac of Gadara. Throughout, evil spirits and their chief ruler, Satan, lurk not far from the action wherever Jesus goes.

Jesus took for granted the existence of demons. He dealt with them constantly, casting them out in Matthew 15: 22, 28 and giving His disciples the power to set people free in Matthew 10:1, Luke 9:1, and Mark 16:17.


John also told of their dwelling place in Revelation 9:11, their activity (Rev. 16:14), and declared their existence (Rev. 9:20). Paul wrote to Timothy, warning him of "doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1).

Is some of this just a return to old superstition?
The dictionary defines superstition as "an irrational attitude of mind toward the supernatural, nature, or God, proceeding from ignorance, unreasoning fear of
the unknown or the mysterious - a belief in magic or chance, or the like." Superstitions are traditions, old tales and theories still lacking proven truth.

Superstition has to do with charms, spells, good and evil spirits, foretelling of events, unusual forces, and powers operating in objects and beings. They often reveal strange and seemingly inexplicable powers and energies that, as we shall see, find their beginnings in ignorance, selfishness, and greed.

It is a remarkable paradox that although we live in history's most scientific age, there is more superstition today than ever. Millions are probing astrology, occult faiths, Indian mysticism, and all kinds of strange and seemingly mystic powers. There is an army of fortune tellers, clairvoyants, palmists, crystal-ball gazers, astrologers, and gurus marching across the stage of the modern world, begging to be heard, and exhibiting their strange wares.

Error often begins with ignorance. One who is ignorant of God and begins seeking hidden realities without God or without the Bible may end up with the devil leading him around as if he had a hook in his nose.

Divine faith and superstition are age-old enemies. Faith is the living, dynamic relationship between man and his resurrected Saviour, while superstition is the willful desire of unregenerate man to rule the invisible world without a living Saviour. The sinner seeking the supernatural has one purpose in mind - to control
mystic powers for self-gratification, not glorification of the Lord. In superstition, there is no spiritual life, there are no morals, and there is no character. Superstition was born because man in his deepest being longs for the supernatural. God made him this way. The spirit and soul of man disdains the material way of life.

Ministering in many countries of the world, I have come to know the deep fears in the hearts of the heathen. They are afraid of God and of demons. They are afraid of the dead and departed spirits. They live in mortal fear of the unknown and of the future. They are tortured by a multitude of superstitions handed down to them from generation to generation.

All superstition is motivated by fear. The traditions and legends surrounding Friday the thirteenth are good examples. The word "Friday" comes from the German goddess Freya, who was supposed to be the goddess of love, matrimony, and the home. The horse was the goddess Freya's sacred animal. It was sacrificed and eaten on her feast day at special celebrations such as weddings. Because of this, the early church, especially Roman Catholics, would not allow meat to be eaten on Friday. From this superstition, Friday the thirteenth became known as an unlucky day. The number itself took on many superstitions. I have sat at a table with influential people when there were thirteen at the table, one of them was asked to leave and sit alone!
Superstitious fears can ruin a person's health. A businessman I know of went to a doctor because he was nervous, frustrated, and on the verge of mental collapse. The doctor could find nothing wrong physically, but he did discover that the businessman was an ardent believer in astrology. He had come to believe that because of the opposition of the planets and the unfavorable position of the moon, his condition was incurable. Nothing the doctor could say would sway the man's opinion, and I do not know if he was ever cured.

The devil loves to destroy a life through superstition. Multitudes in this country follow the phantoms in the sky out of fear, rather than letting their loving Creator guide and direct their lives.

Do we favor book burning?

In the early church at Ephesus, the power of God became so strong that Luke wrote that many who believed came and confessed Jesus. The ones who were into the occult brought their books and burned them publicly. Upon taking an inventory of what had gone into the flames, they "found it 50,000 pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed" (Acts 19:18-20).

This was a great fortune.

Then, thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave. This means that with 50,000 pieces of silver, they could have bought 1,666 slaves!
If early Christians were careful to clean out every symbol of the devil's power around them, you and I must do the same.

We must clean out our hearts, our wardrobes, and our homes. We must dig out the very roots of superstition and all that has to do with the devil's power. Believers must place their lives in the hand of God to guide them every day. We don't need to know what is going to happen tomorrow. If we did, we would not need to walk by faith.

Beware, my friend! Do not dabble in the darkness. There is much more power in the light!

Is hypnotism demonic?

A hypnotized person is in a state of abnormal concentration induced by an operator—a description that could be used with equal accuracy to explain the condition of a demon-possessed person.

Medical doctors know that hypnosis brings a change in a person's conscious awareness. The consciousness narrows, much as it does during a dream or a vision. But the hypnotized person is different from a sleeping person. He or she can walk, talk, write, or remain quiet. Usually, he will obey suggestions given him by the hypnotist.

It has been said that no subject can be induced to do anything contrary to his moral principles. Scientists have proved, however, that hypnotized persons can
and will perform antisocial and even self-destructive acts under deception by the operator.

A normally modest woman, for example, would refuse to remove her clothing under hypnosis if the suggestion were made directly. But if the operator suggested she was in the seclusion of her bathroom, she might well disrobe before an audience of people. The subject then, is at the mercy of the operator to a considerable degree - much more than anyone should be!

Jesus, speaking of the end of this age, warned his disciples, "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matt. 24:4). Hypnosis is a form of deception. It has no divine life that can make a man better or cleaner or happier. All it can do is open the soul's door to possible demon invasion. Your mind must not be clouded by fear and phobia. It must not be confused by conflicting ideas. It must not be yielded to strange, psychic powers. At all costs, your mind must not be destroyed because it is the seat of your will. With your mind you must make all the proper decisions about how to live and prepare yourself to meet with God at the coming of Jesus.

I prophesy that in the days ahead, before Jesus Christ returns, millions in America will have turned to every kind of spiritism, including hypnotism. Man will be offered religion that soothes the conscience, supposedly smooths the rugged path of sin, and leads into sweet forgetfulness and the false belief of eternal, reincarnating bliss.
They will be offered a substitute for salvation that does not require the blood of Jesus - some sort of ecstasy without eternal life.

These poor people will be in for a terrible surprise when they find themselves in the presence of our God.

I urge Christians, indeed all people, not to offer their minds to anyone who wishes to hypnotize them and never to attend a meeting of oriental cults, which are demon-inspired. Rather, I urge you to keep yourselves clean and pure before God, and to walk in His ways and to serve Him.

I challenge you to have the mind of Christ: a strong mind, a dedicated mind. In Genesis 1:26,27, it is recorded that God created man to have dominion on earth. This dominion is achieved through your mind.

With Christ in your heart you do not need other guidance. He will guide you to a joyful tomorrow. The Bible declares that our Christian life is to be a walk of faith, but God has promised to be with us every step of the way. In these last days, may the Lord Jesus Christ keep you - your mind, spirit, soul, and body - by His mighty power.

What's wrong with exhibiting idols?
In the first century, Paul warned against idols, saying they are symbols of the evil supernatural. "What say I then? That the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that
the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils” (1 Cor. 10:19, 20).

God has His symbols of power. In the Old Testament, the ark of God symbolized His presence and His holiness. When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they placed it inside their temple, beside their god Dagon. The next morning Dagon lay broken on the ground at the foot of the ark. The presence of God in the symbolic ark destroyed Dagon.

The devil has symbols of power also. Perhaps the most easily recognized symbols are the idols made of clay, stone, wood, or iron. These idols have been brought to America and sold. Unsuspecting tourists have brought them back from Asia and other parts of the world, not knowing evil is attached.

A teacher in a British Bible school told me that each morning his students became drowsy and some fell asleep while he was teaching. At first, he thought the students were having too much for breakfast - but no one gets too much breakfast in Bible school!

He began looking around the classroom - on a window ledge he discovered a bronze serpent from India - a coiled cobra, worshiped in India as a god. Without telling anyone that he was doing so, he removed the idol from the room. No one became drowsy the next morning or after that.

While I was pastoring in Manila, we helped build a
tribal church in the headhunter country of Luzon in the Philippines. While I was preaching there, they showed me a tree where the spirits live. It is a symbol of demon power. It did not have a leaf on it and it was greasy in appearance, probably because the worshipers had wiped their hands on it. The boughs were gnarled and crooked. The tribe said their spirit gods lived in the tree and that they offered incense and offerings at the foot of it.

Even the cross can be a symbol of Satan's power. When praying for Clarita Villanueva in the Bilibid prison, I realized that her metal crucifix was used as an evil symbol.

The crystal ball is another device of Satan's power. With such a ball, Jeanne Dixon and others who claim clairvoyance make predictions. They also use a deck of cards for fortune telling. When one touches that deck of cards, they tell one's fortune. Many Christian households have some professional playing cards. Almost every witch doctor and fortune teller in the world uses these to help them in their business. They have no place in the home of a Christian.

Are demons responsible for everything bad in the world?

There are some people who blame everything that happens on the devil. Despite all that we have said thus far about Satan and his activities there are some things we don't have to blame on him.
Some things in life are a direct result of people's own actions, or lack of action.
Let's examine some misconceptions of these.

**Is a nervous breakdown a sign of demon possession?**
Here is a fine example of something that is blamed on Satan - but is not necessarily a sign that a person is possessed of the devil.

Certainly, emotional problems and demonic possession are related and intertwined. When a person has a natural weakness, such as a nervous disorder or even a blow to the head, the devil may take advantage of that situation to move in and try to possess the person. When a person lacks strength to resist Satan, he will take advantage of the situation, even though he may not be the primary cause of it.

Philippians 4:7 speaks of the peace of God that passes all understanding. There are millions of people who need the peace of God in their lives today. Not the peace of a nation, or the peace of a good job, not even the peace of financial security or success, but the peace of God. There is a peace that comes from God.

We learn from Romans 14:17 that, the kingdom of God is ... righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The peace of God is a gift to man. It is part of his redemption, his new birth. It comes into his being when he is born again.
If you have been born again, then you are peace. You don't just have peace, you are peace, because your peace is the peace of God. His peace is beyond comprehension. It passes all understanding.

The Bible says that the peace of God can keep you. It can keep your heart and your mind. When troubles and problems come, and everything breaks down, that is the time to stand on the knowledge that God's peace reigns supreme in your life. God gives peace, we are peace, but we must remain in that peace.

We understand that half the hospital beds in our land today are occupied by people with severe emotional disorders. There seems to be a remarkable acceleration of emotional sickness in our generation. Americans have less to be disturbed about than any people on the face of the earth. Yet we are plagued by emotional sickness. Why? What causes emotional disorder?

First, let's consider what a nervous breakdown really is. A nervous breakdown is closely related to a person's mind, emotions, and will. A nervous breakdown is remarkably related to man's human nature because he is like Adam the first man, a sinner. From this sinful nature we receive a potential for our mental power, our emotional power, and the powers of our will. It is possible for all three of these factors to become involved in what medical science calls a nervous breakdown.
The mind can go, so that the person cannot think and do his work. His will can go, so he can no longer control them. When a person's spirit becomes the king of his life, when he is born again, that spirit is supposed to dominate those things.

I don't like to say this, but I don't see how a Christian can have a nervous breakdown. His born-again spirit should be telling his mind to think straight. His spirit ought to be telling his emotions to calm down. That spirit should be telling his will to speak to God and declare, "Not my will, but Thy will be done."

How can anyone have a nervous breakdown in that situation? It baffles me. Yet I know some beautiful people who have had nervous breakdowns. Why? What went wrong? The answer lies in one of the three areas.

1. The mind. The nervous system of the human is closely related to the brain. The great masses of nerves move up from the trunk of the body to the brain. In a nervous breakdown, a person's mind is certainly affected. He cannot cope with his responsibilities and he cannot accept challenges to achieve.

2. The emotions. A person's emotions are also closely related to the brain. For example, anxiety or depression is affected by the emotional area of the human, but is also related to his brain functions. Emotional abilities can reflect joy and gladness or sorrow and sadness. Emotions can reveal deep-rooted fears or the power of living faith.
There are literally hundreds of human emotions. They must all be in full control of the human mind.

Isaiah, the great prophet, said of God: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isa. 26:3). If your mind is stayed upon God, then you have perfect peace. If it is on disaster or chance, you won't have peace. It's just that simple.

3. The will. It functions in close relationship to the emotions and the mind. The human will of man is powerful, and a man with a strong will holds up longer than the one who gives in easily to pressure.

There are many people today who could have what is termed a nervous breakdown if they were to let go of their inner strength and permit their emotions and their mental forces to be loosed from the footings and foundations of a normal person, if they accepted a collapse of their being.

When any Christian has a nervous breakdown, it is because he has permitted it to happen. You may not realize it, but much of our emotional problems come because of self-pity. For one reason or another, people begin to feel sorry for themselves and become depressed and despondent. When they do, they let down their defenses and Satan moves in to take advantage of those negative feelings until he causes an emotional crisis.

Don't ever give in to self-pity, because it is always
motivated by Satan. It is one of the devices he uses to try to
destroy your emotional stability and rob you of your peace and
mental health.

In relation to a nervous breakdown being the work of a
demonic spirit, we must realize that Satan often moves into
weakness.

For example, if you are experiencing physical exhaustion,
the devil could use that to enter your mind, your emotions, and
your will. Or if a loved one died, especially if it were a
premature death, the devil could prey upon your thought life,
your emotional stability, and your Will power, seeking to
destroy you.

The sinner, at this point, lacks supernatural assistance. A
counselor or a doctor might be of some help, but to combat a
spiritual enemy, we need spiritual strength and power.

The Christian is at his best in a time of crisis. The Christian
spirit, his "born-again" nature, is his divine connection with the
Godhead. It reaches out from its throne in the midst of the
human frame and speaks positively to the mind, saying: "Hold
steady. Don't be blown about by every wind of doctrine. Don't
believe every spirit. Try the spirits."

Then the spirit, the born-again spirit of man reaches over to
the emotions and says: "Don't drop into melancholy and
depression. Don't spit anger out of your
emotional labyrinth - subdue it - speak love to it."

Finally, the spirit speaks to the will of the human
soul and demands stability rather than indecision and double-mindedness. The spirit demands the soul to rest in the faithfulness of the Most High.

Then God's Word begins to speak: "The Lord is my shepherd - I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul ..." The Twenty-Third Psalm is the best deterrent I know to a nervous breakdown.

Most nervous breakdowns certainly are not related to demon power. But unless these negative thoughts and emotions are controlled by the power of the Word of God, it is easy to fall prey to Satan's attacks.

God is not pleased with a nervous breakdown. As we have stated, nervous breakdowns are usually built upon self-pity, sometimes upon falsehood, and always upon a lack of trust in the love and power of Almighty God. They are the hiding places for sorrows.

We, as Christians, must resist nervous breakdown just as we resist any other attack of the devil, for we are not ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11).

Is schizophrenia caused by demonic possession?

When Paul speaks to us in 2 Timothy 1:7, he is referring to you and me, the redeemed of the Lord: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Praise His Name, our Creator has not given bom
again, Holy Spirit-empowered people the spirit offear. Notice the words "spirit of fear." We don't believe the Bible makes mistakes. Fear in its ultimate is a spirit, not in its primary stages. In its primary stages, fear is believing a lie.

Foolish parents tell their children: "There's a boogie-man in that room. If you go in there, the boogie-man will get you." It is wrong to teach such things to innocent little children, to create fear in them, fears they might carry throughout their entire lives.

Again I say, God is not a God of fear. He is a God of liberty and freedom. He sets people free from fear and gives them joy. Fear has no joy in it, only terror. Therefore, fear is not from God.

A spirit of fear is the ultimate reality of fear. That's when fear has become master, when it dominates a person's life, throwing his mind, emotions, and will power out of focus. When that happens, the person can no longer see things properly as they really are.

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but the spirit of power, the spirit of love, and the spirit of a sound mind. Who is it who has a sound mind? Who has the power to think clearly today, tomorrow, and for eternity? The man who is born again knows who he is, where he came from, and where he is going. The sinner does not know that because he does not have that strong spiritual foundation of power and love and a sound mind. That is why he is so susceptible to fear, worry, anxiety, and
every kind of mental and emotional disorder.

The medical world states that schizophrenic disorders of the human mind are greatly on the increase. It is sad that in our modern world, with all its sophisticated technology, we have an increase of something that should be decreasing. The reason is because these things do not come from without, but from within, from moral and spiritual causes.

As with a nervous breakdown, schizophrenia attacks the mind, emotions, and will. The problems begin mostly in the mind. The devil hates the mind because it is the throne of the human personality. He strives to take over that throne. As he does, the human mind refuses certain forms of reality. This mental instability then affects the emotions. The attendant fears, angers, outrages, and tears become outbursts of unreality.

Then the disorder begins to affect the will to do and to be. Loved ones and friends are baffled. They seek medical assistance for the victim, but often this terminates in a broken home or family situation.

When the schizophrenic is sent away to a hospital from the mentally deranged, other members of the family are burdened with guilt, sadness, and the eternal question of why it happened.

It is probable that a person with a dual personality is tormented by a demonic spirit. Schizophrenia is certainly an abnormal mental torment.

Often we know what a thing is by what it does. For
example, does a schizophrenic love God and show it? Is he or she as sociable as other members of the family? Does the schizophrenic rise to high levels of achievement? Is he or she a leader in the community?

The answer to these questions would help identify schizophrenia. I’ve never personally known a person with a split personality to be a real spiritual leader. Schizophrenia lacks apparent benefit for the affected person. This reveals to us that schizophrenia is not of God.

Except children who are born abnormal, I do not believe that Satan can get a firm hold upon a person, to the extent of schizophrenia, unless he is permitted to do so. James 4:7 tells us to resist the devil and he will flee from us.

This means that from our youth we should try to be like Jesus in all our actions, and to resist the devil in all areas of our life. In so doing, we discover the secret to a normal mental life.

Some schizophrenics are born mentally maladjusted. Sometimes, especially in the heathen world, certain people are born possessed of the devil.

Arlindo Oliveira, the witch doctor from Brazil, for example, was dedicated to the devil in a voodoo worship ceremony before he was born. So there are strange abnormalities, physical and mental, which can come at birth.

But most often a broken personality is the result of
decisions that were made by the person involved. But, I would not say that a person considered to have a split personality must necessarily be demon possessed.

It might be that he is only oppressed of the devil, according to Acts 10:38, which notes that Jesus went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil.

In praying for a person of schizophrenia, you must possess divine authority to rebuke the oppression and set the sick person free.

I know from many experiences that Christ can heal a mental illness as simply as He can heal a physical illness. Because He designed and created the entire human personality, no human need is beyond His healing and helping hand.

The healing of the Gadarene demoniac in Mark 5:21-25 and the epileptic boy in Luke 9:38-42 are two outstanding examples. Christ cast the evil spirits out of them and sent them back to their homes.

Have any famous people in history been possessed?

Evil spirits are not new. The Bible records them from thousands of years ago. Secular history records strange and peculiar people through the centuries.

One modern-day possessed person about whom I have read considerably is the evil Russian priest Rasputin. He deceived the royal family of Russia and
was one of the factors that caused the downfall of the czars. This evil person called himself a holy man.

He worked magic upon the royal family of that nation. As a direct result, godless communism, the prohibition of religion, the destruction of a great nation's ability to even feed itself, and the murder of millions of Russians took place in the years after the rise of the Bolsheviks.

I have read authoritative accounts that assert Adolf Hitler was a possessed man. God only knows how many and what kind of demons were inside him.

It is reported that on occasions he would scream like an animal. Only a possessed person would order the complete annihilation of an entire people: the millions of European Jews.

Are some demons worse than others?

Evidently they vary in wickedness - some can be "more wicked" than others, according to Matthew 12:45. Mark 9:29 says they also vary in power.

They seem to have willpower (Matt. 12:44) - they oppose saints and have doctrines (Rom. 8:38; 1 Tim. 4:1) - and they abide not in the truth (John 8:44).

But the chief thing we all need to remember is that they are subject to - they are under - the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus.

Peter reminded believers of that when he wrote of Jesus, "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right
hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him” (1 Pet. 3:22).

What technique should we use to exorcise demons?

Just order him to go.

It is worth particular notice that when Jesus Christ commanded Satan to leave, the devil obeyed. Satan had to bow to the greater authority.

When you or I command the devil to go in the name of Jesus, he must obey us, too. We have that authority. That's all it takes.

From modern films and books on the occult and from rites within certain of the historic denominations, we might conclude that the exorcism of devils is something complex, and that it is for the select few. However, when we turn to the Bible, we see the opposite is true. Jesus rarely spent more than a few minutes setting a person free. Usually all He had to do was issue an authoritative command.

He exercised His rightful dominion and set the boy free. He did it with the same authority He gives to you. Whatever Jesus could do and did do, believers can do and will do.

Deal with the afflicted humbly, spiritually, and positively. Let God set people free through you. After all, He is in the freedom business.

According to Acts 10:38, Jesus went about doing good
and healing all that were oppressed and possessed of the devil, for God was with Him.

God is with you too, as a believer and that is your assurance of success.

In Matthew 9: 32, 33, some men brought to Jesus a "dumb man possessed with a devil." The next verse says, "And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake." It was as simple as that.

On another day in Matthew 12:22, "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb." Matthew simply says that Jesus healed him, restoring both the man's sight and speech.

Following the transfiguration, Jesus returned to the foot of the mountain to find His disciples defeated and confused. They told Him that a man had brought them his son, "a lunatic, and sore vexed" (Matt. 17:15). They didn't have the faith to set him free. According to Matthew's account, Jesus immediately "rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour" (v. 18).

True, Jesus did emphasize to them the extreme importance of prayer and fasting (v. 21), but the point is that He did not engage in lengthy analysis or ritual. Nor do you need such human inventions.

I don't care if the exorcist in Newsweek or on Geraldo Rivera's show has a really impressive medieval rite that has been updated by the Archbishop of Singapore or was used by the Rumanian Orthodox Church during
the time of the real-life Dracula, Prince Vlad the Impaler. Who cares? The demons will not be impressed.

My Lord Jesus Christ did not put on appropriately sacred vestments or consult a copy of the Common Book of Prayer dipped in holy water before He could free Mary Magdalene.

He did not make the sign of the cross six times, then chant in Latin from a gilded text held for Him by the Bishop of Jerusalem to free the madman of Gadara.

He did not need to have altar boys crawl two miles on their bare knees while waving incense at the demon-possessed youth His disciples could not set free.

Neither do you.
Submit to God.
Order Satan to go.
Resist him and he must flee.
Amen!
GOING TO
THE DEVIL

*How does someone get possessed?*

Let me tell you about a promising young evangelist that I once knew. He made one decision, and that was to be of the world.

We Christians are called to be in the world, but not of it. However, this man wanted to be of it. He wore big gold watch-bands and pendants and rings - really flaunted thousands of dollars worth of the flashy, world-impressing diamonds. He wore sexy, worldly clothes that were too tight and too suggestive - clothes that caused people who looked at him to sin in their hearts - clothes that he had no business wearing.

He loved luxury and went for the world.

The world has a trap door. That trap door throws you into the *flesh*, and it doesn't ask your opinion about it.
It just throws you in there because you've given yourself to the world. The Bible says, "If you have a love for the world, the love of God is not in you."

The world throws you into the flesh and you start saying, "I didn't know I'd do this. I didn't know I'd do that."

You then find yourself caught up in sin.

This story is so sad. This young man was once so in love with Jesus Christ. He was so on-fire for the gospel - determined to win the world before Jesus returns.

I knew him when he was in Bible school. He wasn't that kind of person then.

He got caught up in the seductions that come with success. He gave himself first to the world. The world gave him to the flesh. And when the flesh gets through with you it has a trap door and it sends you into the devil.

The devil seldom takes a life all at once. He does it a little at a time, step by step. Sometimes he can assume complete control rapidly, but usually it is a slow process over a period of weeks, months, or even years. How does it happen?

You and I have three enemies. They're the world, the flesh, and the devil.

We only have one decision to make and that is to follow Jesus Christ. But this young evangelist - who I know had a deep desire in his heart to follow Jesus Christ - decided for the world.
These big names that fall into sin, my friend, you just look at them. They play with the world first. They get very worldly. "Oh, it's all right to do just a little... "they laugh.

So they go for the world with all its gold, and the best house in the whole country, and the greatest car in the world. And the first thing you know, there is immorality - the flesh.

They say, "How did I get into this? How did I get in this?"

My answer to them is, "The world threw you into it, my friend. You already were married to it. Then the first thing you know, you're going to be doing what the devil wants you to do. The world has dumped you into the flesh and the flesh is going to dump you into the devil."

The devil, of course, is behind all of this - setting these little trap doors. He is cunning. He is patient. He is like the proverbial camel who first puts his nose in the Arab's tent, then slowly moves in.

The devil is like a cancer - he devours the human personality bit by bit. The steps he uses to destroy human life fall into a definite pattern, which I call the seven steps toward full demon possession. They are:

- Regression
- Repression
- Suppression
- Depression
Dr. Lester Sumrall

· Oppression ·
· Obsession ·
· Possession

The steps follow a logical order. They begin with the smallest amount of demon power that hurts a person and continue until the person is completely overwhelmed.

I explain this not to frighten people, but to reveal the only antidote that can heal.

You need to know how the devil attacks and harasses the human personality. We also must be confident that Jesus Christ can set us free from anything the devil tries to do.

I do not mean to suggest that in every case of demon assault these seven steps, or stages, will be readily clear. On the contrary, there might be some intermediary steps not discussed here. Perhaps in some cases it may even appear that the steps occur in a different order from the progressions I have outlined.

Step One: Regression

I call the first step of the devil's attack regression. It is a battle against a person's God-given abilities of release and expression. To regress in the human personality is to go backward in spiritual force and power. Men and women are built for progress, advancement, and understanding. When this goes into reverse it is the first warning that negative powers are evident.
EXORCISM: The Reality of Evil … and Your Power Over It!

A small boy once helped solve a great engineering problem. A bridge was to be constructed across a deep chasm and the engineers could find no way to stretch their heavy cables across the span.

"I can do it," said the lad.

Attaching a cord to the tail of a kite, he let the kite soar over the chasm, carrying the cord to men on the opposite side. Then a rope was tied to the cord and pulled across. The heavy cables were then attached to the rope and stretched into place. First a string, then a rope, then an unbreakable cord.

The devil works in a similar manner. He first binds his victims with a light cord or regression - the prisoner could snap his bonds and be free, but does not. Then the evil one adds heavier bonds, until the ropes of oppression are securely in place. It is still possible for the victim to free himself by resisting with all that is within him. Soon the devil adds heavier bonds, until the victim is helplessly bound by the cruel cables of complete demon possession. Then only a fearless servant of God can break the bonds and set the prisoner free by the power and authority of God.

Step Two: Repression

Today the devil is still doing the same kind of thing he did throughout history. He will deceive you as he did Eve in the Garden of Eden. He will seek to destroy you as he did the little boy brought to Jesus. His father said
the devil threw the lad into the fire and into the water, but Jesus healed him. Satan will seek to disgrace you as he did the demoniac of Gadara, who left his home and friends, tore off his clothes, and lived in the cemetery. And he will try to seduce you as he did Simon Magus, the sorcerer who tried to buy the gift of God from Simon Peter. We must know these things about demon power and understand them before we can combat the devil and win.

Demon power is not spoken of in many religious circles today. Many people seem afraid of demons. Others simply don't believe in demons, so the subject is not mentioned. But I have noticed that the less we say about demons and the less we expose them, the more control they assume over human destiny. It is only when we pull the drapes back and expose demon power that we can set people free.

It is very interesting to me that God makes every human an expressionist. The moment a baby is born, the doctor spanks it. He wants expression. If he doesn't get it, he suspects the baby might be dead!

God desires exuberant expression from us. He wants our eyes to talk, our faces to light up. He made us to express something. Anyone who represses that function is doing the work of the devil.

It is a bad sign when a person becomes silent. A soul in solitude is headed for trouble. Eyes that gaze in a fixed stare reveal bondage of the soul. To lose the good
spirit of joy and happiness is to take the road to a ruined personality. One who represses all his inner feelings becomes a walking dead man. The Bible commands us not to "grieve the Holy Spirit" (Eph. 4:30). I believe the word "grieve" could mean "do not repress" the Spirit.

To repress a person is to destroy the natural expression God gave him at birth. To repress a person is to check by power, to restrain him from without. To repress a personality takes away the joy and gladness of that life. God did not create human lives to be restrained by an abnormal environment.

This second step toward demon possession, repression, is often found in churches and religions.

Some people go to church and never experience the joy of salvation. Consider a man who goes to a worship service and takes with him a little boy or girl. They walk along the sidewalk chatting and laughing, but within fifty steps of the church, something suddenly happens to the man. His eyes go into a fixed gaze and his body becomes rigid. He walks softly into the church, finds his pew, and sits down. For the next hour, he sits there like a mummy, expressionless. When the meeting is over he leaves. As he gets about fifty steps away from the church, he sighs and says, "I'm glad that is over for another week."

Much of religion today expresses nothing to the spirit of man. Instead, formal religion suppresses and drives inside a person's fervent feelings toward God. In
my services we often sing happy choruses because God's joy comes to us from expressing ourselves.

Many church members go to church as though it were a funeral parlor. If God did manifest himself in any manner, it would nearly scare them to death. According to the Bible, real worship is different. When the people dedicated Solomon's temple there was much expression - musical instruments and singing of praises to God. Many such illustrations can be seen throughout the Bible.

Sometimes repression begins at home. Every home should take a survey of its members. A child can be the repressor. When something goes wrong, he flies into a tantrum and it takes everyone in the home to get things normal again. Sometimes it can be a wife and mother who causes the family to tiptoe around. When something displeases her, she makes the home a miserable place for a week.

It can be a belligerent husband. The family may be happy and singing until he opens the door. Then he bellows and yells until everyone just dies inside. That man represses what could be a happy home.

Repression can happen at work. A foreman can be "mean as the devil" to the men who work for him. He can curse and scream at the men until they are nervous wrecks. Eventually, the men even hate to go to work. When they do go, they won't smile and will barely speak when the foreman is around. They become repressed.
You ask, "But what has this to do with the devil?" It is the devil who makes people act like this. Satan wants to steal all the joy and happiness from every human. We should be careful not to repress others, but rather let them express themselves under God.

Step Three: Suppression
To suppress means to abnormally squeeze down, to crush, to conceal, as to suppress information.

Satan is very keen on suppression. It represents another step toward deterioration of emotions and the destruction of complete personal happiness.

Suppression comes from without. It is an unholy action because God and the entire Bible reveal dynamic expression with openness of desire and exuberance of feeling. When feelings are not expressed, they are suppressed or kept back. Let us realize that the devil causes suppression of the spiritual life.

Suppressed people are not energetic or enthusiastic about anything. A suppressed individual becomes listless and inactive - even disinterested in what goes on around him. If enough Christians were suppressed, Satan would have free rule in the world, with no one to oppose him and thwart his evil plans to control the world and its people.

Almost everyone has feelings of suppression at some time. The average person overcomes it after a few hours, or at most after a day or two. A word of comfort
or encouragement from a friend, a passage from God's Word, a good night's rest, or a change of scenery is usually enough to bring new hope and renewed strength to begin living again. If suppression and melancholy hang on, however, the victim may be headed for serious trouble.

Step Four: Depression

A man came into my office one day and said, "If you can't help me, I'm going to commit suicide."

He confessed that he hadn't kissed his wife in ten years. He would go for months without speaking to her. He would come home at night and read the newspaper while he ate. Then he would get up from the table, take his newspaper with him into his bedroom, lock the door, and retire. The next morning, he would eat his breakfast, reading again, and then walk out of the house for work.

Looking at that man was like looking at death. I have never seen a man more depressed. There in my office I laid hands on him in the name of Jesus and prayed a prayer of deliverance for him. Instantly a cloud left his mind. Joy came into his heart. He went home and became reconciled with his wife. He became a new creature. He began to work for Jesus.

The depression under which this man was living was humanly unbearable. He had decided it was better to be dead than alive, and he was ready to commit suicide.
Christ broke the bondage of that depression and set him free.

A great number of people in America today are depressed. Depression is a broken spirit. A person is pressed down until his spirit is crushed. To remain depressed for a long period is of the devil and is not natural to life. God does not want anyone depressed and sad. Anyone who stays depressed for an extended period is sick. The devil takes advantage of those people and moves in with conflict and confusions that will destroy their happiness, their homes, their businesses, and maybe even their lives through suicide.

Traditions can contribute to depression. While I was holding meetings in a church in another city, I met a Christian woman who was still deeply depressed over the loss of her husband six months earlier. Her pastor told me that her husband had been a fine Christian businessman and that she was a very capable businesswoman herself. She had no problem financially, but following tradition, she had dressed in black from head to toe. Every day for more than six months, she had been in mourning. I could see she was carrying a burden of depression.

"Why are you wearing black?" I asked her.

"Oh," she said, "I'm in mourning for my dead husband."

"Was he a sinner?"

"Oh, no!" she exclaimed.
"Then why do you look so sad about his going to heaven?"

This was the first time anyone had spoken the truth to her about her melancholy. I asked her if she thought they wore black in heaven. She replied, "No, I think they wear white up there."

"Then why don't you dress cheerfully if your husband is in heaven where there is life? If he could see your sad face and those mournful clothes, it would make him sad even in heaven."

Why did I talk to this lady so plainly? She was going downhill, fast becoming a recluse. She felt that if she smiled or laughed it would be disrespectful to her husband in heaven.

In the next service she came dressed in white from head to toe. She became one of the most inspiring Christians in the community. She now works in her church and leads a victorious Christian life. The devil was simply destroying her Christian witness with depression. Tradition often demands a long face and a sad countenance, but the Bible says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine ..." (Provo 17:22).

Often depression is triggered by loss or serious trouble. Heavy financial burdens, family problems, or disappointments can depress a person, leaving him dejected and forlorn.

Depression is dangerous because it often brings about an abnormal state of inactivity. People may sit
staring into space, hearing nothing, saying nothing, and doing nothing. Inside they feel a sadness too deep to express, too painful for tears. Their problems seem to desperate and complex to be solved. They have reached a point where they see no need in even trying any longer. They have lost hope. This is a big step toward complete satanic control of a personality.

Are you depressed constantly? Then you need deliverance. Only Christ can deliver you. The cure for depression is to call upon Christ and place all your problems and heartaches and worries in His keeping. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). Be encouraged and say with the apostle Paul, "... I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that that I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

When the devil tries to weigh you down with sadness and perplexity, rebuke him in the name of Jesus. Say, "I am trusting in God, and I don't have to be worried, or anxious or sad or depressed. Go, Satan, in Jesus' name!"

Some people are religiously depressed. They think there is great holiness in a long face. There is no biblical basis for this idea. God does not depress mankind - the devil is the depressor of human life. By experience I have discovered that a downcast face and a sad soul won't help to resolve problems. It won't pay bills! It does no good at all. In Psalm 103, King David says, "Bless
the Lord, 0 my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name” (v. 1). That is the way you should get up every morning! Start the day blessing the Lord.

Step Five: Oppression

To oppress someone is to weigh him down with something he cannot carry. The children of Israel were oppressed in Egypt. They were treated cruelly, beaten unmercifully, and crushed down until they could carry their burdens no longer.

God the Father sent Jesus to this earth to heal all who were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38). This suggests that oppression can be in the realm of disease. Millions are oppressed around the world. I do not believe disease is natural any more than a beautiful tree is natural with every kind of bug and disease covering its branches. I believe it is natural to be healthy and unnatural to be unhealthy. Disease is one of the devil's tools.

Millions of people are oppressed by fear. Some worry about going out of their minds. The devil wants them to think that. God's Word says Satan is a liar and the father of lies. He wants to torment people. He wants to hurt them. He wants to mock and laugh at God while he does it. God's people do not have to suffer this terrible fear. One of the great blessings of Christianity is a strong mind that is capable of rejecting the unreasonable demons of fear.
A few years ago a woman came to me and said, "Brother Sumrall, my home is breaking to pieces. I can't stay in my house. When my husband leaves home to go to work in the morning, I start shaking and I go to pieces. I have to run out the back door and go to my neighbor's. I don't walk back into that house until my husband gets home.

"When he comes home from work, the dishes are just as they were when he left. I'm afraid to stay in my house alone. What am I going to do?"

"Did you come to talk or to get help?" I asked her. "If you can help me," she answered, "then I want you to."

"You must do as I tell you after I have prayed. Tomorrow morning when your husband gets ready to go to work, go to the front door and kiss him good-bye. Since he usually closes the door, you say, 'Honey, I'm closing the door today.'

"Then step back and close it just the way a fourteen-year-old would do it. They know how to close doors some of them never open again! After the door is shut, step back into the middle of the room and say, 'Devil, I'm staying in this house all day long. You get out of here. Jesus is here. In His name I command you to leave.' When you say it, let the devil know you mean business. Start singing. Sing Christian songs and hymns and choruses all day long. Read some Psalms aloud. Praise God with all your might! When your husband
comes home, he is going to be the most surprised man in town."

I was conducting a revival meeting, and the next night the woman came back. She was free. She said she had enjoyed a glorious day.

"I did exactly as you told me," she said. "I screamed out that I was going to stay in that house, looked around, and just cleaned and sang hymns all day long. It was a wonderful day."

Two or three days later, she assured me she still had no trouble.

The devil is an oppressor. God never intended for us to be slaves of oppression. We are his sons and daughters!

Satan may use many means to try to destroy you. He may try to crush your spirit through people you thought were your friends. He may seek to trample you down through disaster and woes. He may try to overpower you with a great display of demonic power that hurts you on all sides until you feel helpless against his cruel onslaught. He might weigh you down with an awesome sense of responsibility for all the people and actions in your family or community. He might even burden you with a feeling that all your trouble and misfortune is punishment from God for some great sin.

All these things fall into the category of demonic oppression. And oppression can be overcome. Exercise your Christian dominion over the devil's power. You do
EXORCISM: The Reality of Evil... and Your Power Over It!

this by faith, prayer, and action. Ask God for faith to command His power in your life. Pray to strengthen your inner being. And act to overcome and destroy the works of the devil.

If the devil is oppressing you with disease, with fear, with nerve problems, with anything - receive deliverance now. Christ will set you free (John 8:36)!

Step Six: Obsession

Jesus was obsessed with His own destiny of saving the world. The apostle Paul was obsessed with the gospel of Jesus Christ so much that a Roman governor told him he was a madman. These were magnificent obsessions.

There is also a negative obsession that destroys the human personality.

At this stage of"demon domination, I doubt that the individual being hurt by Satan could be delivered without the help of another. I feel sure that a person who has regressed or is repressed can shake it off in Jesus' name and be free. I believe that a person who is suppressed or depressed, when reminded of the danger, can rid himself of it and have a joyful spirit. And it is possible for one who is oppressed to help himself.

When we get to the sixth stage - obsession - then outside help is necessary. The reason for this is that obsession changes the mind. Black becomes white, and white seems black. A straight thing is now crooked and
a lie becomes the truth. This loss of perspective causes the person to be out of step with everybody else around him. He does not realize he is obsessed with some wicked thing.

What is obsession? It can come by believing a lie. If what we believe is out of line with what others believe, we should check our beliefs and seek to know the truth.

We should search out the truth. Why? The truth will set you free.

Otherwise, the devil may deceive you with an evil obsession.

Obsession can come through jealousy. A wife or husband may get an idea that their spouse is not loyal to them. This thing preys on the mind. The devil makes the idea take root and grow like a strong vine. Finally, every time the mate turns his back, the jealous one says, "Now he has done something wrong." Their very lives can be destroyed because of the evilness of jealousy.

I believe hatred can be an avenue to obsession. One can believe others dislike him and begin to hate them until he cannot think straight. He cannot see what is true because hatred has blinded him.

Certain sins can become an obsession. One may become overwhelmed by his immorality and be unable to see anything pure and holy because he is blinded with this obsession.

The devil has many avenues to invade the human
personality. When someone develops a complex in any form, that person should pray, read the Word of God, and consult a minister or a Christian friend they trust and in whom they can confide.

An obsessed person eventually lacks willpower. He lacks strength to resist and he becomes a slave. His mind gets on one track and it is impossible to change his thinking.

Willpower is one of the great gifts God has given to us. We should never lend it to anybody through hypnotism, fortune-telling, drugs, alcohol, or anything else. Anything that can destroy your willpower should be avoided. God wants His children to be men and women who know right from wrong. They must let no obsession take over the mastery of their souls.

Once a person has fallen prey to demon obsession, he must draw close to Jesus Christ. He needs a man or woman of faith to pray a prayer of deliverance for him and ask God to set him free.

In this area extreme caution is necessary. The step from obsession to possession is a long one. The devil would like to push every obsessed person fully and finally into his clutches of full possession.

Up to this stage, a person is not truly demon possessed. I do not find many people in this final state, although there are hundreds in the other stages.
Step Seven: Possession

The demon-possessed person is under the absolute, total, complete jurisdiction of the devil. At this point he has no mind of his own. Satan is now the master of all that person's thinking and doing. He has full control of that life. The person has no spirit to reach out for God, no soul to pray for help! He is helpless in the hands of a diabolical monster.

There are many ways we can know when a person is demon possessed.

I have seen in dealing with demon-possessed persons that often the devil uses the person's voice and throat to speak. I have heard men under the influence of demon power to speak to me with the voice of a woman. I also have heard a woman speak with the gruff voice of a man.

Demon possession sometimes reveals itself in forms of insanity, both temporary and complete. Doctors who work in institutions and asylums know that a patient's mind may be clear at one time and at another time, the person becomes like an animal. This is the coming and going of demon power within the person. These people who are lost in a world of gloom and darkness and misery have the saddest faces in the world. They have lost the power to rise above their problems. The devil has actually captured them and they live in his chains.

Often demon possession is easily observed in the eyes, for a person's personality frequently is projected
through them. A demon-possessed person cannot look at others straight. He cannot hold up his head to you, for the devil will not let him.

The surest way to tell if one is demon possessed is spiritual discernment. If God's Spirit is within me and the devil's spirit is within another person, when we meet there is a tremendous clash of spirits. It has nothing to do with personality - it is the warfare of opposing spirits.

Satan's power is as contagious as the measles. Those under his power want others under it, too. A drug addict deceives others until they, too, are hooked. Sexual perverts look for the unwary, to lead them into sin. Latent victims are urged into the trap by aggressors. People with fear and depression may have an unreasonable desire that others suffer as they do. So the first stages of demon possession often result from association with others already under the devil's control.

Other times, it occurs when the afflicted person has invited the evil in.

Some time ago, a girl from Oregon visited us. Her father, a minister, came with her. This girl, who was about nineteen or twenty years old, had a demon with a masculine voice that spoke to me and said, "Bow down: and worship me, and I'll give you the world."

I said, "Satan, you've already said that, about two thousand years ago. You sure are late." Then I com
manded that spirit to come out of the girl and to let her go free!

You see the opportunity with which I was presented. I could have bowed down.

Of course, I cannot imagine exchanging the power of the greatest winner in the universe for that of a condemned loser.

I wasn't even tempted. However, many are.

When I work with a demon-possessed person, I immediately inquire into his past, his parents, and grandparents. Sometimes I find the answer right there - that as an infant he was given over to Satan or that as a small child he attended demonic ceremonies.

Other times, it is a matter of inheritance. If demonic powers have been wielded by the grandparents and the parents, it is a good chance that evil forces have introduced themselves to the child and taken a foothold. It is a matter of the demons being invited in - or deceiving the afflicted into thinking that he is the one in charge, not the other way around.

In Java, we were in the home of a man who was possessed of seven evil spirits. He knew them by name and he thought they were his servants, but in fact he was the slave.

This man's wife was a Christian and a member of a very solid church. She told me, "My husband said he has caused people to get sick and die through the power of these demons he worships. They do all kinds of
things for him. They will not let me in the same room with him at night. I cannot sleep with my husband because of them. I have not slept with him for several years because the demons throw me out of bed, physically."

She took me into their room and opened the closet. She showed me a solid silver dagger. "My husband burns incense to this silver dagger," she said. "He calls these spirits by their names, and they come. He worships them and sends them out on missions for him."

Why didn't I set that man free? He did not want to be delivered. He was proud that he had seven entities within him. He boasted of all they could do for him. At the dinner table he spoke up and said that he would give his spirits to his son at his death. The son seemed delighted and looked forward to being possessed.

As preachers have often begotten preachers into the ministry, so possession begets possession. It is true that inheritance can bring evil spirits.

Ceremonies can inflict evil entities into people as well. In the Macumba dance of Brazil, or the voodoo rituals of Haiti, or the Sardance of the Muslims, or the Thaipusam of the Hindus - evil spirits can fill the atmosphere and enter the dancers.

I have personally seen people dance until they fall to the earth, choking and vomiting by demon power. They dance and cry out to the spirits for possession, and they are possessed.
Recent instances of youngsters dabbling in oriental meditation such as Zen or transcendental meditation have shown me that this is another avenue for demons to take possession.

Understand that meditation is a wonderful thing. The Psalms are full of David's marveling at the effects of meditating on God's goodness and on His Word "day and night." Jesus often went into a quiet place of seclusion to spend time in prayer and meditation.

The heathen use meditation for seeking out evil spirits. They have certain body postures they assume, open hands and an undirected or neutral mind. They repeat a certain word or phrase repeatedly, begging evil spirits to come to dwell in them.

Other times, by supposedly "emptying your mind" through Eastern meditation techniques, I believe that you open the door for demonic presences to walk right in.

Demonic possession is not the unpardonable sin

To some people the words "demon possession" mean something dirty or immoral. But we need to change our thinking about this subject. Some of the finest people in the world have been assaulted by the devil, and in some instances conquered.

Possessed people need the help of Christ and believers right now. The Lord is just as willing to heal a
person who is tormented by the devil as a person with a bad cold. Deliverance comes through the same kind of power, with the same anointing, and the same kind of faith. There is no difference whatsoever.

The Holy Spirit can resolve all problems. The Church is commissioned to cast out devils. We must fulfill this commission.

I believe it is time for a great freedom action to be set in motion. Men and women of courage should set out to bring freedom to those who are regressed, repressed, suppressed, depressed, oppressed, obsessed, or even possessed by the devil's power.

The same Christ who set the prisoners free 2,000 years ago can set them free today.
EIGHT

COMING TO JESUS

The importance of following up

I went down to Laredo, Texas, when the mayor of that city on the Mexican border asked for my help. This good Christian man was frustrated because of all the violence that had broken out among teens in his high schools.

The kids were killing each other.

He asked me to come down and tell his kids the truth about who the devil is and to show the power of Jesus Christ over Satan.

When we arrived, we saw that many kids were into witchcraft. They were wearing the skull and the bones. Some had pentagrams tattoos.

Satan had become a fad ... and had taken over. One young man in particular had been involved in a series of grisly killings - and had been jailed.

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I heard stories of how he had been demonized. He would become a wild man, hungry for blood, delighted at the terror on his victims' dying faces as he whispered to them that he would soon come down and terrorize them forever in hell.

I went to the boy – hoping to set him free.

When I got there, he was smiling and full of joy delighted to see me. It seems that some Christians in town had recognized demonic possession when they saw it.

They had come in and prayed for him already – and had led him to the Lord.

I prayed for him and his spirit was so gentle, so sweet. He was tender and humble. He realized that he had done terrible things and probably would spend the rest of his life in prison.

He said, "I hope that I can somehow serve Jesus from my cell."

I asked him, "How did you get free?"

He said, "Some Christians came and set me free. I read the Bible and pray all day. That is all I do. I'm sorry I killed those people, but you know, I couldn't help it. I didn't want to. I had two things inside of me. I had my own brain saying, 'No, no, no.' And I had this other thing overpowering me, 'Cut him up, cut him up, cut him up.'"

Did the devil make him do it? Doesn't the Bible say that we will always have an avenue of escape from
temptation - that we will always have the ability and opportunity to tell Satan "No!"

I know that promise is to Christians. It is also true for people who know right from wrong - even those oppressed by evil beings.

If you have surrendered yourself to Satan, as this boy had in a perverse and evil ceremony, you allow yourself to come under his evil power and control. Then, you are unable to resist.

He had cried out to the devil to possess him. Satan had obliged.

But now the young man was free.

When he had given up his free will to Satan, he had given up his physical freedom in this life - unless he receives a pardon from the governor.

My point in this story is that Christians ministered to this young man, then led him to Jesus.

Understand the sequence:

· They delivered him from the demonic presence that had taken him over.
· Then, they led him to become a Christian and to be filled with the Holy Spirit promised to all Christians in Acts 2:38 when we are obedient.

This second step is so vital.

Without it, what happens?

When the unclean spirit leaves a man, he walks through "dry places, seeking rest" - and finding none, he says, "I will return unto my house from whence I
That passage goes on to say that when the demon returns, he invites a whole crowd of other demons to come with him.
If we don't lead the formerly afflicted person to Jesus, we're not helping them at all- in fact, we're going to leave things in a far bigger mess than when we came onto the scene.
Once we're gone, the demon is going to come right back in and have a party with all his meanest, ugliest, most vengeful buddies - delighted to find some new human to torment.
Setting people free is one thing, keeping them free is another. It is vitally important to teach a person how to remain free once he has been liberated.
Mary Magdalene was delivered of seven devils in Luke 8:2. After her deliverance, she became a true disciple of Jesus. She financially supported His ministry (Luke 8:3). She was one of the few who followed Jesus to the Cross (John 19:25). She came to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body (Mark 16:1). She was the first to see the risen Lord and the first evangelist of the Resurrection (Mark 16:9; John 20:18).
What a great example of the kind of reaction we can expect from a person delivered from Satan. Look again at the story of the madman of Gadara, the naked man possessed by the hundreds of demons that called themselves "Legion."
The final verse of that account - Mark 5:18 - is fascinating to me. Once set free, the man asked Jesus for permission to come with Him. Like Mary Magdalene, he wanted to spend the rest of his life following and serving the One who had set him free.

Verse 19 says that instead of allowing the man to come with Him as he requested, Jesus sent him back to witness to his own people. So the former madman began to preach in Decapolis about the great things Jesus had done for him - "and all men did marvel," according to Mark 5:20.

Earlier, the people in Decapolis had asked Jesus to leave - they didn't want to hear what He had to say. When Jesus came back through - as a result of the powerful preaching of the former demoniac, multitudes were ready to receive Him.

They brought the deaf and mute to Him for healing - and when they were healed, there was enormous excitement. Crowds were taught, healed, and blessed because of this formerly demonized madman!

In fact, they just couldn't get enough of Jesus. Even after He was tired and wanted to get away to rest, an immense multitude followed Him - not bothering to even bring anything with them to eat or drink.

What follows is the story of the feeding of the 5,000 as Jesus had to miraculously feed these folks clamoring after Him.

What a witness to the results of setting a man free.
Dr. Lester Sumrall

from a demon possession. It was a "one-man-plus-the-Holy-Ghost" revival!

The lesson for you: *We should not only set people free, we should take care to see what happens to them after their deliverance.*

When you set someone free, you have a debt to that person to teach him or her the Word of God about how to remain free. Don't allow them to fall back into demon possession or oppression.

Take it as your responsibility to help them stay free of Satan's bondage.

Stick with them. Nurture them. Teach them. Care about them.

You may have to invite them into your home. You may have to help them out financially.

Is that too much?

I caution you to remember the story of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19. His money and possessions were more important to him than righteousness.

When told to sell everything and give it to the poor, he went away grieving, unable to part with his beloved wealth. He loved *things* more than he loved God.

Don't you be guilty of the same thing.

I know it's easy in this day when we are faced with excessive attention on prosperity. Riches are becoming too important to some Christians.

However, there is a new move that I have seen lately among really turned-on, evangelizing believers. They
are seeing the need to provide homes and care for those who have just come to Jesus - particularly those who have come out of absolutely terrible environments.

After all, if you pray for a throwaway street child, deliver him from the demon possessing him, then lead the young teen to Jesus, you can't just wish him well and leave him there on the street.

If you lead a ghetto gang girl to the Lord, you can't run the risk of what will happen to her if you just let her go back to her terrible old surroundings.

You may need to offer her a home.

The people to whom you reach out may have seen terrible things beyond your ability to comprehend. Alex Kotlowitz, a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* writes in his book *There Are No Children Here* of a generation of American youngsters who have seen more crime and violence and terror than any before. They have been robbed of their innocence. In the housing projects of Chicago, he tells of an eleven-year-old boy who told him, "If I grow up, I'd like to be a bus driver." Notice the child did not presume to say "When I grow up."

David Wilkerson in the book *A Final Warning* by Nicky Cruz describes a New York City beyond anything I ever expected to see - with sidewalks crowded by ranting homeless, throwaway children, and pathetic, AIDS-infected men thrown out of their hospital beds, begging as if they were in Ethiopia, India, or Bangladesh.
Across soday, am seeing believers accept that in these terrible times, there is a very real need to take in converts and love them and help them get on their feet spiritually as well as physically.

This call of the Lord is not too much. Jesus gave His life for you. You can give up your couch to a formerly demonized bag lady who, through your prayers, is no longer a raving lunatic, but a hurting, decent woman in need of Christian charity.

Jesus went to Calvary for you. So surely, you can find a place in your heart for that hurting one who is looking to you for answers.

After all, you prayed for them to be delivered. You showed them Jesus.

Now, you need to show them love - true, caring, Christian love.

Just the same as Jesus loves you.
THE STRANGE CASE OF
CLARITA

A real-life, documented story of possession

Clarita Villaneuva, a seventeen-year-old street girl, had known a life of tragedy. She did not remember her father. She did not know if he had died or had deserted her mother.

The story is incredible and changed the spiritual climate of the Philippines Islands after 150,000 people accepted Christ as their Saviour following Clarita's deliverance. Her mother was a spiritualist and a professional fortune teller. The girl was brought up watching her mother holding seances, communicating with demons claiming to be the dead, and using clairvoyance to predict to clients what they could expect in the future.

When Clarita was about twelve years old, her mother
died. Clarita became a street child, then finally a prostitute in the Philippine capital, Manila. The local harlots became her teachers. By the time she was seventeen years old, Clarita was a regular in the bars and taverns of Manila.

One morning at 2 a.m. on the streets of downtown Manila, Clarita made the mistake of offering her services to a plainclothes police officer.

She was arrested and taken to Bilibid Prison, a 300-year-old building now used as the Manila city jail. It was built by the Spanish colonists and used by the Americans, and the Japanese until the Philippines gained independence.

Two days after Clarita was incarcerated, there struck the strangest phenomenon to ever hit Bilibid Prison in its three-century history.

This young harlot began to be bitten severely on her body by something invisible and unseen.

There seemed to be two of them - a huge monster like thing and a smaller one.

Were they from another dimension?

Why were they tormenting this girl?

They sunk their fangs and teeth deep into her flesh making bloody indentations. They would bite her neck, back, legs, and arms simultaneously. Blood flowed, mostly underneath her skin, from the bites. The seventeen-year-old screamed in horror and fainted.

Guards and medics heard the commotion and came
running. The other female inmates pointed to the writhing, tormented girl on a cot.

The girl was taken to the prison hospital for observation and treatment. There all the doctors declared they had never seen anything like it.

The strange attacks began to occur daily, baffling all who saw it. Dr. Mariano B. Lara, the prison physician, permitted many to view the strange phenomenon. Philippine, Chinese, and American doctors, university professors, and other professionals were called in to analyze the situation.

The news media sent reporters out to investigate. Newspapers, radio stations, and magazines found it their kind of story and began to publicize it. Even the cartoonists were soon drawing pictures of the entities from Clarita's descriptions, as the bitings continued day by day.

Here is one account, taken from The Daily Mirror.

"A city jail inmate puzzled police and medical examiners with her tale about two devils biting her last night. Sgt. Guilermo Abad detailed with the city jail last night, said the girl claimed she was bitten twenty times and she shouted every time she was hurt.

"Clarita talked and answered questions weakly, but sensibly, before a crowd of observers. Suddenly, her facial expressions would change to anguish and horror as if she were confronted with 'The Thing.' Then her strenuous resistance would cease and she would col
lapse into the arms of those holding her, weak and half-conscious.

"After regaining her senses, she said that one of the devils was big and dark with curly hair on his head, chest and arms. He has large, sharp eyes, and two fangs. His voice is a deep-echoing sound. He is shrouded in black.

"Clarita was bitten for the last time on the right knee. That was the first bite on the lower part of her anatomy. Other bite marks appear on her neck, arms, and shoulders. Observers insist that they were within sight all the time."

Similar accounts appeared in the Manila Chronicle. Here is an excerpt:

"At least 25 competent persons, including Manila's chief of police, Col. Cesar Lucero, say that it is a very realistic example of a horrified woman being bitten to insanity by 'invisible persons.' She displayed several bite marks all over her body, inflicted by nobody as far as the 25 witnesses could see..."

The following day, here is what was written in The Manila Times:

"Clarita Villanueva was again bitten twice before mystified doctors and thirty medical interns studying her between 2 and 4 p.m. yesterday.

"Later in the night, cellmates of the girl said that she had gone into a violent tantrum when they refused to give her water. They said Villanueva then grabbed an
aluminum cup standing bottom-up on a window and drank from it. (She drank from an empty cup.)

"The cellmates said that Villanueva suddenly grabbed a statuette of the holy family and was about to throw it on the concrete floor when they held her back and snatched the image away. Ten minutes later, a policeman removed the magazine of his pistol and shouted at Villanueva to tell her 'imagined evil spirit' that he would challenge him to a shooting duel.

"Then Villanueva got violent again, tried to attack the policeman and was calmed down only after he had been sent away.

"Rid of the horrified look on her face but still weak and trembling, Villanueva confided to her cellmates that 'The Thing' would be at her bedside at 2 a.m. this morning... .

"The second attack was the more mystifying. Dr. Cabreira said that Alfonso Aquino, a morgue helper, was holding her arms as the others looked on. Suddenly, she looked to the left of her and then at the ceiling and started beating her arms.

"As she revived from a faint, she muttered to Aquino: 'Tata, nasa ilalim ng kamay mo' (it is under your hand). Aquino removed his hand and in the back of Villanueva's hand, Dr. Cabreira said, were teeth marks that were still moist with saliva and sinking into the skin.

"One of the male students was able to take a picture of the bite immediately after the attack. He had placed
complaining and losing weight, he was sent to the country to rest. There the captain simply wilted like a flower before the sun and died. Nothing was ever found organically wrong with him – his spirit died within him.

Fear struck the city when that news was spread about. The girl was not only a harlot, they said, she was also a witch who could speak curses upon human beings and they would die.

What was really going on?
What were these evil spirits?

The large one, Clarita said, was a monster in size. He was black and very hairy. He had fangs that came down on each side of his mouth. The doctors verified her description by the teeth marks on her body.

The smaller entity was almost like a dwarf. He would climb her body to bite her upper torso. Both spirits liked to bite her where there was a lot of flesh, like the back of her leg, the back of her neck, the fleshy part of her upper arms. They would bite deeply into her, leaving ugly, painful bruises.

Dr. Lara and his medical assistants called in all sorts of observers, medical doctors, surgeons, psychiatrists, and professors from the Far East University and the University of Santo Thomas. No one had ever witnessed such strange and demonic behavior. Nor did they know any solution to the problem. They all wondered who would be the next victim of her curse.
Dr. Lara and his staff sent out word everywhere, "Come and help us. Please help us." They received 3,000 cables from heathen countries suggesting possible cures, but not one from a Christian country.

Do you see how we Christians have been asleep? The word went out over the world. Three thousand telegrams came in, mostly from Japan and India, telling them what to do with an invisible biting monster. But not one Christian nation had any solution to the problem.

They asked in Manila for somebody to come and help. The only group who turned up were the spiritualists who said it was John the Baptist biting her.

The officials asked the spiritualists to leave. I was the next one to come upon the scene.

I was working as a missionary in the Philippine Islands. After three awful weeks of this torture, a radio reporter came to Bilibid and taped a session while the doctors were violently struggling with Clarita. The reporter released his story on a local radio station, just after the ten o'clock news.

This was the first I had heard of the hell in the Bilibid Prison. The newspapers had given it front-page coverage, but I was too busy building a church to read the newspapers.

It was impossible for me to sleep after listening to that program. I walked the floor crying to God to deliver the poor girl in the city jail. The longer I prayed, the heavier the load became upon my soul. I said, "0 God,
if the devil is in that girl, You can cast him out! Please do it!"

After I prayed at length, God spoke to my heart: "If you will go to the jail and pray for her, I will deliver her."

In an unthinking second I replied: "No, God. I can never go to that place. There have been scientists, professors, legal experts, and even spiritualists trying to help that girl - and they all have had adverse publicity in the newspapers. I cannot go."

The Lord did not answer me, but said: "If you will go and pray for her, I will deliver her!" Finally, I decided that the next morning I would go and pray for the girl.

In a city the size of Manila and in a prison of the mammoth proportions of Bilibid, it is not easy to get an interview with such a notorious person.

On my way to town the following morning, I stopped at the home of my architect, Leopoldo Coronel. He is a friend of Mayor Lacson of Manila. At my request, he called the mayor on the telephone for an interview. The mayor was willing for me to pray for Clarita, but he said that he personally never wanted to see her again! His one stipulation was that Dr. Mariano Lara, Chief Medical Adviser of the Manila Police department, would grant his permission. Mr. Coronel did not know Dr. Lara but another friend, Mr. Domingo Sapeda, a building contractor, knew him and requested an interview. This was granted to us.

We arrived at Bilibid prison and were escorted to the
morgue. The first thing I noticed was a cadaver on the slab. The surroundings were eerie. Another corpse was wrapped in a blanket on a stretcher awaiting attention. On a table were a dozen or more jars of spare parts of human beings in alcohol. We found out later that these were for student demonstrations.

Sitting on a bench in the long, drab morgue, we heard Dr. Lara, a professor and department head of Pathology and Legal Medicine at the Manila Central University and professorial lecturer of Legal Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, admit that in his thirtyeight years of medical practice, he had performed over 8,000 autopsies and that he had never accepted the theory that there is a non-material force existing in the universe. However, this baffling child, being bitten by devils, had changed his philosophy of life. He turned to me and said, "Reverend, I am humble enough to admit that I am a frightened man."

I realized that my first objective was to convince Dr. Lara that I knew what I was doing and that I knew how to help this girl. I began slowly, "Dr. Lara, there are only three powers in the universe. There is the 'Positive Power,' or the power of a creative and benevolent God. There is the 'Human Power,' or the power of men here in the earth. Then there is the 'Negative Power,' or the malevolent and sinister power of the devil. These powers are real and evident around us. Now, do you think Clarita is acting under God's power?"
Dr. Lara shook his head slowly and replied, "No, not God's power."
"Then do you feel that, with your experience with human beings, she is acting like any human being?"
"No, the actions of this girl are not related to human beings."
"There is only one power left. She must be acting under demon power!"

Dr. Lara then explained that his broad experiences as a medical man had not prepared him for this encounter with something that was beyond doubt - "supernatural."

I continued, "Dr. Lara, if there is a 'negative' force in the universe over which a 'positive' force has no control, our universe would go to pieces. If there is an evil which no right can correct, then evil is mightier than right. This cannot be. If this girl has demon power in her, then Jesus Christ can deliver her from that power." I read from Mark 16:17, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils...' Do you believe this?"

Dr. Lara looked at me and said, "I believe. Now who will help us?" (The Roman Catholic chaplain of Bilibid Prison, the Roman Catholic bishop of the Philippines, the priests of the Roman Catholic healing center at Baclaran had all refused to pray for her - therefore, he thought assistance from religion was out of the question.)
I told him that I would be glad to come and pray for the girl if he would permit. The doctor said that he would welcome me. I requested that no medication be given the girl during the time that I am praying for her, and that no other groups be permitted to pray for her or to offer assistance in any way. If Jesus healed her, He must have all the glory. He agreed. We set the time of prayer for the following morning at 8:30.

I had not eaten since the night before, so I fasted the rest of the day and spent the time alone in prayer and reading the Word of God.

The following morning I arrived at Bilibid Prison. Upon entering its dreary walls, I felt like there was going to be a contest between the God of Elijah and the prophets of Baal — and the observers would know if the Lord be God. Ancient Bilibid, with its centuries of bloody history, was to witness a new kind of battle. Here, the Spaniards imprisoned their victims, the Japanese conducted uncounted atrocities. American missionaries almost starved until the day of liberation. Now, behind its stockades are hundreds of those who have broken the law. To say the least, it is an uninviting place to pray the prayer of deliverance.

On this first morning, I was accompanied by the architect of our church, Leopoldo Coronel, a Roman Catholic. With Dr. Lara, I found a professor from the Far Eastern University. When we started walking toward the women's cell block, I saw police officers,
newspapermen representing the local and foreign press, photographers, and others.

The devil said, "Just as I told you! Now, you will make a fool of yourself!"

As Dr. Lara and I led the way down the dusty prison road through the barbed wire gates by the sentries on duty, I almost felt as if it was the end of all things.

Following behind me was a motley crowd without the slightest idea of what they were going to see. I was the only Protestant in the entire group. When we had assembled in a small chapel for women prisoners, there must have been about one hundred spectators. I found that they were friendly and even sympathetic. Most of them had already seen the teeth bites on the girl. They already saw and observed the failure of the doctors, the psychiatrists, and the spiritualists. They had never heard prayer for the diseased and demon-possessed. They were of no spiritual assistance to me.

The small chapel had steel-barred windows. It had a very primitive Roman Catholic altar at one end of the room. It had a wooden bunk and a couple of small handmade chairs. Otherwise, it was a dreary and barren place.

After we all gathered in the chapel, Dr. Lara commanded that Clarita be brought in. As the girl entered the door, she observed each person slowly and closely.

I supposed she was looking for the doctors who urged her to have the devils bite her again. When she came to
me after the line, her eyes widened and she glared at me saying, "I don't like you!" These were the first words the devil spoke through her lips to me. They used her lips constantly to curse me, to curse God, to curse the blood of Christ. She did this in English - yet after she was delivered, I had to converse with her through an interpreter, as she could not speak English.

After she spoke, I had her sit on a wooden bench and I drew a chair up in front of her and began saying, "Clarita, I have come to deliver you from the power of these devils in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Suddenly, the girl went into a fit of rage. She screamed, "No! No! They will kill me!" Her body became rigid and she became unconscious. This had baffled the doctors when they tried to analyze her case, but I had dealt with devils before and understood some of their antics. Taking hold of her head with both hands I cried, "Come out of her, you evil and wicked spirits. Come out of her in Jesus' name!"

She immediately began to rage again. This was the first time she had instantly come back from one of the trances. With tears flowing down her cheeks, she begged me to leave her alone - and she showed me the terrible marks on her arms and neck where she had been bitten that moment. I was shocked. There were the terrible teeth marks so severe that some small blood vessels underneath the skin were broken. Rather than feeling like quitting, I simply forgot that I was surrounded
with unbelievers and went into the greatest battle of my life. I have never known anything like it. The devils would curse God and I would demand them to quit and tell them God is holy. Then they would curse the blood of Jesus, and I would rebuke them, reminding them that He is the Master over every evil power - and that His blood is holy. They cursed me in the vilest language. They declared they would never leave. It seemed that the powers of darkness and the powers of righteousness were in deadly conflict. I was only the mouthpiece for righteousness. Clarita was the mouthpiece of the devil. No doubt, the noise could be heard for some distance in the prison.

Finally, it seemed that the girl was relieved. The devils refused to talk to me or to bite her. Some of those present thought she was delivered, but I told them that she was not. It was nearly noon and I was soaked with perspiration and nearly exhausted. When I looked around, I saw several people with tears in their eyes. They had been moved by the great battle.

I told Dr. Lara that I desired to go home and fast and pray, then return the following morning. I would be glad for the audience to be limited to three or four just doctors and police officers. He agreed.

My visit, of course, attracted press coverage. The headline in The Daily Mirror the next day read "The Thing' Defies Protestant Pastor." Here is an excerpt of the story:
"The Thing' and a Protestant minister, Dr. Lester F. Sumrall, were locked in a struggle to the finish at the chapel for women detainees at the city jail this morn

I spent the rest of the day in communion with God. It was precious. By the hour, I could feel God's presence hovering over me, urging me not to be afraid.

However, I was almost defeated because the evening newspapers had my picture on the front page, three columns wide and that headline saying, "THE THING" DEFIES PROTESTANT PASTOR. Yet, God kept on urging me to return.

That night, Rev. Arthur Ahlberg and Rev. Robert McAlister visited us at home, and they offered to come with me the following day and stand between me and the crowd to keep them from getting too close during prayer.

Upon our arrival at Bilibid, the captain of the prison said that Clarita had not been bitten since the prayer. I knew she was not delivered yet.

This became evident when the devils saw me. Through her lips they cried, "Go away! Go away!"

I sat on the same small chair in front of her as the previous day and spoke back with a thrilling feeling of authority, "No, I am not going away, but you are going away! This girl will be delivered today!"

Then I requested every person present to kneel there were as many present as the day before, or more.
I warned them not to mock or laugh for when the devils came out of Clarita, they would surely attack another victim. Doctors, newspapermen, police officers, and professors humbly knelt as I prayed. However, in the next cell, there was a woman prisoner jesting about the affair and when Clarita was delivered, she was bitten and immediately went unconscious. Her story came out in the newspapers that day.

The battle began again. The devils realized it was their last struggle. They cursed and cuddled their victim, but it was different on this day. The extra day of fasting and prayer had made a difference.

I felt the release that they had departed. Clarita relaxed, the demon look departed from her eyes, and she smiled.

I looked around and saw newspaper men who had been weeping - there were tears in the eyes of doctors - otherwise hard-boiled jailers were weeping. I could now see how terrific the battle had actually been!

I began to sing softly with Brothers Ahlberg and McAlister joining me, and on the second time, the others joined in singing also:

*Oh, the blood of Jesus*

*Oh, the blood of Jesus*

*Oh, the blood of Jesus*

*That washes white as snow!*

The atmosphere really seemed clean inside that prison.
I asked Clarita if they were gone and she said, "Yes."
"Where did they go?"
"Out of that window," she responded, pointing to ward the steel-barred window.

We were ready to depart when suddenly, like a flash oflightening, the devils reappeared. The girl screamed and her eyes became demon-inspired.

I cried to them, "Why have you returned? You know you must go and not return."

Speaking in English through her lips, they replied, "But, she is unclean and we have a right to live with her."

I answered them in a determined voice, "But Mary Magdalene was unclean with seven like you and Jesus came into her life and she became clean by His mighty power. Therefore, I demand you now to depart and Jesus will make her clean."

They lacked power to resist. They left and she became normal again. I explained to her what had happened, and got her to pray with me for the forgiveness of her sins. Again, she seemed all right.

As we were preparing to leave again, the same thing was repeated.

This time, I was very upset, and the unconverted newspapermen could not understand what was happening.

I questioned the demons why they had returned and they spoke in English through her lips, "But she had
not asked us to go. She wants us. It is only you who desires for us to leave."

Again we demanded that they leave her. Again they immediately left. She again said they were gone through the window. I explained to her now why they returned, and demanded her to tell them to leave and not return. This she did, then I taught her to pray and plead the blood of Jesus against them.

It was about noon again. Clarita was weak from the ordeal. I told them to give her rest and after that, food.

As I was leaving, I said, "Clarita, I am sure these devils will return again. After I am gone, they will come. Then you must demand them to leave without my being present to help you. You must say, 'Go, in Jesus' name,' and they will obey." With this, I left the compound.

I am sorry about one thing and that is that I did not offer assistance to the newspapermen. We asked them not to write about the affair. Rev. McAlister went to them for me and requested them not to write. Their reply was that they were obliged to. The story had run for two weeks, and it had to be continued to a finish.

As the Methodist Church is the oldest Protestant church in the islands, they presumed that I was a Methodist, and put it in the papers that way. They did not know how to write about such an experience, therefore, what they said was not necessarily correct. I feel responsible for this as I gave them no interview,
and left the city the next day for the country to get away from the publicity.

From the battle we had experienced with the two devils - in that they returned three times to claim their victim - I knew they would try to return after we were gone. I told Clarita clearly what to do if they returned and assured her that she had the power to resist them now.

That same evening at eight o'clock, Clarita called to the guard on duty, "Mr. Pangan, my fingernails are very long, may I borrow your pocket knife to cut them?"

The guard replied, "I would like to, but prison regulations are that no prisoner shall be permitted to have a sharp instrument." The guard, who had watched the terrible deliverance, continued, "But I will cut them for you - come here."

Before he could cut two nails, Clarita let a bloodcurdling scream, "Help, they are back to get me! They are standing behind you!" The scared guard jumped up on his desk to try to escape from the devils, and he watched what he calls the greatest struggle he had ever seen. He could not see the aggressors, but he could see the girl in mortal combat screaming hysterically. As she seemed captured, with her hands bound, she cried to the guard, "Oh, what did the American father (minister) tell me to do? Tell me quickly!"

The guard still on the table cried back, "Say, Oh, God, deliver me in Jesus' name and with Jesus' blood."
Clarita screamed these words at her invisible enemies and as she did, she lurched forward and grabbed with her hands something unseen. She went into a coma. The prison authorities who were in the compound and many prisoners had gathered. They laid her on a table, but her hands would not open. The doctor pried her hands open and to his uttermost astonishment, there was some long, black, coarse hair. It was in the palm of her hand and under her fingernails. Dr. Lara placed this hair in an envelope and put it in a guarded place. Under the microscope, Dr. Lara found that the hair was not from the head, nor from any part of the human body. I personally saw this hair under the magnifying glass. It was about two inches long, coarse, had no root and showed no signs of having been cut.

The doctor has no answer to this mystery. How an invisible being, presumably a devil, could have lost hair from his chest by a visible being pulling it out is one of the strangest facts of history!

This phenomenon we must leave unanswered at the present.

Upon my return to the city the following week, Clarita had been before Judge Natividad Almeda Lopez in the Court of First Instance in Manila to answer to the charge of vagrancy and explain her unusual conduct. In a calm and collected way, she testified, "Since last Friday, when the American missionary prayed for me, the devils have not returned!"
The victory was sure. Christ again proved himself to be the Answer!

The moment Clarita was delivered, Dr. Lara asked me to go with him to the office of the mayor. In company with a university professor, I went with him. We walked directly past the flock of secretaries into the inner office" and there Dr. Lara, with a tone of real triumph, declared to the mayor, "Clarita was delivered. The devils are gone. Rev. Sumrall had just finished praying for her!"

Mayor Lacson shook our hands wholeheartedly and thanked us for helping him in this. He said that anything he could do for us, he would be very happy to do. The local newspapers, magazines, and radios, of course, told the story in enormous detail. One headline read, "He dies - the devil is dead!"

Here is the Manila Chronicle account: "'THE THING' IS DEAD! This every believer can now proclaim as Clarita Villanueva claimed yesterday that 'The Thing' has finally been exorcised.

"The girl said the prayers of an American minister, Dr. Lester F. Sumrall, who purposely visited her to purge the devil, did it."

A detailed account was printed in The Philippines Free Press: "The Strange Case of 'The Thing'" The account is quite lengthy, but here is an excerpt that gives this influential newspaper's version of my involvement:
Dr. Lester Sumrall

".. Just as we were mounting the steps of the squat concrete building, we were startled by blood-curdling screams from within. 'The Thing' had struck again!

"In the cell we found Clarita seated on a wooden bed, with tears still flowing down her cheeks. An American civilian who we later learned was Lester Sumrall, a Protestant minister, was kneeling on the cement floor before the stricken girl. He was holding both of Clarita's hands by the wrists. He was praying.

"Manila Police Department's chief medico-legal officer, Dr. Mariano B. Lara, was standing to one side, wiping away tears from his eyes. Prison officer Capt. Antonio Ganibi stood speechless behind Dr. Lara.

"Holding Clarita by the arm was Mrs. Dominga Reyes, a professor of psychology and philosophy in a local university. There were a few other people in the cell, but just then we were too occupied by the engrossing scene to notice them.

"We could see immediately that the other people in the cell, besides Clarita, had gone through an experience they could not easily forget. They looked wild eyed, perhaps from a little fear and from a sense of bewilderment. Dr. Lara, who has become accustomed to opening cadavers in the Manila Police Department morgue without batting an eyelash, was shaky.

"He held the left arm of Clarita and pointed out to us the fresh bite on it. As if accusing us of disbelief, he asked in a quavering voice, 'Don't you believe that?'
"We drew closer and took a hard look at the bite. The sight sent a cold shiver down our spines. It did not, in any way, resemble a human bite. In the first place, it was too large for human teeth. In the second place, the bite was completely round. (Anybody may find out for himself by actual tests on his arm that a human bite is elliptical.)

"And finally, we were awed to discover that all the teeth marks appeared to have been made by molars. Clarita seemed exhausted and so was Rev. Sumrall. He was visibly shaken and his hands trembled. It would seem that 'The Thing' won the first round.

"Early the following morning, we returned to find out more about 'The Thing.' Rev. Sumrall had two other Protestant ministers with him when he showed up at 9 o'clock. Before going into the cell of Clarita, he pleaded with the people around to keep away as 'exorcising the evil spirits' was not a show. Only Dr. Lara went into the cell with the ministers. After a while, we also sneaked in.

"Rev. Sumrall knelt before the girl and took her hands in his. He asked her if she knew him and she said she did. But after a moment, while the minister was invoking the Lord to 'liberate this little creature from the devil,' Clarita's countenance changed. She became wild-eyed and screamed at the minister before her, telling him to go away.

"The minister alternated prayer and sacred song
with invocation for the Lord's help and exhortations against the devil, but Clarita continued to scream. When Clarita seemed to cower away from him in unrestrained fright, he covered her eyes with his hands and told her not to be afraid as he was going to 'bind the hands and feet of the devil this morning.'

"The struggle continued. At intervals, Clarita was as meek as a lamb and, at the prodding of the minister, said that she liked Jesus Christ. The very next moment, however, she grew violent and cursed God and told the minister to go away. At one stage of the proceedings, Clarita became so violent and hysterical that she fainted.

"The minister then turned around and informed those present that they had better go down on their knees and pray 'for your own salvation.' Everybody was on his knees in a jiffy. Perspiring and growing visibly weary by his efforts, Rev. Sumrall resumed the task at hand. He slapped Clarita a couple of times and she came to, but in no time at all she was screaming again.

"After about an hour, Clarita's face seemed to soften. She became more attentive to the minister before her. In reply to a question, she told him that she liked Jesus Christ. At this stage, the minister recited the Lord's Prayer and Clarita followed him. Then the minister asked Clarita if she was still afraid of 'The Thing' and she replied in the negative. She indicated that 'The Thing' went out the window. And the three ministers
sang a joyous 'Hallelujah.' Clarita appeared worn out and she slowly stretched herself on her wooden bed to sleep...

"It was not the most factual account, but it was filled with the testimony of God's power - so that made up for some of the omissions.

The Lord powerfully used all the publicity.

When we needed our building permit, our new friend the mayor passed a special city ordinance to give it to us free - something that the newspapers lauded. The special ordinance required the consent of all the members of the official board of the Manila City Council.

After all the publicity, nobody spoke against us - in what was an almost repressively traditional Catholic society where officials were highly suspicious of Protestants.

Bethel Temple was the first Protestant church in the city to receive a free building permit. This act of kindness saved us what then was a great deal of money.

As he handed the permit to me, the mayor said, "You're the first Protestant that ever did get anything free in this city. Is there anything else you want?"

I said, "Yes, there is."

"What is it?"

I said, "I would like to preach in Roxas Park, called the Sunken Gardens, across the street."

This beautiful spot in the Sunken Gardens of the old Intramuros Spanish City is a place for special gather
ings. It is the most centrally located spot in the nation. "For how long?" asked the mayor.
"Oh, about six weeks," I replied.
"Six weeks! That's a long time."
"Well, it will take a long time to say all I've got to say."
"The girl is healed," he said abruptly, "you can have the park as long as you want it."

So we began to prepare for our great revival meeting.
The way God arranged it was just magnificent.
Without even knowing what we were doing, Gordon Lindsay in Texas sent us thousands of magazines with testimonies in them. Also without knowing what we were doing, Oral Roberts sent me a film on healing, complete with projector, a screen, and everything to go with it.
Through Ruben Candelaria, superintendent of the Methodist church in the Manila area, God miraculously opened up the churches of the city to us for services. I went to all the main churches preaching, showing the film, and distributing the magazines. By the time we went into the park meetings, the whole city was aflame.
The Taytay Methodist church paid for me to go on the radio. They paid for fifteen minutes after the evening news on a powerful station that covered the whole nation. Every night, right after the news, I talked about what was happening in Manila. People came from all over the country to attend the meetings. Not one city
was unrepresented. They came to see the miracles that were taking place. Every kind of miracle imaginable was witnessed. For fifteen minutes every night I just told how many miracles there had been that day, what God was doing for others, and invited people to come and see for themselves.

The Reverend Clifton Erickson was the evangelist and we saw the crowds grow to 60,000 people. Among those people, God saved 150,000 human beings! We witnessed the greatest revival that nation has ever known. The revival remains there until this day, all over that land.

The remarkable thing is, it all came about through the deliverance of a little nobody, a young street girl in prison. These beautiful people, some of them in the highest ranks of society, had their hearts and lives changed because a young girl was delivered.

That gives us the purpose of setting people free. We set them free, not only for their sake, but to move nations for God.

When we talk about these evil spirits, it is for a purpose. When God sets somebody free, there is a purpose behind it. The purpose is immortal souls that we might lead people to God, that we might lead people to heaven.

Our work instantly became known all over the Philippines. With my picture on the front page of newspapers and in magazine articles, people would recognize
us as we entered places of business or on the streets. It gave us recognition that otherwise would have taken many years to receive.

Whatever happened to Clarita?

Judge Almeda-Lopez placed her in Welfareville, an institution for wayward girls, for observation.

With Dr. Lara, I went to visit her twice. She was simply overjoyed at our coming. She rushed to us saying that she feared she would never see us again. She hurried to get us chairs to sit on. She sat and talked at length with us.

While at Welfareville, we asked permission to conduct a religious service for all the girls. This was granted and several days later, a group of our musicians and singers went out for a service. It was grand to minister to about 200 girls. Clarita was the center of attraction. She could not do enough to make us feel welcome.

Those in charge of the institution said she was a normal girl. We gave her a Bible to read, which she began reading daily.

This did not seem like the same girl we had known in Bilibid Prison tormented by devils, with her face distorted, screaming at the top of her voice. This was a perfectly normal girl who had recovered from the nightmare of demon possession.

I went through court proceedings with my lawyer, Atty. Pedro Jacinto, and petitioned for the release of
Clarita from Welfareville.

We were granted the parole for Clarita and placed her in the home of one of our best Christian families, the Sadorras. At that time, Mr. Sadorra was an intern and is now a medical doctor. Here she became very unhappy because every time she appeared in public, she was known and people wanted to see her and talk. to her. One day she left and went to the north of Luzon to live in a small town there.

At last report, she had married, is living a simple life, and is active with a local congregation.

What can you and I learn from this incredible story?

Observe several important facts about demon possession.

Upon my arrival, the devils in Clarita instantly recognized me as a servant of God.

The devils were afraid of me, though they were not afraid of anyone prior to my coming. Dr. Lara told me that when he came into the presence of Clarita with me, it was the first time that he was not afraid of her after he heard me speak with authority to the demons.

These demons could curse and blaspheme in the English language. Though Clarita was unable to hold a conversation with me in English after she was delivered, while she was demon-possessed she vehemently spoke against God and Christ and the blood of Jesus in English. This was heard by all those present.

The demons tried to debate with me over her soul.
They realized they were powerless to remain when they were rebuked in Jesus' name, yet they tried to give reasons for remaining in her. The newspaper reporters could not understand this conversation.

These demons were jealous. They would bite her when she received a gift from a man - but if he laid it on the table, she could pick it up without being bitten.

Here are seven truths for you to remember:

1. Christ possesses greater power than devils. "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," screamed the demon in Mark 1:24.

2. Christ has given His disciples power over devils. "And the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name," according to Luke 10:17. Also, Christ's last command to His successors was: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils..." (Mark 16:17).

3. Demons are afraid of the true disciples of Christ. "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:16,17).
4. Demons recognize God's true servants, but are not afraid of imposters. "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" (Acts 19:15).

5. Demons know their time to work is short. "...Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12).

6. Demons know judgment awaits them. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (Rev. 20: 1-3).

7. Demons know that the only force in the world able to defeat them is the blood of Jesus. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony - and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Rev. 12:11).
In the back country of Brazil, I was traveling by bus. At a small town, the bus stopped to let off passengers. There in front of the bus station was a man tied to a pole.

He was a mad man.

He was like an angry animal, lunging at his tormentors, screaming obscenities. The man was large, almost naked, with long, unkempt hair. He was filthy from having lived in the dirt like an animal. Children threw things at him, while the adults stood back and laughed. The people said he had no family. He was dangerous, they said, so they had tied him up as a public spectacle.

As our primitive bus bumped on down the red dirt road, I continued to relive that scene. That night as I
preached, I could not forget that man. He was a human being and yet he was not. He possessed an immortal soul, but a demonic spirit now controlled him. He had a God-given right to be free and normal, but he had been reduced to the level of a wild animal.

Only the devil could find joy in such a sad situation. That sight of the mad man could happen in a thousand towns and villages in our present world. In spite of what religion seeks to teach in its inability to resolve the emotional needs of this generation, it is a confrontation like the mad man at the bus stop that makes me say with Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Did I go back and pray for that man? No, I was a foreigner on a bus in the middle of nowhere - en route to a speaking engagement. I since have prayed that the Lord would have sent somebody to set that poor man free.

I remember, too, with deep regret a little old woman in Chicago. I had gone there to speak for the Christian Businessmen's Committee on their noon radio program.

As I stood by the door to leave the broadcast area, the little woman slipped up to me and cautiously said to me, "They are all against me here."

"Who?" I asked sympathetically.

"All of them," she replied with a sweep of her hand. Who was this shriveled-up old lady referring to? I
knew those she pointed toward were fine Christian ladies and gentlemen. There was the celebrated minister, Dr. Oswald J. Smith of Toronto, for instance. He was one of the most compassionate people I had ever met. There were the local business executives who had paid for the broadcast and who loved souls. There was also the widow of the great evangelist Billy Sunday, one of the loveliest ladies you could ever image.

I said softly, "Why are they against you?" In great fear she replied, "They hate me." I said, "Oh no, they love you."

The little woman shook her head and moved cautiously down the street looking left and right to see if her imaginary enemies were pursuing her.

These great Christian leaders possibly didn't even know that this little old woman existed. But an evil spirit within her drove her along.

That was another person I couldn't get out of my system. I couldn't forget her! I said, "God, somebody has to deliver that woman."

You might ask, "Why didn't you do it?"

Because I had to grow up in this matter of casting out demons. I wasn't born with that knowledge and ability. I had to discover it, just as you do. I had to get disturbed inside before I could discover the truth about evil spirits and about my power and authority over them as a Christian. Armed with that power, I began to see amazing things happen.
Let me tell you the story of the invisible boy. A young Filipino boy was tormented by a demonic spirit for more than a year.

It would cause him to disappear from a classroom at school or from his home. Cornelio's father would nail the doors and windows shut, but Cornelio did not need natural openings to get in and out of the house.

Because of his disappearing from the classroom, the boy's school teacher had a nervous breakdown and never recuperated sufficiently to teach again. I have personally talked to her and Cornelio's parents. I also visited Cornelio's home. I hired people to check out the validity of the story, including policemen who took signed affidavits about it. We investigated the whole matter very carefully. We didn't want the slightest possibility of falsehood or misrepresentation in it, because we made a film of it. It is surely one of the most well-documented cases in our files.

It is interesting that a religious leader, Rev. H.A. Baker, traveled from the United States to the Philippines to verify the facts of this case. They were unbelievable to him. After talking to all those involved and establishing the facts, he wrote me and said, "Unbeknown to you, I visited the Philippines. I contacted Cornelio, the school teacher, the parents, and their neighbors. I discovered that it is absolutely true what you describe about this miracle."

He went on to state: "No doubt, this is the greatest
EXORCISM: The Reality of Evil ... and Your Power Over It!

miracle outside the Bible, and as great as any miracle in the Bible."

Mr. Closa, Cornelio's father and a retired U.S. Navy man, told me, "The first time I noticed something wrong with Cornelio he stayed out late from school. When he came home, he looked troubled and silent.

"When I asked for an explanation of where he had been and who was with him, he would not answer. When I insisted, he growled at me. I took hold of him, but he struggled against my hold and I had to let him go. Then I realized that my son was not himself. He was fighting me for the first time.

"It hurt me because Cornelio had been a particularly affectionate child. Now, he not only resisted me, but I remember he snarled at me like an animal. I was at a complete loss. I did not know what was happening to Cornelio."

This all happened when Cornelio was about thirteen years old. Cornelio's mother remembers: "With every passing day Cornelio became less manageable. I tried everything. I was kind to him. I tried being harsh with him. All I knew was that I had lost control of him. I thought probably it was the bad company he was keeping, so I decided to practically imprison him at home. Cornelio refused to study his lessons. He would sit in one corner of his room, alone, brooding. He would just sit there staring at his plate, refusing to eat.

"One evening, Cornelio looked particularly flushed
and sick. With the doors and windows locked in the house, Cornelio vanished into thin air, right before my eyes! I was horrified!"

When it started, Cornelio and a friend were walking home one afternoon cutting across a large open space. Suddenly Cornelio stopped. His eyes were bulging out of their sockets. He was pointing ahead, and said, "See the girl in a long white dress? She is beautiful. She is calling me." Cornelio left his friend and walked forward. Suddenly his friend saw Cornelio disappear. The frightened boy ran home.

"Cornelio began to cause disturbances in school," his teacher told me. "The strange thing about these fights was that Cornelio, as small as he was, would take on three or four boys larger than himself and together the larger boys could not hold him down. He had superhuman strength.

"A few days later, I called him to the front of the class to give the lesson. He went to the blackboard, stood there for a few moments, and then simply evaporated."

His teacher continued, "I was terribly affected by these happenings in my class. I decided before I lost my mind completely, I should resign. I remember how the chain of events made Cornelio laugh and laugh. It was a hideous kind of laugh. It didn't belong to a boy. In fact, it didn't belong to a human being."

Cornelio said, "Sleep for me was almost impossible. I was never left to myself. I would perspire profusely. It
seemed as if my clothes were burning. Then if I would open my eyes, there would be the face of my friend, looking at me, beckoning me to follow her. Every time her hands touched me I would feel as if I were floating on air. Then I would be gone from home for days. I could not explain to my family just what was wrong. The girl made me promise that I would not tell. I just felt tremendous heat in my body.

"Whenever anyone, and that included my parents, spoke to me I would answer rudely or shout. I did not want to snarl, but I could not help myself. If my father punished me, I would fight back. I knew I was displeasing him, but I did not seem to care.

"When no one bothered with me in the house, I would just sit and wait. I did not know why, but I was just waiting for the girl. Often we would go to the movies and I knew no one could see us.

"Some other times we would eat at restaurants and when the time came to have to pay, we would conveniently disappear.

"When I was sure no one could see me. I would hide my father's glasses. Without his glasses, my father could not see his hand in front of his eyes. When my parents looked hard enough, they would find their things in the oddest places. When father found his glasses on the transom, he also found his slippers that I had hidden more than a week before.

"With all the traveling that I was doing, I suppose we
became very hungry. In the morning the family would find the refrigerator absolutely empty. This was not helping my father's blood pressure. They were sure their invisible boy had been there because the table had been set for two.

"Once my parents forgave me, but then I began stealing money from them. I began taking money from neighbors, even strangers. If I was caught, I fought back.

"I was becoming sickly and pale. I was hungry, but I could no longer eat. I would put food in my mouth and I would spit it out. I began breaking dishes and glasses. I wanted to break and smash anything I touched. I knew father was at his wit's end. He tried talking to me again, but I refused to answer. I pretended to be feeling ill. Then I leaped suddenly in a wild, uncontrolled manner. Father thought I was insane, so he took me to the mental hospital for a check-up.

"We baffled the people at the hospital. The doctors were kind - but while they talked to me about being a good boy, I don't think I was listening.

"Next, Father brought me to the correctional institution for juvenile delinquents. Here, I immediately caused trouble. I fought everyone, even the officials. Because of my violent temper, I was often roped to my bed.

"Finally, I was returned to my home. My parents seemed to have resigned themselves to living with a monster. "


This went on for one entire year, with the situation becoming worse and worse. The parents told me that the whole family would be in the front room of their home and their children would be down on the floor playing. Suddenly, with everybody looking, Cornelio would just disappear. The other children would start coughing and vomiting because of the stench that he would leave behind. When he disappeared, he might be gone for two days or more. Then he might just appear again in bed asleep. He would come in the house without using windows or doors. He would just suddenly be there.

"A ray of hope dawned," says Cornelio, "when a Methodist pastor came to see my father on business and stayed for lunch. It gave my father a chance to ask him how I could be helped with my problem. The pastor took a long look at me, and I scowled at him. I was sure my father was very displeased at the way I was behaving in front of his friend.

"I could hear evil laughter outside the house. It was the demonic spirit. It was the voice of the girl saying I should run away. The pastor told my father he knew someone who would help me, someone who had helped others.

"He said I needed help badly and that I had to be prayed for immediately. He told me that the devil himself was in my body.

"My parents brought me to church to see Lester
Dr. Lester Sumrall

Sumrall. The pastor met us there. I was very uncomfortable and wanted to run away.

"The girl made her appearance just outside the church door. She looked different, not pretty anymore, she looked ugly. When she motioned to me, I hid my face. I looked again and she had transformed into something positively horrible and she did not look like a girl, or a woman.

"Reverend Sumrall spoke to the Methodist minister and asked, 'Pastor, what's wrong with this boy?'

"The pastor said, 'He runs away and disappears.'

"'When I was a boy, I used to run away, too, but I got a spanking for it.'

"'He's different,' the pastor responded. 'He may disappear right out of my hands.'

"'Then it's the devil's power,' Reverend Sumrall said. 'I will pray for him.'

"'Lord Jesus, we plead Thy holy blood. We command the devil to come out of him. We break the devil's power that this devil can get him no more. May he be surrounded with the blood of Jesus Christ. Be free in Jesus Christ's name. I believe it. Amen.'

"Then Reverend Sumrall said to me, 'Look up here. Smile. May Christ's blood surround you. The spirit cannot make you disappear again as long as you live.'

"I felt cleansed, purified, and my body was mine again. I joined my parents. As the song in church rose in glory, I took my place with the people.
"Reverend Sumrall reminded me there was truly much to be thankful for. I had been in the house of the devil and enslaved to him. Through his help, Jesus Christ and all His power had made me whole and good again. By the blood of Jesus Christ, by His power without measure and without end, He had saved me from eternal damnation."

This was Cornelio's witness and testimony. But this is not the end of the story. I always follow up situations like this. I never leave such people on their own after their deliverance. If you do that, you will lose the battle for sure.

The next day I took a pastor with me and we went to the boy's home. We looked at Cornelio. He had not disappeared again. He never did disappear again. We prayed over him again.

Though he was just a youngster, I began to teach him about God. I read to him in the Bible where people were delivered from demon power by the power of God. I told him the thing that had possessed him was nothing but a demon.

He said, "I believe it now because I saw her face. Otherwise I thought she was an angel. When I saw her face the last time, it was so demonic, so angry, so hateful. I was so afraid I even put my hands up in front of my face that I might not see her again."

I talked, Ao the parents. I got them down on their knees. They came through to a beautiful and wonderful
salvation. After that they never left our church but worshipped with us always.

The boy grew up to be a man in that Christian home. The thing never did torment him again. Of course, we never put this story in the newspapers, but it would have made a tremendous impact because it was one of the greatest miracles of our generation. If the news media had gotten hold of it, it would have been remarkable because of the validity of it. There was so much verification of it that it was impossible for it to have been just a story someone had made up.

I visited Cornelio several years later after he was married. By then he had little children of his own. It was a real pleasure to see that he had stayed well. In fact, he was working for a film company as a cameraman, the same company that made our film about his story. He was happy and very well-adjusted in life.

God had really made him free.

God is able to do the same in our country, in your city, and mine. Christ is the same today.

He can break and destroy the devil’s power and set you free of any satanic hurt that has come into your life. I urge you to let Jesus Christ do it.

He can also use you to set others free.

There are yet thousands, perhaps millions, who need deliverance. The people of Jesus Christ have been commissioned and empowered to bring that deliverance. In John 14:12, Jesus said:
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

The Lord is calling upon us to set people free.

A very conservative evangelist who appeared on our TV show took me aside afterward and said, "Brother Sumrall, I've read everything you've written on this subject. I want you to know something: I cast out devils." He began to tell me of the people he had prayed for and cast evil spirits out of.

They were set free. I am so thankful to God that He can set people free when we have the faith and courage to act on our authority and power over demons.

Once my son, Stephen, and I were on a plane flying out West. He sat by a man who had a book pushing up out of his pocket. It was one of my books entitled Demons: The Answer Book. Stephen said to the man, "There's a book in your pocket, sir."

The man pulled it out saying, "Yes. Do you know Dr. Sumrall?"

My son grinned at me in youthful glee. I winked at him and introduced myself to the man.

It seems that he was a member of a very conservative, evangelical church in Michigan. He said, "I have a brother in the state of Washington, and he's possessed of the devil. I'm going to read this book all the way out there, and I'm going to cast the devil out of him."
Amen! If even one person who reads this book is given new boldness, then it has been a success!

That is what I believe God wants each of us to do cast out the devil wherever we find him!

All authorities and powers are subject to Jesus Christ. When we are in Jesus Christ, and when we are speaking for Jesus Christ, there is no power above us. What a wonderful thing it is that we have the authority and the power in God to cast out unclean spirits.

We have the power and the authority. Demons are subject to us.

Take hold of the power and authority that is yours in Jesus Christ and begin to use it! We can change the world!

God spoke to me on the mission field many years ago and told me to come home.

He said the time would come when one hundred million Americans would need to be set free.

If that dark day is not already here, then it is certainly on the horizon.

The evil is spreading.

Many Christians have refused to stand up to the problem of evil spirits. They refuse to have anything to do with it.

But now you know the truth.

As you read this, Satan and his kingdom have been weakened.

How?
EXORCISM: *The Reality of Evil... and Your Power Over It!*

Through your new knowledge.
Through your new found authority!
Through the power that you now know that you have within you! You know the truth about Satan. You are no longer afraid of him.
You are more than a match for him!
We cannot lose!
The Lord wants you to hold onto that.
Go forth, my friend - in authority.
In power and victory, setting the captives free!