

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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Copyright August 10, 1999
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DELIVERANCE MINISTRY
A NEED IN THE CHURCH TODAY
PART TWO

These facts were outlined in my last letter dated July 20, 1999:

(1) The origin of Satan (2) Dominion of the earth was given to Adam (man) by God. (3) Adam surrendered the dominion to Satan through sin in the Garden of Eden. (4) Satan offered the dominion to Jesus if He would bow down and worship him but Jesus said in the vernacular, "No deal, get lost!" (5) The spiritual World War currently in progress began in the garden of Eden. (6) Location of the battlefield is not in the spirit of a born again believer whose spirit is sealed. (7) Eternal life of God in Adam changed to eternal death by Satan then changed again to eternal life in Christ retroactive to Adam. (8) The mind, a compartment of the soul, is the location of the battleground in the spiritual World War in progress.

Man is a triune being.¹ Here is a diagram of that make-up:²

And here are some characteristics of each part of his Trinitarian nature:

¹See 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

²This diagram and some of the characteristics of each part of man's triune nature were sourced from **The Spiritual Man**, a three-volume set of books written by **Watchman Nee**. Nee's outstanding writing on this subject is the best I have read and I recommend it to the serious reader. The final part of volume three was finished on June 25, 1928, while Nee was living in Shanghai, China. Nee's work on this subject is now available in a single volume.

Spirit.

Came from God (God's breath).
Imparts life to the body.
Indwelt by God.
Produces the soul when imparted to the body.
Noblest part of man.
Uplifts man's spirit to control the soul.
Third contact point of temptation.
Location of God-consciousness.
Symbolic of the Tabernacle Holy of Holies.
The seat of joy.

Soul. (mind* or intellect, will and emotions).

Created when spirit is imparted to the body.
*Battle ground of World War in progress.
Seat of personality.
Bridge between body and spirit.
Must be "denied" for spirit to rule body.
Uplifted by sin to control the spirit.
Secondary contact point of temptation.
Combination of man's spirit and body.
Location of self-consciousness.
Symbolic of the Tabernacle Holy Place.
The seat of happiness.

Body.

Formed (not created) from dust by God.
Dwelling place of the senses.
Lowest part of man.
Must have the spirit to live.
Controls the soul through sin.
Uplifted by sin.
Initial contact point of temptation.
Location of world-consciousness.
Symbolic of the Tabernacle outer court.
The seat of pleasure.

As I have previously pointed out, salvation means "to make whole" as incorporated in the Greek word *sozo*, meaning to save, heal and deliver. More specifically however, Jesus came to "proclaim liberty to the captives" and to "set at liberty those who are

oppressed” (NKJV)³ and “those who are tortured” (KJV).⁴ Demons oppress and torment their captives. But a new day dawned in dealing with the demonically possessed and oppressed captives when Jesus first taught at the synagogue in Capernaum. The people were astonished that Sabbath day because He taught as one that had authority. Here is Mark’s partial account of that historical occasion, listed as Item 2 on the chart in my letter dated July 20, 1999.

“**23**Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, **24**saying, ‘Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are---the Holy One of God!’ **25**But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be quiet and come out of him!’ **26**And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. **27**Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.’ **28**And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.”⁵

Here is one reason why His fame spread throughout the area around Galilee. ***During the approximate four thousand years from Adam to Christ, I can find no record in the bible of anyone casting out demons as Jesus did it in the synagogue that day in Capernaum!***⁶ No wonder the people questioned among

³See Luke 4:18.

⁴See Matthew 18:34 and Isaiah 61:1.

⁵Mark 1:24-28. For the complete account of this incident, begin at verse twenty-one. This account is also recorded in Luke 4:31-37.

⁶There are two instances in the New Testament which refer to Jews exorcizing demons. One is recorded in Matthew 12:24-37 where the Pharisees said Jesus cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons. Although their accusation against Jesus was totally false since His power was from God, here is why the Jews apparently had some reason for their belief. About fifteen years later the Apostle Paul encountered non-believing Jewish exorcists and seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish priest, who also practiced exorcisms as recorded in Acts 19:13-16. How they did it is not clear. From the context of these verses, it may be that it involved some sort of incantation connected with those who “practiced magic.” There is also an Old Testament record of exorcism found in 1 Samuel 16:14-23. Here it is recorded that when the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him. David was then summoned to be Saul’s musician. When the evil spirit troubled Saul, David

themselves this ***new doctrine*** of **commanding demons to obey Him!** This had never been done before; hence the Jews called it a *new doctrine*. Now notice the dialogue, not between Jesus and the man, but between Jesus and the demons. Verse twenty-three treats the demon as singular: “*an*” unclean spirit; “*he*” cried out. Mark’s reporting therefore indicates that there was only *one* demon in the man. But when the demon speaks⁷ as recorded in verse twenty-four, plural pronouns are used. For example, let “*us*” alone, what have “*we*” to do with You and did you come to destroy “*us*.” But notice that Mark did not pick up on the plurality of the demons, but recorded that Jesus rebuked “*him*” (singular). However the rebuke by Jesus in verse twenty-five is phrased to cover the plurality of demons. Notice again in verse twenty-six the singular pronoun “*he*” in Mark’s record. From the context of Mark’s report, I believe there was more than one demon (and possibly many) which Jesus cast out of the man who was in the Synagogue. It is interesting to note that Jesus *did not ask the man about the demons in him, but instead, ignored the man and spoke directly to the demons themselves*. This incident appears to be one of the milder cases of demon induced “illnesses” Jesus dealt with since the oppressed man was attending Synagogue. (Note: the first century is no different than the twentieth century. Many born-again church-attending Christians who are in serious need of deliverance are unaware of the help available through deliverance ministry.)

After this brief look at the bible record concerning the reporting of the number of demons in a person (whether singular or plural) and after realizing that there are other similar cases of reporting in the scripture, I have concluded that if a demon has oppressed (or possessed in the case of one who is not born again) someone for longer than a brief period of

played on his harp so that Saul “**was refreshed, and was well and the evil spirit departed from him.**” But it is abundantly clear that as Jesus dealt with evil spirits or demons, His method resembled neither the ritualistic methods of the Jewish exorcists, the seven sons of Sceva, nor David’s musical approach. **His method was unique, authoritative and absolute, was ordained and empowered by God as no man had ever been before. Hallelujah!**

⁷Demons communicate through the vocal cords of the person they are in, as recorded in the Bible. The same occurrence is not uncommon in deliverance ministry today. We have experienced the same type of communication from demons in our ministry. In our experience, there are some cases where the demon or demons do not want to speak when commanded to do so.

time, there is very likely a plurality of demons present.⁸ Jesus seems to confirm that conclusion when He said, “**43**When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. **44**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. **45**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 that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”⁹

Now let’s consider an extreme case Jesus dealt with listed as Item 11 on the chart in my letter of 7/20/99. Jesus and his disciples got into a boat, crossed the sea of Galilee and landed on the southeastern shore in the country of the Gadarenes. As soon as Jesus went ashore, a man from some distance away ran to Him, fell at His feet and worshiped Him. This might not have seemed too unusual, except the man was naked and insane who cried out day and night, cutting himself with stones, had broken shackles and chains that bound him, and roamed the nearby mountains and tombs day and night. People avoided going near where the man was known to roam because of fear. **And this man** ran to Jesus, fell down at His feet and worshiped Him! Jesus, knowing the man’s condition said to him, “Come out of the man unclean spirit!” The demons (plural, although addressed as singular in number by Jesus) in the man cried out with a loud voice (in unison), “What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!”¹⁰ Jesus then asked him saying, “What is your name?” And the demons replied, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” And the demons begged Jesus not to send them into the abyss, but asked Him to send them into a herd of swine nearby, numbering about two thousand. Jesus at once gave

⁸This has proven to be the case in the deliverance ministry that Dale and I are involved with.

⁹Matthew 12:43-45. Also recorded in Luke 11:24-26.

¹⁰Notice that the demons did not come out immediately as Jesus commanded. Instead, the demons began a conversation with Jesus. In His second effort to heal the man, Jesus said to the demons, “What is your name?” Note from the scripture that there were “three rounds of dialogue” between the demons and Jesus before the demons went into the herd of swine. There is only one other case, to my knowledge, where Jesus required two efforts to heal. That incident, the healing of the blind man near Bethsaida, is recorded in Mark 8:22-26, listed as Item #17 on the chart in my letter dated 7/20/99.

them permission and they entered the swine and the whole herd immediately ran violently down a steep place into the sea and drowned! As you can imagine, this caused quite a stir when it became known to those in the nearby city and surrounding country. Needless to say, Jesus won no popularity contest with the owners of the swine. And the curiosity of those living nearby prompted an immediate visit to the scene where the clamitous event took place. When they arrived, they found the Gadarene demoniac sitting calmly, fully clothed and in his right mind.¹¹

I have written about these two cases of demon induced illnesses to give you a graphic description of the spiritual World War in progress. A war that cannot be seen with the natural eye, but nevertheless is real and involves everyone on planet earth whether we understand it or not and whether we believe it or not. The reason Jesus came to earth was to **destroy the works of the devil caused by demons in the two cases just described and in the seven other cases listed on the chart in my 7/20/99 letter!**

From these two cases (and the seven others on the chart of my 7/20/99 letter), and from the teaching of Jesus on the unclean spirit that goes out of a man through dry places (paragraph two, page two of this letter), I have noted the following **characteristics of demons or evil spirits or unclean spirits. Usually the term unclean spirits is unfortunately translated as devils in the King James version:**

1. Have supernatural strength.
2. Many can inhabit one body.
3. Can speak through the vocal cords of the individual they inhabit.
4. Have the ability to reason.
5. Desire to inhabit a body; a human body first, the body of an animal secondly. I believe that Satan and his demons are apparently responsible for animals being ferocious to man, which was not the case before sin entered into the world. Proof of this seems to be the fact that during the Millennium, when Satan and his angels are bound by chains in the abyss, a nursing child will put his hand in a snake’s hole and not get bit, the wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard will lie

¹¹This account is recorded in Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20 and in Luke 8:26-39. I have wondered what “modern” psychiatric treatment would have been prescribed for both the man in the Synagogue in Capernaum and for the Gadarene demoniac.

down with the young goat.¹²

6. Can totally change the conduct of an individual.

7. Can cause insanity, bizarre behavior and death.

8. Can torment an individual.

9. Have organizational skills under control of the devil (See Ephesians 6:10–12).

10. Have influence/control over other demons (rank).

11. Can travel from place to place.

12. Get tired.

14. Seek.

16. Have a will.

18. Have a memory.

20. Can execute that plan.

22. Know how to enter a body the second time.

23. Recognize the absolute authority of Jesus.

24. Know their ultimate destiny is eternal torment.

25. Are very reluctant to leave a live body unless commanded by a believer to do so in Jesus' name.

26. May cry out when being expelled.

27. May convulse the body of the individual when being expelled.

28. May be in the body of one who appears to have normal and rational behavioral patterns.(a man who was in the Synagogue in Capernaum, for example).

29. Can carry on dialogue with a person other than the one they inhabit.

30. May change one who is capable of the highest intellectual and/or physical achievements into one who is worthless to himself and others.

31. The entry of one demon can open the door for the entry of others, without number.

32. May cause an "illness" or "condition" which is "cured" when they are expelled.

33. Can induce *symptoms* of what appears to be an illness or disease which disappear when they are expelled.

34. Can cause irrational behavior in animals.

35. Recognize other demons.

36. Have the ability to leave a person at death and enter one who is alive.

37. Speak of themselves with both singular and plural pronouns when a plurality is present.

38. Can disguise their spiritual presence in an individual to resemble a physical, mental or emotional problem, illness or deficiency.

39. May cause one to hear "voices".

40. May cause one to despair, lose hope and faith, become depressed and have thoughts of suicide to stop the pain.

41. Can cause abject confusion, doubt and despair.

42. Can rob one of his ability to function normally in society.

43. Can deceive one so as to cause him to think that **he** is the problem instead of the demons within him.

44. Appear to have an unlimited life.

45. Communicate with each other in a manner inaudible to the human ear.

Now let's look closely at the result of **taking upon one's self** the authority and/or responsibility of casting out demons without having a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. "**13**Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists **took it upon themselves** to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, 'we exorcize you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.' **14**Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. **15**And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' **16**Then the man in whom the evil spirit was, leaped on them (two of them in the NU-Text¹³), and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."¹⁴ This experience in the presence of the apostle Paul speaks for itself and is a solemn admonition that the authority to cast out demons in the Name of Jesus is given only to believers as confirmed in the Great Commission and recorded in Mark 16:17.

. . . more about the deliverance ministry in my next letter, the Lord willing.

¹³The Nu-Text notation is referenced from the twenty-sixth edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament (N) and the third edition of the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament (U). Hereafter in my writings, references to the NU-Text will be used without this explanation. This explanation was sourced from the NJKV published by Thomas Nelson Publishers, page VII, Special Abbreviations.

¹²See Isaiah 11:6-8.

¹⁴Acts 19:13-16 (bold print added for emphasis).