

ANSWERS ABOUT DEMONS Chapter 3

By Mark R Anderson - FROM: YOU CAN TAP INTO CHRIST'S HEALING POWER BOOK

As a young Christian called to ministry I spent a lot of time reading books by T.L. Osborn, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland etc. I learned a lot about faith and healing through these men of God. It was a very important foundation to lay in my life. I knew and understood from scripture that healing was God's will and promise to us. Yet I did not see too many people healed of their ailments as I prayed over them. One of the first to pray over was a lady suffering with cancer, who died a few days later. This was a little discouraging and this pattern did not necessarily change till I fully understood what was conveyed in Acts 10:38 which reads, "*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were **oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him.*"

My attempt in this chapter is to help bring a comprehensive understanding of the insidious ways in which Satan and his demons operate oppressing or controlling people in certain areas of their life. For some to find freedom from torment or a sickness, a demon has to be dealt with and cast out. All of us know that Satan is not omnipresent but his kingdom of demon spirits are everywhere. Jesus was constantly casting out demons and healing the sick. He was not casting out Satan himself each time, but demons.

The word **oppressed** is the Greek means '**to exercise harsh control against one; to use one's power against one.**' Acts 10:38 reveals to us the one who brings much sickness and disease on people. It is Satan and his evil spirits. God is not the author of physical sickness and infirmities. Many miss out on their healing by placing the blame on God. Problems can come our way by lack of nutrition, injuries, doing stupid things or by demons. God is not the one who is causing the problem. It is either demons or us! James 1:17 says "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, in whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*"

Commencing in January 1980 till June 1980 I was involuntarily thrust into a deliverance ministry. I was living in North Branch, Minnesota an area at that time rampant with demonic activity. It was a town of 1,500 people, with six witches' covens. The High Schools in some nearby towns had more Satan worshippers and people in witchcraft than children with morals. Anton Levay, writer of the satanic bible lived nearby in Mound, Minnesota at this time. A lot of people, after dabbling in witchcraft and experiencing despair, realized they needed help to find freedom.

It was during this time as I ministered deliverance to ex-Satanists, ex-witches and others with various mental and physical problems that I experienced an increase in the healing anointing in my life. I became very dependent on Jesus and the gifts of the Spirit began to manifest in my life.

During those days I conducted a meeting in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. During the meetings I had a word of knowledge about a person suffering with stomach cancer. No one responded to it so we continued to minister. In the healing line one lady requested prayer for stomach problems. She did not know what caused her problem and had not been to a doctor. The Lord revealed she was the one with stomach cancer. She fell to the floor as I commanded cancer to go in the name of Jesus. I went on to minister to others. I did not see her thereafter. She however, had relatives on the praise and worship team. I received the report of her healing from the praise and worship team. The next day they felt that she needed further deliverance and proceeded to minister to her. At this time she passed a huge cancerous growth out of her body and was completely healed. She was healed after they cast a demon of cancer out of her body.

Mark 16:17-18, "*And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*" These scriptures mention two

ways in which people needing healing can receive it. Firstly, by casting out a demon and secondly, by praying the prayer of faith and the laying on of hands. We need to have discernment to know what situation merits which kind of ministry.

Many people are very demon conscious, considering every affliction to be demonic. Satan loves it when we are demon conscious rather than Christ centered, as there exists little anointing in the former. We need to be Christ centered. Satan is called Beelzebub in the Gospel, which literally means lord of the dung and lord of the flies. Flies are mere irritants and so is Satan. We do not need to have much attention focused on an irritant. We do not need to talk much about dung! Satan is lord of the dung. I am sure you could get a good revelation on Satan's power and what he really is if think on this one awhile. It is a good description of what he really is. I could tell you what that means but it might not sound to Christian-like.

DEMONS, SICKNESS AND HEALING

When ministering to a person in need of healing from cancer I have dealt with it most of the time by casting out a demon. Doctors testify to the fact that cancer has a life to it that grows in the body. I know a number of people who have suffered with cancer, received prayer, been healed, only to be afflicted by it again. I strongly believe that one of the primary reasons for this is that the root problem, casting out the demon of cancer, was not dealt with initially. In our overseas campaigns we have witnessed many healed of cancer. Most were healed as a result of commanding a demon to leave their bodies during a mass prayer for the sick.

*Luke 13:10-17, "Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a **spirit of infirmity eighteen years**, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, Woman you are loosed from your infirmity. And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day. The Lord then answered him and said, Hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom **Satan has bound- think of it- for eighteen years**, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath? And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him."*

Jesus squarely places the blame on Satan, a spirit of infirmity more precisely, for the woman's problems. Jesus laid hands on her and she was set free. He confronted a demon spirit of infirmity for the lady to find healing.

In the early days of ministry we conducted a healing meeting in Wyoming, Minnesota scheduled for four days that ended up running ten days. The Lord moved powerfully. A large number of people were healed, delivered, found Christ and rededicated their lives to Him.

One night I had a word of knowledge that someone was suffering with back problems that the Lord desired to heal. A young girl, whose father I knew, responded. She had suffered with back trouble for a long time. The chiropractor had given up hope on her case, saying she would have to live with the problem. She had received prayer at an earlier meeting by an Evangelist (who had a healing anointing) to no avail. Before praying for her I asked the Lord how to minister to her. The Lord told me that a spirit of infirmity was pinching the base of her spine and I should cast it out. I obeyed and did accordingly. The young girl described to me this huge pocket of air that seemed to come from deep within her stomach and pass out through her mouth. The minute that air pocket left her body the pain left her back. She was healed of a lifetime of back trouble. She received healing after a demon of infirmity was cast out of her body. The last I heard of her, she was walking in divine health with no back trouble. I am however; not suggesting that all back trouble is demonic in nature. One just needs to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to identify what is causing the sickness and/or pain and deal with it accordingly.

The Greek word for Spirit is 'pneuma' which means wind, breath or movement of air, the vital principal by which the body is animated, the disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul of anyone. In this case the demon spirit came out with a movement of air. Demons can come out different ways. Some feel like a rush of air leaving them. Others may feel an air pocket rising in them or a release like something has lifted from them. There are many ways demons have manifested and come out of people.

Mark 9:14-29 *“And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. And He asked the scribes, What are you discussing with them? Then one the crowd answered and said, Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a **mute spirit**. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. He answered him and said, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me. Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately **the spirit convulsed him**, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, How long has this been happening to him? And he said, From childhood. And often **he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him**. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord I believe; help me in my unbelief! When Jesus saw that the people came running together, **He rebuked the unclean spirit**, saying to it: **Deaf and dumb spirit**, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more! Then **the spirit cried out**, convulsing him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, Why could we not cast it out? So He said to them, This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting”. Once again Jesus dealt with a spirit that was causing epilepsy and caused the young boy to be deaf and mute.*

In 1988 I conducted a campaign in Bamba, Kenya. During the prayer for healing I took control over demons in Jesus name and commanded them to leave. A lot of people would cry out and fall to the ground. We followed up on a few of them, who testified that they had been born with epilepsy and suffered seizures everyday. However during prayer they felt demons leaving them and they were healed of their torment. Since that day they had not suffered any seizures. These individuals and many more were healed as a demon was dealt with and cast out. We have witnessed many people healed of epilepsy in our campaigns as we command demon spirits to leave. We have also witnessed many deaf and mute healed over the years as we have cast out deaf and mute spirits.

UNDERSTANDING HOW DEMONS OPERATE

Jesus describes demons in Matthew 12:43-45, *“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through **dry places, seeking rest, and finds none**. Then he says, ‘I will **return to my house** from which I came’. And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the **last state** of the man is **worse than the first**. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”* According to this scripture demons find expression in a human body. That is also how they find rest.

Notice when demons are cast out of a person they go through dry places and have no rest. They need to dwell in a person to find rest and to express the nature of the devil. The real us is a spirit. We find expression through our body. It is the same with a demon spirit. That is how they express themselves. For some individuals, demons have controlled and made up a part of their personality. Their personality is controlled and made up by demons that are expressing the nature of Satan in them.

Notice how the demon calls a person's body their house. They consider a person's body their home. When they are evicted they become homeless. A lot of demons are homeless because Christians have

risen up knowing who they are in Christ. Demons can't hang around in that kind of environment.

Some think we should just ignore the devil and demons. Others think they should have a lot more attention. Both ways can end up being taken to extremes and keep us in bondage. We first need to be Christ centered, knowing Jesus defeated the devil and his demons but also be aware of demons and the way they operate. 2 Corinthians 2:11 reads, "*lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are **not ignorant of his devices.***" Scripture gives us enough insight into the devices of Satan and cautions us not to be ignorant of them. In other words we are not to permit a lack of knowledge to destroy us.

Ephesians 6:11-12, "*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles** (Greek- lies & strategies) of the devil, For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*" Demons have lies and strategies that they employ against us that we cannot ignore. If the USA and its allies had ignored Hitler during World War 2, there would have been incomparable mayhem and some nations may have ceased to exist. Thank God the allies took note of him, and attacked him and did away with him, thereby ridding the world of a terrible evil. Such is the case with demons too. The Church cannot ignore them. We have the Word of God that is our blueprint for success against any ploy that Satan might try to adopt towards us. Applying or doing God's word will drive demons from us or the ones they are tormenting.

THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF POSSESSION

Matthew 8:16-17, "*When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were **demon possessed.** And **He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all** who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, *He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sickness.*" These scriptures give us insight on how Jesus dealt with some of the sick. He healed them by casting out demons.*

Let us do a brief study of the word 'possessed' as it appears in the above verses. There are two Greek words for possessed one is **DIAMONIZOMIA**, which means to **be under the power of a demon, afflicted, and demonized.** Demon possession in this similar context is also used in Mark 1:32-34. In Matthew 12:12, demon possession caused the man to be blind and deaf. Jesus healed him and he was able to see and speak.

Acts 8:5-7, gives us a little different explanation of demon possession. "*Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes in one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were **possessed**; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.*" Here the Greek word for possession is **ECHO** which means **to have, to hold, possession of mind, own, possess, wearing, to have, agitating emotions, hold fast and compromise.** The use of the word possession here is similar to the word as it appears in Acts 16:16-18 which reads as follows, "*Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl **possessed with a spirit of divination** met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, *These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation. And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out that very hour.*"*

During the early eighties I helped counsel and minister deliverance to a lady. Prior to finding the Lord she had been a Satanist and had indulged in a lot of perversion and wickedness. She also had psychic powers. Unfortunately, in spite of finding Christ, she was greatly tormented and suffered with extreme insomnia allowing her no more than an hour of sleep a night. This continued for weeks, to point she was exhausted and emotionally spent. We cast out the insomnia and other tormenting spirits as well as told her to get rid of certain things in her house that attracted demons. After ministry and cleaning her house she went home and slept more peacefully.

Later as we continued to minister to her, she was baptized in the Holy Spirit. However she still suffered physical and mental torment. We would minister deliverance to her once a week. On one such occasion, demons began to manifest with supernatural strength in her to such an extent that it took four grown men to control and hold her down. On another occasion as I was casting out spirits of black magic, suddenly little slits, like someone was cutting her, began to appear all over her arms. Gradually she began finding freedom and respite from the demonic attacks.

Later at a meeting in Wyoming, Minnesota I had a word of knowledge of someone suffering with a tumor in the chest. This lady responded. She had never told us she had this problem until the Lord revealed it. She came forward and was touched by the power of God before we could even lay hands on her and was completely healed. This lady traveled a long and sometimes difficult road to find freedom, prevailing in the end with the Lord on her side. We probably cast out 100s of demons from her. The last I heard of her, she was serving Jesus with all her heart, was prospering and in excellent health.

CHRISTIANS AND DEMONS

Can a Christian, have a demon or be **demonized**? **Yes!** Can a Christian be **demon possessed**, as we understand it in **the English sense**? **No!** A Christian can be tormented mentally and physically by demons, but cannot be demon possessed. Possession in the English dictionary talks of complete ownership. Possession in the Greek has a more diversified meaning. A Christian cannot be totally owned by a demon. A Christian can have demons lodged in the flesh and mind but never in the spirit because he or she belongs to the Holy Spirit. Thus complete **possession**, as we understand it in English is **impossible in a Christian**.

Let's look again at Matthew 12:43-45 *"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And he comes, he finds it empty, swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of the man is worse than the first..."* These verses show us the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit in order to walk in freedom from demonic torment. Sometimes that is all we need to be free of demonic torment. *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"*(Romans 12:21). We need to overcome evil with good. One needs to replace the wickedness within oneself with the Holy Spirit and good. Getting filled up with what God's word says about the problem can change one's circumstances (see Romans 12:2). Over the years we have seen and ministered to people who have been bound by things like sickness, infirmities, religious spirits, pornography, lust, Satanism, rebellion, bitterness etc. Some had to deal with demon spirits to find freedom from these problems and also be **filled with good to stay free** from demons returning. James Robison, a well-known Baptist Evangelist, filled with the Holy Spirit had to deal with demon spirits that tormented him. He found freedom through deliverance, being filled with the Holy Spirit and God's word.

In my earlier days of ministry, I had to deal with a problem in my life that was of demonic origin. As a High School student, I hated studying. My nickname in those days was drifter. I was more actively involved in sports than my academic classes. My mind wandered uncontrollably and I had a difficult time paying attention. It was much like what we call Attention Deficit Disorder (A.D.D.) today.

In my late teens I was called into the ministry. I now had to spend a lot of time studying the Word of God. I made very little headway, as my mind would wander uncontrollably when I tried to study the Bible. Once I timed myself to see how long it would take me to read Psalm 1 (6 verses) and 2 (8 verses). An hour later I had not made much progress. I started spending a lot of time praying and crying out to Lord for freedom from this malady. However the problem lingered and was uncontrollable. The only way to get the word in me was to memorize it in those days. I identified it as demonic in nature. I then came against it and commanded this mind wandering spirit to leave my body. A demon rose within me and left! I have not suffered with this problem since.

Let's see what the word says regarding Christians and demons. How can a demon enter a person? Paul talking to Christians in Ephesians 4:26-27 said, "*Be **angry** and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **nor give place to the devil.***" In this scripture Paul is encouraging Christians not to give place to the devil. If Paul is telling them not to give place to the devil then there must be Christians who give place to demons. Notice demons cannot torment us, without us giving place to them. There had to be or has to be an open door for demons to take ground from us.

Keep in mind many times throughout the Bible when it talks of Satan or the Devil, he is not present everywhere. He has a kingdom of evil spirits that do his dirty work. Being angry or offended with a person is giving place to the devil and one needs to deal with it before the sun goes down or in other words before the day ends or if we continue to operate in anger we can give demons a foothold in our life.

Romans 6:16 reads, "*Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slave whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*" Thus whatever one yields to, one will serve. For example many have fallen into the sin of pornography because they started yielding to the temptation in the beginning and then it progressed into a stronghold, as they did not deal with it by repenting and turning away. It starts with a thought! The thought then becomes an action, the action a habit, the habit becomes a lifestyle and the lifestyle eventually can become a demonic stronghold in one's life. One needs only to recognize what stage one is at in order to deal with a problem in one's life.

2 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "*Or do you not know your **body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*" If a person owns property and does not want people to trespass on it, they often put up a sign that says 'No Trespassing'. This is really what we need to do with the devil. We need to let him know that he cannot trespass on God's property because we are blood bought individuals and temples of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes we may have opened up to demons before coming to Christ or may suffer with physical afflictions. Many times deliverance is like using a can of Raid to get rid of the termites. You can use it and get rid of the termites or you can let it sit on a shelf while termites invade your house.

Galatians 3:13 -14 says "*Christ has REDEEMED US from the CURSE of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree), that the BLESSING OF ABRAHAM might come on the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*" The curse of the law included sin, sickness, infirmities, poverty, demonic torment, no protection from evil things and much more (see Deut. 28:15-68). The world we live in is under a sin curse but Christ has redeemed us from all of this. If He has redeemed us as the Word of God tells us from sin, poverty, demons and sickness why do we still sin sometimes or get sick or have financial needs? Hasn't He redeemed us from this? He has! It's conditional though, and we have to apply God's word to walk in the freedom He has provided for us.

Colossians 1:13 reads, "*He delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.*" This shows us we have been delivered from the devil and demon's authority. That is true! It is the same with deliverance! One needs to exercise their authority and walk in what Christ has done for them to experience that freedom. Jesus Christ has provided us freedom through the use of His name. Just like that can of Raid on the shelf, we need to use it to get rid of the termites. So it is with us having the use of the name of Jesus to get rid of demons that have tormented us or afflicted us before we came to Christ or since coming to Christ. We need to use the word of God and the name that is above all names, the name that demons are subject too, to expel demons if need be.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT TEMPLES

When one accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the spirit man is saved. The mind, body and thought life still need to be transformed. Romans 12:2 says, “*And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God,*” and James 1:21, “... receive with meekness the implanted **word**, which is **able to save your soul**”. Your soul could refer to your mind, will, personality, and emotions. We have to make a conscious and concerted effort to change our way of thinking so that our thought patterns are according to God’s. This is a continuous process and a daily task. Sometimes demonic strongholds have been set up in one’s mind before coming to Christ and one needs to deal with these strongholds by using God’s word, the Holy Spirit and/or casting out demons if needed.

In a sense we can compare our bodies that are the temple of the Holy Spirit, to the literal temple in the Bible. Colossians 2:17 says the **law** “*which is a **shadow of things to come**, but the substance is of Christ.*” The Old Testament was a shadow of better things to come. A study of the temple will reveal it has three parts. The outer court, the inner court and then the Holy of Holies where the spirit of God dwelt! In our bodies our flesh is akin to the outer court, the soul (mind, will, personality, and emotions) to the inner court and our spirit to the Holy of Holies.

The outer court or the flesh is in darkness, while the light of God shines bright in the Holy of Holies or the spirit being. It is interesting to note that Jesus cleansed the outer courts of the temple in Mark 11:15, “*So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.*” Notice there was evil in the outer court in Jesus’ day. Today evil can exist in our outer court (the flesh) as well if one is constantly giving place to one’s fleshly or wicked desires that are contrary to God’s word. One needs to do some house cleaning.

One’s nature describes who they are and what they are like. In the carnal nature, the fallen adamic nature, there exists darkness. One’s mind should be the filter, filtering out evil thoughts and desires that come from the fleshly fallen nature, before it takes control and puts those negative thoughts into action. In the Christian’s spirit there is light, just like the Holies of Holies where the Spirit of God dwelt in the Old Testament times. If our minds are renewed to God’s word and the Word controls us then the light in our spirit will shine forth in all areas of our being.

As a Christian we can have darkness residing in the outer court (flesh), but the Holy of Holies (our spirit) is filled with light because of the Spirit of God dwelling in us. In the Old Testament a veil separated the different courts so there could be light in the Holy of Holies from God’s presence, while total darkness was in the outer court. Jesus rent the veil of the Old Testament temple when He died on Calvary. We are now the temples of God the Holy Spirit. He does not dwell in a brick and mortar temple anymore (See Acts 7:48-50 and 1 Corinthians 3:16).

HOW TO TELL IF IT IS A DEMON AT WORK

How do demon spirits acquire a foothold in the lives of individuals? Genesis 3:14-15, “*So the Lord said to the serpent: Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall **eat dust All the days of your life**. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*” In Genesis 3:19 God tells Adam “...*For **you are dust** and to dust you shall return.*”

Demons feed on the carnal nature of mankind. Whether Christian or non-Christian! Our bodies are made of dust and demons/serpents feed on dust or the carnal nature of mankind. If one continues to practice sin, it can be an open door for the enemy to enter into ones lives. For example, if on an occasion I fall into the sin of unforgiveness and bitterness, it does not imply that I have a demon of unforgiveness and bitterness. However if I keep yielding to that sin and do not repent and turn away from it, it can become an open door for the enemy to enter into my life and set up a stronghold of unforgiveness and

bitterness in my life, which in turn may lead to major health problems.

It is imperative to understand that all sin does not necessarily mean you have a demon in you. Some Christians would like to believe that. Most of the time it is not because we are controlled by a demon. We just need to deal with the flesh or the carnal nature. Sometimes the flesh just rises up and one will choose to walk in sin. It is necessary to differentiate between sins of the flesh and demons controlling one in an area of sin.

2 Timothy 2:25 -26 shows us how we can know the difference if it is a demon or just the flesh rising up, *“In humility correcting those who are in **opposition (KJV-those who oppose themselves)**, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”* In the original Greek **opposition** as it appears in this verse means to **‘place one’s self in opposition’**, in other words to **oppose one’s self**.

How do we know if something in our lives is demonic in nature? For instance, let's assume that one has an addiction! To overcome it we pray, fast, repent, and find freedom. Such a problem is most likely not a case of demonic control. However if this problem continues despite doing the above then it is a case of opposing one’s self, in the sense that we know what is the right course of action, but for some reason are unable to do so. Hence we stay bound. This is an indication that the problem could be demonic in nature. There are people, still bound by demons, continually opposing themselves, who constantly are giving place to demons.

There are some Christians who would like to say all their problems are because of demons, as a way of saying they have no control over the problems in their life. If this is one’s mindset true lasting change will never occur until we face the responsibility for our own decisions and actions. Many like to blame demons for their problems but keep in mind Satan and his demons are nothing more than flies, irritants or dung, to put it nicely. They only have power if one gives it to them as mentioned in Romans 6:16. If one knows who they are in Christ, why let demons, which are mere wimps and irritants, control one?

Philippians 2:12:13, *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own **salvation** with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you both to **will** and to do for His good pleasure.”* The Greek word for salvation as it appears in this verse is **‘soteria’**. In the Greek it also means deliverance, safety, preservation and to **work out our deliverance from the molestation of enemies**. Deliverance is a walk!

We do not need to be demon conscious or fearful of demons. We need to be Christ conscious! Luke 10:17-19, *“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord even the **demons are subject to us** in your name. And He said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven. Behold I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and **nothing shall by any means hurt you.**”* This verse refers to the devil and demons and it is the Lord’s promise that demons cannot harm or hurt us.

Philippians 2:9-11 says, *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* The name of Jesus is higher than any other name. Demons do not have a choice – they are subject to us when we use the name of Jesus! After all what can someone who is lord of the flies and dung possibly do to you or those you minister to if he has no legal right? He can do nothing, if we do not let him! Demons are wimps and were totally defeated by Christ 2,000 years ago! Colossians 2:15 says, *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”* All we have to do is enforce their defeat through the name of Jesus.

