

Can a Christian be oppressed or possessed by a demon? - March 26, 2017

That's a loaded question because there are assumptions that one has to make:

- 1) That there are demons, devils and a Satan in existence.
- 2) That the demons, devils & Satan have power to do things.
- 3) That the demons, devils & Satan can harass a full-fledged baptized Christian

I. Existence of Satan

The bible warns that "...*Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*" 1Pt5:8.

The devil sought to devour Jesus right after his baptism.

1) Matthew 4:3 describes the tempter coming against Jesus. The tempter is called devil twice (:5 & :8) and then in verse 11 Jesus commanded "*Away from me Satan...*".

2) Luke 4:2 states that "*...for forty days he was tempted by the devil*"

Was perfect until beauty corrupted wisdom Ez28:15

Ez28:15 "*You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you..*"

Ez28:17 "*Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground;*"

Michael the archangel contended with the devil over Moses body Jude1:9 "*But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*"

The tempter, devil and Satan refers to a being who tempted Jesus. Jesus wasn't imagining being tempted for 40 days.

II. Satan's power

Satan's power is shown in how he attacked Job. Satan can control a group of people to do his will. He has control over the environment such as wind and calling down fire from heaven. He can inflict illness on people and destroy their respect in the community and bring contention within people's houses.

Control over people: Satan sends the Sabeans to steal his oxen kill his servants Job1:15. Satan sends the Chaldeans to steal his camels and kill his servants Job1:17.

Control over the environment: Satan brought down fire to kill both his sheep and servants Job1:16. Satan stirs up the wind which blew down a house where his children and servants were in, killing them all Job1:19.

Control over health: Satan caused Boils to break out all over Job's body Job2:7 .

Destroy Standing, Respect: Wife turned against him Job2:9. Servants, friends and community turned against him Job16:20.

2Thess2:9 "*...the activity of Satan with all power and signs and false wonders*"

Rev9:4 power over unsealed persons "*...but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*"

Rev12:12 "*...Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath.*"

Rev13:13-15 “.. performs great signs.. makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.. deceives those who dwell on the earth .. breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak ..”

III. Christians in the bible being attacked

Properly baptized Christians can be attacked. A Congregation whom Peter (who 2 chapters before told the people at Pentecost to repent and be baptized) was at were believers and of one heart and soul in Acts4:32. Peter charges two of the members with having their hearts filled with Satan which then lied to the Holy Spirit. Both of them died for that lie.

Acts4:32 “***And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul;..***”

Acts5:3 “***But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit..”***”

Paul wrote to a congregation that he set up in Corinth and said one of the members “among you” sinned 1Cor5:1. Paul stated he was going to hand over that person to “Satan for the destruction of the flesh” 1Cor5:5.

1Cor5:1 “***It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles..***”

1Cor5:5 “***I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.***”

Paul writes Timothy that an overseer, 1Tim3:1, mustn't be a new convert because he could “fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil” and “fall into the reproach and the snare of the devil” 1Tim3:6-7.

1Tim3:1 “***It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.***”

1Tim3:6-7 “***and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.***”

Paul follows up to Timothy to tell younger widows to stay engaged in life and “give the enemy no occasion for reproach” 1Tim5:14. The next verse Paul defines the enemy as Satan.

1Tim5:14-15 “***Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; 15for some have already turned aside to follow Satan.***”

When is a Christian a Christian? Being called a Christian? “..the disciples were first called ***Christians in Antioch***” Acts 11:26. Before the label Christian, Paul called them “..this way..” Acts22:4 but Jesus called his followers disciples - “..If you abide in My word, then ***you are truly disciples of Mine***” Jn8:31.

A name of disciple, the way or Christian is just a label placed on a person who has a mark on them. Ephesians1:13 states “.. ***you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise***” and “..***if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.***” Romans8:9

It's the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, that makes a person a Christian. In Jn20:21-22 "*Jesus ... **breathed on them**, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*"

The Old Testament persons that were filled with the Holy Spirit could be considered Christian as well – in my simple understanding. Adam in Genesis2:7 had a similar breathing on by Jesus in the Old Testament "*Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.*"

Adam had the breath of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, infused into his body. Adam and Eve were hand formed by Jesus and then he breathed his Holy Spirit into them but both were undone by the serpent craftiness.

In 1 Samuel16:13 shows the Spirit of the Lord coming on the future King David but yet King David was moved by Satan to number Israel 1Chronicles21:1 which then cause a curse to come on Israel and "...*the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel; 70,000 men of Israel fell*" 1Chron21:14 "*...the **Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David** from that day forward.*" 1Sam16:13 "*Then **Satan** stood up against Israel and **moved David** to number Israel*" 1Chron21:1

IV How are Christians attacked

Christians are attacked in many ways:

Col2:8 "*See to it that no one takes you captive through **philosophy and empty deception**, according to the **tradition of men**...*"

Jm1:14 "*...one is tempted when he is carried away and **enticed by his own lust***"

Eph5:6 "*Let no one deceive you with empty words.*"

1Tim4:1 "*...some will fall away from the faith, **paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons***"

2Tim2:26 "*and they may come to their senses and **escape from the snare of the devil**, having been **held captive by him** to do his will.*"

2Cor2:7 "*... forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be **overwhelmed by excessive sorrow**.*"

Eph6:16 "*...shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the **flaming arrows of the evil one**.*"

1Jn3:10 "*...anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God.*"

1Jn3:8 "*the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning.*"

Eph4:27 "*...**do not give the devil an opportunity***" ie don't open doors for him to come in at.

V Protections

What can a Christian do to fight back? By testing, examining, praying, petitioning, having perseverance, by resisting, being sober, being alert,

1Jn4:1 "*...test the spirits to see whether they are from God.*"

1Jn4:3 "*...every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist...*"

2Jn1:7 “..those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

1Jn2:22 “..the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist..”

Acts17:11 “..**examining** the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

Eph6:18 “..**prayer** and **petition** pray at all times.. be on the alert with all **perseverance**..”

Jm4:7 “**Resist** the devil”

1Pt5:8-10 “Be of **sober** spirit, be on the **alert**... **resist** him, firm in your faith After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace.. will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish”

VI Power and Authority

Our power and authority comes from Christ who strengthens us (Philp4:13) by his raising us up to sit with Jesus in the heavenly places. He disarmed them so now it's our turn to tread upon them with confidence that nothing shall injure us.

Eph1:20-22 “.. He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, ..He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,”

Col2:15 “When He had **disarmed the rulers and authorities**..”

Eph2:6 “and **raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him** in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,”

Lk10:19 ““Behold, I have **given you authority** to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall injure you.”



We are sitting
with Jesus above
all Satan's powers
In the earth

EARTH