

# Can A Christian Be Demon Possessed

by Keith Malcomson

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**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 10:13, Luke 22:31, 2 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:18, Ephesians 4:27

**Topics:** "Spiritual Warfare", "Vigilance Against Temptation"

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## Description

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## Transcript

We're continuing on our series of spiritual warfare, and it's a very sombering, very serious message I come to this morning. Last week was very encouraging. I'm still feasting off last Sunday morning.

It's still warming my heart, encouraging me. But here this morning, I want you to turn in the New Testament to Colossians chapter one. We are going to go to several different scriptures this morning.

You can write them down, refer to them later. But I want to cover several scriptures, but I do want to start in Colossians chapter one. This is part 10 of spiritual warfare.

And my message this morning is, can a Christian be demon possessed? Can a Christian be demon possessed? I wish I didn't have to preach on things like this or teach them, but you do in this generation, especially with young Christians, they're going to face so much in the body of Christ that it's vital that I deal with such things and answer such questions. This is a question that comes up and we want to look at the word of God this morning. Last week, as we dealt with angels sent from the presence of God to minister unto us, to help us in this warfare.

But we are going to look at something of the power of darkness this morning. As I said, I wish I didn't need to deal with things like this, but the Bible teaches these things. The Bible reveals them.

A preacher is to preach the full counsel of God. We don't only touch on angels, but we do speak of demons, but never forgetting that Christ is our subject. He is triumphant, victorious.

He has all power. But in the midst of presenting Christ, we preach all things that are written in the word of God. Go into Colossians chapter one, reading from verse 12 through to verse 14 here this morning.

Colossians chapter one, verse 12 to verse 14. And it says there, giving thanks unto the father, which has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, who has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear son, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Would you this morning just pray with me as we come to this message.

Father, we bow the knee, Lord God, to the Lord Jesus Christ and thank God this morning. We can testify and say, if we are born again, have delivered. You already have delivered us.

We have a testimony that you delivered us from the power of darkness. You turned us from Satan unto Jesus Christ, from darkness unto light, from sin unto holiness. Lord God, from our own ideologies unto the written scriptures.

And Lord God, I testify this morning that you delivered me from the power of Satan. We testified together as the saints of God. This is not something we're seeking for, but we are testifying of as a present powerful experience that we have experienced deliverance.

We have been rescued by Jesus Christ. We have been washed in the blood of the lamb. We have become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Lord God, we have entered into salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been translated into the kingdom of Christ. Lord God, thank you for the possession of such a salvation.

Thank you we're not left in the dark or with doubts and fears, but oh God, the Holy Spirit who dwells in us gives us the full assurance of faith. It is the spirit within us that witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God. And Father, I pray set people free in this message.

Lord God, break fears and lies of hell. Lord God, set spirits free in the name of Jesus. And Lord God, warn us, but oh God, show us the glory of this testimony in Jesus' mighty name.

Hallelujah. My message, can a Christian be demon possessed? And our text is Colossians chapter one, and especially verse 13, who has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear son. Here this morning, as we look at this vital subject, can a Christian be demon possessed? I've got five clear points for you that I want you to hear and I want you to remember.

I want you to look at the word of God this morning. You see, most of those who believe that a Christian can be demon possessed or be demonized, most of them build upon personal experience, the testimonies of others, what they have seen or what they have felt. But I'm taking you to the written scriptures this morning.

It alone is authoritative. If the Bible says a Christian can be demon possessed, then they can. If the Bible says it's impossible for a Christian to be demon possessed, then it's impossible.

And so we want to say, first of all, setting aside all of our ideas, questions, personal experiences, all the remarkable and strange testimonies that we hear from preachers and Christians in this generation. We want to set them aside, but we want to hear what the word of God, what the Holy Spirit, the perfect Holy Spirit says through the infallible, the perfect word of God. My first point here this morning, number one, is a wonderful deliverance.

Isn't that a wonderful deliverance that we have experienced? If you're born again, it is a wonderful deliverance, finished, complete, remarkable. Look again with me at Colossians chapter one, verse 13, who has delivered us from the power of darkness and have translated us into the kingdom of his dear son. Notice these three verses that we read.

Verse 12 speaks about us, our personal testimony in the church. If we're born again, verse 12 says that we have become partakers. We have entered in to the inheritance of the saints in life.

If you're born again, you have already become a partaker of the inheritance. It's not only for when we die. We are experiencing the inheritance of a child of God.

If you're born again, washed in the blood this morning, you are experiencing what it means to partake of that inheritance that only a Christian can enjoy. It is actually yours. That's verse 12.

Then look at verse 14. It says, in whom, speaking of Christ, we have redemption through his blood. Redemption only comes through his blood, not just through his death, not just through the cross, but his blood, redemption.

In other words, you've been bought with a price. You don't own yourselves. Nobody else owns you.

You have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. It says even the forgiveness of sins. So look at this wonderful testimony.

These three verses are speaking about someone washed in the blood. They've been forgiven of their sins. They're now found in Jesus Christ.

They have actually entered into an inheritance, which is only for the saints who walk in light. But look at the verse 13 here for a moment and let's go deeper in this verse 13. It says, who has delivered us? Who is the who? It is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ has delivered us. A real Christian who's been born again. If you're forgiven of your sins, if you know that you've experienced the blood of Jesus, if you know that your sins are forgiven, that you've met the Lord Jesus Christ, do you know what the Bible says? You have been delivered.

Have been delivered means it is an experience you had in the past. It's not something you're trying to reach or grow into. It's not a thing of maturity.

It's not a thing further down the road. Who has delivered you? Do you know path is past tense. In other words, it's not something progressive happening.

It is something that happened to you. This specific deliverance only happens once. It only happens when you're forgiven of your sins.

It only happens when you're born again. It is a past experience. It is a personal testimony.

You can speak about it, remember it, look back to it. You can mark it in the calendar. Who has delivered us? What did Jesus do to you? Do you know what the word delivered there means? It means to drag or to snatch or to rescue from terrible danger.

In other words, it is the Lord Jesus Christ at salvation has delivered you. He rescued you once for all. There is a deliverance, saints, that Christ alone can bring to you.

This is what real salvation is and we've got to preach this to sinners. There is a rescuer. What is a rescuer from? Who had delivered us from the power of darkness? That word power is the word exousia.

We are looking at the power of Satan, the power of the devil, the power of the kingdom of Satan. This is the power of darkness and this word power is exousia. It means authority, rights or the realm of responsibility.

In other words, before you're born again, you are still in that realm of darkness. The devil has rights over you. You know people who talk about demon possession a lot and preach a lot on it.

They're always talking about the rights, the opening of doors, what access, what legal access Satan has to you. I want to tell you there was a day when every sinner, every sinner, there are legal rights. There is an exousia, an authority of darkness over that individual.

Their minds are in darkness. Their heart is in darkness. Their will is in darkness.

There's really no free will in that condition. A man is bound by hell. Unless the Holy Spirit draws him, he'll never desire Christ.

He would never come of his own self. It takes the power of God to intervene. The power of Satan, of darkness, of hell is so strong.

There has to be not just an intervention from a preacher or a Christian evangelizing. Christ has got to be there. It's got to be him delivering you from the power of darkness.

He's got to rescue you. He's got to grab you from terrible danger. And you know what? That power of darkness, there are rights.

There is authority. There is a power there. But you know our testimony, and this is our first point, a wonderful deliverance.

My testimony is I experienced a wonderful deliverance. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness? Underline all those words. If I was writing in my Bible this morning, I'd underline the word who.

I'd underline the word hath delivered us from the power of darkness. I wouldn't be able to help myself. From the power of darkness.

Do you know, do you believe? Are you settled on the word of God that this morning you have been delivered from the authority, the rights, the access, the legal arguments of the power of darkness? Do you still think that the devil has access, has rights, has authority, has exousia over your life? Or can you say that Jesus Christ has delivered me and rescued me from that authority? Is it settled in your heart? Do you understand it with your mind? Do you know what the Bible says? And not only that, notice this is the first thing, hath delivered. But then at the end of the verse, it says hath translated. Notice that for the Christian,

both of these things are past tense.

In the Greek, it doesn't mean it's something that's happening or it happens again and again. It means it's happened one off. You're delivered once from the power of darkness.

You're translated once. You're not keeping on being translated over and over and over and over again. This translation happens once.

You're in one of two kingdoms, either in the kingdom of Satan or the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Either you're under the power of darkness or you have been delivered by the Lord Jesus Christ. There can be no confusion when you come to the word of God.

It says hath translated. So Jesus Christ does two things. He delivers you.

He hath delivered you. And he hath translated you. Notice first he delivers you, then he translates you.

This is the work of Jesus in salvation. You don't understand this. You may not feel it.

You only discover it as you walk with Jesus Christ. You go, on that day, he delivered me. He delivered me.

He rescued me from the power of darkness. And on that day, I'm not trying to enter into the kingdom of God. I was translated.

Can I ask you, when were you translated into the kingdom of God? Do you know before you're translated into the kingdom of God, you have to be delivered. And unless you're delivered, you're not translated. You see, both of these things happen at the same time.

And one cannot happen without the other. This word translated means transferred. It actually in the Greek means a change of place, a change of condition.

It means to remove or transfer from one place to another place. It is a change of situation, a change of sides. Listen, a change of citizenship.

Let me give you an example. I know there's people here in this church and you came from other countries. You at some point transferred from your own country.

A few of you has met a young man in Limerick City and you settled down here and either you have changed your citizenship or you're hoping to very soon. Now this word translated is actually speaking about somebody who has changed their countries. They have moved out of one country and moved into another.

You can't live in two countries at the same time. You can't say you're living in England and living in Ireland at the same time. You may move back and forth, but you cannot be a resident in both countries at the same time.

You're either in England or you're in Ireland. And it's the same with the kingdom of God. You're either in Satan's kingdom or you're in the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

There isn't any moving back and forth. You're a citizen of one or the other and it says Jesus has translated us. Do you know you had your greatest translation on the day that you're born again.

You changed your spiritual address. You changed your citizenship and you came under a whole new authority, legal ownership, laws and regulation, under a whole different system of government and of dominion and power. Now both of these words are in the past tense.

You can't do anything about them. When we begin to look at this teaching, can a Christian be demon possessed or be demonized? I want you to see from the Bible. All I'm dealing with is one verse here.

I could go through and expound another hundred in the new Testament or going all through the apostolic teaching, which say the same as this. We have been delivered from the power of Satan. If you don't understand this, if you don't settle it and believe me, I could spend an hour just expounding this verse and a hundred others that settle this issue.

Since don't go by experiences, don't listen to amazing testimonies, don't get confused by mature Christians who talk about being delivered throughout their lifetime from many different demons. You don't find it in the know your authority in Christ, know your position in Christ, know your citizenship in Jesus Christ, and know you're under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since this is a glorious deliverance, I have been delivered.

It's a wonderful deliverance. Second of all, wonderful testimonies in the new Testament. Not only a wonderful deliverance in the doctrine of the apostles, but as I turned to the new Testament and especially the gospels, I find many, many wonderful testimonies.

Let me just give you two of them here. We read in three of the gospels about Jesus Christ and his disciples on a boat landing at Gadara. It's a wonderful testimony and it says that when they got off the boat, a man met them there who was possessed of devils.

This man was a true example, a biblical example given by the apostles and by Jesus Christ. So we understand what it means to be possessed of devils. There is such a thing in our day.

There is such a thing in this city as a person possessed of devils. It is very real. It is not in the past.

It's not just in Africa or India. I assure you, and I believe we're going to face this more and more in this generation. Well, they're confronted with this man and it said that when we read the text that he had lived among the tombs since being possessed a long time.

He now lived amidst the graveyard. He had lived there for a very long time and it began when he become utterly possessed by devils. Do you realize the devil will destroy your life? He plays games with you.

This is what sinners don't realize. They play with drugs and with alcohol and with sex. They play with the occult and witchcraft and Ouija boards.

Little do they realize they're playing with something that'll get out of hand. They're playing with a fire that knows no end. Well, that's what happened with this man at an earlier stage in his life.

Now his mind is gone. His life is utterly destroyed and ruined. The devil will always seek to destroy your life.

When I see a man or a woman and their life is being destroyed, their marriage, their mind, their work, their lifestyle, everything about them. I assure you, I see the devil working behind that. The devil is very real.

We're in a real spiritual warfare. We're not at home saints. We're just a passing through.

You better have your armor on because I assure you, you will face the devil in this journey. If you don't take this serious this morning, you're being very, very foolish. You're talking about something so dangerous that when it gets a hold of a man, if he's ever going to get free, he'll have to have someone come by the power of the Holy Spirit and set him free.

At an earlier stage in this man's life, we're actually told in the Gospels that this demon-induced affliction used to catch him. It wasn't there permanently. It wasn't a permanent condition.

He had times where he walked free of this and he could think for himself and make his decisions and make his choices. But you know what? He was playing with fire. This would grab him at certain times.

It must have scared him, must have concerned him. Then he would wake up in the morning and go, I'm okay again. I'll be okay for a bit longer.

I can still play with sin. I can still walk in the way that I'm going. I'll be fine.

Do you know there's a lot of people in Limerick played with the devil and they lost. Every sinner apart from Christ, you will lose. If you dare to play cards with the devil, you'll lose every single time.

You're dealing with someone who's been here 6,000 years. You're talking about someone who is wiser than the most intelligent man on the face of the planet. He has absolute intelligence.

He's remarkable in his power, ingenuity, supernatural deception. Do you know this power of hell caught him at times, which meant that these demons seized him in order to dwell with him. At these times, which became more and more frequent, people in his family and in his city would try to tie him.

He becomes so reckless. They would tie him with chains and with fetters. Do you know what? He would just break them.

This was not normal power. This was a supernatural power. There was warning.

There was times where his mind would come back in, where he had freedom. I get worried about Christians that play with sin and play with devil and neglect the word of God. How shall you escape if you neglect so great a salvation? If Jesus delivered you from the power of demons and the power of hell, don't you dare play games with that.

You will get burnt this morning. You may say, oh, I'm a respectable Christian. You will burn yourself badly.

How can you take fire in your bosom and not be burnt? Don't play with these things, saints. We have been delivered. We have been set free.

Well, this man thought he could come and go as he pleased. He was a sinner, a lost man. Now, I want you to see in his city, there were many sinners.

Many of these sinners tied him. There were sinners in his family. Most of this city knew nothing of walking with the Lord Jesus Christ.

But you know what? All sinners are not demon possessed. They're not. They're not.

Not only are all Christians not demon possessed, all sinners are not demon possessed. You don't confront this with every sinner. Every sinner is in the kingdom of Satan, but he's not possessed by devils.

He's not. But look at this man. He is an example.

It says, finally, these demons drove him into the wilderness and the mountains where he lived amongst the tombs. What a terrible condition. And it actually shows us there that he lived in a state of nakedness.

That tells me that behind nakedness, and you know what I'm saying here, behind nakedness is demonic power. Nakedness is not a harmless thing. There is shame.

We ought to be ashamed. There's a natural shame, and there's a right thing surrounding us. But it said that he was naked, also crying and cutting himself day and night.

Do you realize behind cutting yourself, behind harming your physical body, that isn't natural. That isn't normal. Only the devil can drive a person to do that.

It's not because you lack love or lack a good self esteem or a right view of yourself. You don't need to visit a psychologist. You know what? You need to experience the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will deliver you from that. This man cut himself night and day, lived in the tombs. He cried constantly.

He lived in nakedness. And the Bible says he was exceeding fierce so that the local people wouldn't even come near that area. But do you know what happened on this day when Jesus got off the boat? It says when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and he worshipped him.

Do you realize Satan couldn't stop him running? He ran to Jesus. He saw Jesus. He worshipped Jesus.

He's not saved. He's not in his right mind. His life is an utter mess.

And you know what Jesus said? Jesus said, what is your name? And out of him came a voice saying, my name is Legion for we are many. A legion was like the Roman legions. That means there was about 6,000 demons in this man.

This was a truly demon possessed man. This is what the Bible talks about demon possession. These demons cry out and identify that they are legion and we are many.

They then request of Jesus because they know he's got the power to cast them into hell. He does have that authority. You don't have that authority.

Never cast demons into hell. You don't have that power. You cannot do that.

These Christians that do that, they're not walking in the light of God's word. No Christian can do that. But it says they requested of him.

They said unto him, why not cast us out of the man? Because they know they'll have to go. See, as soon as Christ turns up, the devil knows it's over. 6,000 demons in a man, it's not a fight.

You know what? When the person of Jesus, the message of the gospel, the power of the Lord Jesus Christ comes, do you know the devil throws in the towel without a fight? Do you know when he sees the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, when he sees the covering of the blood of Jesus, when he sees the

authority of the name of Jesus, do you know what he throws in the towel and he looks for an escape? Well, that's what he done here. He's seen 2,000, a herd of 2,000 pigs or swine. And the demons asked Jesus said, cast us into those swine.

Do you know why they asked that? Because no Jews are going to have pigs, but these Jews in this city had pigs. They shouldn't have had pigs. No good Jew, no law-abiding Jew is going to have pigs, but these people had pigs.

Well, those demons knew and said, those pigs ought not to be here. Will you cast us into them? And when Jesus did, it says the whole herd ran down violently, down a steep embankment and into the sea and they're all drowned. That's what the devil will do.

He would have finally done that with that man. The devil wants to destroy. He wants to utterly confuse what a man is called.

When I see the confusion of this generation, I know the powers of hell are being let go on this generation. I see it all around me. Look at them.

In one act, in one moment of time, I mean, in one second, all of the demons left. Jesus cast out the demons. He commanded them to leave.

Immediately, he was set free from 6,000 demons, from the power, control, and dominion. He didn't get free of one and have to work through the rest over the next 20 years. When the people came to see this man, they were shocked that he was utterly free.

How did they know he was free? He was clothed. He was in his right mind and he was sitting at the feet of Jesus Christ. He actually begged Jesus and said, please let me go with you.

Jesus said, no, I want you to go back to your city, your family, your home, and tell them what great things God has done for you. He returned home. The Bible says he immediately began to publish to the whole city what Jesus had done.

That means he went out preaching on the high street. He proclaimed like a town crier. Can you imagine keeping this man quiet? He must have shook the entire city.

What a testimony, saints. He's only been saved for a moment in time, and yet he's shaken a whole city with the reality. Give us again men who have been possessed of the devil, set free, and they'll shake our world for Jesus Christ.

Allow just a new convert who had only just been set free from these 6,000 demons. There was nothing delicate, fragile, or soft about his salvation. He didn't need a halfway house.

He didn't need years of counseling. He didn't need much protection from the local church. No, he was a free man.

He was absolutely free. He didn't need years of further deliverance. Saints, when Christians begin to play around with the doctrine of demonization, and Christians having demons, they don't know what they're talking about.

They really don't. It didn't take a week for him to get free, or a month, or years. He was immediately set free.

When Jesus Christ delivers a man, he is immediately translated into the kingdom of the glorious life of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is conversion. This is real salvation depicted in the New Testament.

I can give you hundreds of these testimonies from my lifetime, but there's a second one in the Bible. In Luke 8, verse 2, we read of Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils. She wasn't a prostitute like the Catholic church tries to say.

She wasn't an immoral woman. She wasn't at all. She was a woman out of whom seven devils were cast.

A little later in Mark chapter 16, verse 9, it says, out of whom Christ cast seven devils. Do you know this woman had an encounter with Jesus Christ? Do you know it wasn't just one of the apostles. It was Jesus himself in a similar incident cast the demons out of this woman.

When she first appears in the Bible, this is her testimony. When we first see her, she's testifying. I got delivered from seven demons through the Lord Jesus Christ.

That was her testimony. When she would stand up in a church gathering or be around the Lord's table, she would say, thank you for delivering me from those seven demons. That's her testimony that we read of from the first time of her deliverance all the way through the next few years that we read of her in the Bible.

Her testimony is exactly the same. She didn't say yesterday, I got delivered from five. And then today I've been delivered from seven.

Do you know what? That was her singular testimony that when she first met Christ, she was delivered of those seven demons. When did it happen at the point of salvation? Was it complete? It was. It was absolute complete.

We are not told of the events or the circumstance or the reasons that led to her being possessed by the seven demons. That doesn't matter. You don't need to know that to get someone free of demons.

But prior to her conversion, all who knew her in her small community actually knew she was affected by demon power. You can't have a demon in you and not know it. It was evident to herself.

It was visible to her community. It was known by all who met her. You couldn't meet this lady and not know there was a demonic influence.

You see when a demon indwells a person or they're possessed of a demon, it's impossible not to know it. I can assure you, this is how real demon possession is. These seven demons were literally dwelling within her.

Who can imagine the affliction and the torment these seven demons caused to this woman? The Bible actually says she was a woman of substance. In other words, she had lots of property, possessions, and money. She had plenty of money, but she couldn't purchase her deliverance.

She couldn't buy it. She couldn't earn it. There's no doctor to help her.

There's no psychologist that's going to get her out of this condition. She's rich. She's got all the money she needs, but what she needs is deliverance.

Lots of people in our world have money. They have good jobs, big houses. They have all the possessions they need, but you know what? The devil is afflicting them.

Her testimony was a well-known testimony in the early church in Judea and Galilee in those days. Please note that during the first years of her salvation, it does not change. It's always seven demons that were cast out.

She didn't have to, after her salvation, go through years of progressive ministry or self-deliverance or closing all of the doors to the devil. She was delivered. She met the man of Calvary.

She was forgiven of her sins. She was washed in the blood. She was saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and this was her mighty testimony.

After her salvation, she joined the apostolic band, those apostles that traveled with Christ. There was also a group of ladies, and a few of those ladies were ladies of money and possession, and I'm sure those ladies were cooking for these men. Boy, did they need some ladies around them to look after them, to help them, to make sure that they were cared for amidst ministering to the crowds.

She joined this traveling band, and do you know what? I believe every time they were in a meeting where Jesus is going to preach, and there's demon possessed there, and there's those that are suffering terribly, he said, Mary, would you testify in this gathering? I believe he done that. I believe that many of those poor women that were terrorized by the devil must have heard her testimony and go, praise God, there's hope for me. Do you know, sitting in this church today, there's those that have been saved, have been saved from the power of Satan.

Some of you in this church used to cut yourself, but Jesus Christ saved you. You thought you were saved and okay in that condition, but yet the devil was tormenting you. We know that Hannah used to have that skull, that glass skull, and it used to guide her and give her power to heal people with.

Well, she has been delivered. Thank God she doesn't know how to find her way about now. That's just a sign.

All that demonic power left. Now she's got to trust sofa, GPS, or something else. But since the Bible is filled with real powerful testimonies of lives that have been delivered from Satan, this is wonderful what we're dealing with this morning.

And I believe the devil has stolen this truth from the church. We are now running around, self-isolating in the church. I'm not talking about this crisis.

I'm talking about Christians. They don't have the power to witness or evangelize or to walk with God. They are victims of a theology of inner healing, blessing and curses, breaking curses, generational curses.

You've got demons in you. It has destroyed the church of this generation. You know what? I need to know the power of the blood.

I need to know my position in Christ. I need to know what he done when he delivered me in salvation. Third of all, worrying words.

I want to deal with some worrying words. We've looked at a wonderful deliverance. We've looked at two wonderful testimonies.

But let me point you before we finish here to worrying words this morning. I want to deal with two specific words or terms in the New Testament that are very confused, misused, abused in this generation. I mean, they get lifted out of the context of the Bible.

And if you don't know what they mean, you will get confused on this teaching. You won't know what the Bible says. You'll think about experiences you've had or someone you know has had or some preacher tells you.

And they'll be so extraordinary. You'll believe them rather than the Bible. That's why we need to come back to the word of God.

Test everything by the word of God. I don't care if this Bible contradicts your personal experience. This Bible is true.

Your experience is wrong. When we begin to exalt testimonies and experiences above the word of God, there's problems. Why is it the testimony of those that were demonized or demon-possessed in the Bible is different from the ones I hear most often in the church of this generation? Why is it different? I assure you I'm going to believe the testimonies of the Bible over what I hear in the contemporary church.

I'm not going to mold my theology by what the church of this generation says. These worrying words here for a moment are point three worrying words. We read often in the Gospels about those that have or had a demon.

The actual Greek word, and this is the term, there's one of two words I want to give you here this morning and explain briefly to you. The Greek is echo, demonion. Echo, demonion.

Echo, a demon. Now, I don't know if you know about the shoes that are called echo shoes. My wife got me, Candace got me to buy a pair of echo shoes some years ago because the reputation is they're so comfortable.

They mold to your feet. Echo shoes, it's the same word, echo. Echo shoes mold to your feet.

They cling to your feet. They are comfortable. In other words, you hardly can tell that they're on your feet.

Now, this seems to be the same word that's used here. Echo, a demon. Echodemonion.

The term actually means to have or you had a demon. It's used various times in our New Testament. What does this word echo mean? It means to hold in the sense of wearing or owning.

It can also mean to be so closely joined together that it clings to you to have direct contact that you actually can't even tell the difference between. So this term in the New Testament, to have a demon, means that you have a demon in dwelling you or clinging to you or holding to you or directing your life. This word is used at various times by the Lord Jesus and in the gospels.

This word is the very same word. The word echo is also used when it talks about Mary, the mother of Jesus, being found with child. So we see that a woman that is found with child that has conceived within her, that has something living in her, it is the same word echo.

In other words, another entity has got so you can't get tighter than a baby in the womb of a mother. That's a remarkable closeness that a mother for nine months is literally got this person growing within her. It's an extraordinary thing.

It is a beautiful thing. It is a blessed thing. It is an amazing thing.

I think a man just cannot comprehend. We are in awe when we consider such a thing. It is the creation of God.

But you know what? That same word perversely is used of the devil. When the devil gets access to a man or a woman, when he comes to inhabit them or dwell within them, it is that close and that intimate. It is used, this word echodemion or demons, echodemons, is used eight times in Matthew, Mark, and John.

So I want to deal with this. It's one of the most important words concerning demonization. Once it is used in connection with the demonic of Gadara that we just dealt with in Luke chapter eight, verse 27, this term echodemion is used of this man with the legion of demons.

It describes him. So if you want to describe someone who has a demon, he is an example of it. Also that same demonic of Gadara, he's also called demon-possessed.

That's a different word. And he's called that three times. We'll come to that shortly.

He's also called a man with an unclean spirit. So these three terms are used of him. He has a demon, he's demon-possessed, and he's a man with an unclean spirit.

These three terms describe the same man and the same experience exactly. Seven of the times, notice eight of the times this word having a demon, seven of the eight times that it's used in the gospels, it is concerning a false accusation made by the religious against Jesus or against John the Baptist. They point the finger, Jesus said he had a devil.

They point their finger at John the Baptist and said he had a devil. He had a devil within them. So this term to have a demon, to echo a demon, to have a demon within you, most of the time it's used in the gospels.

Seven out of eight times is a false accusation against a man of God or someone who's operating by the spirit of God. Only once is it used of this particular man who's truly demonized and what a terrible condition he is in. Now there's other terms used for in Acts chapter eight of unclean spirits that possessed some.

That's a different term from what we're talking about here, but it's similar. Also the woman in Acts chapter 16, we read about the damsel possessed with a spirit of divination that allowed her to prophesy. See like what I said about Hannah having that Glasgow guidance, having demonic power, that reiki healing.

Where did reiki healing come from? It was from a demon. That's its source, but I want to tell you there's no demons. There's no pigs in Hannah, I can assure you.

There's no pigs in the parlor. There's no demons in there. She was, the day she walked in the door of that church, she is a delivered woman set free.

The Glasgow is out. All of that stuff is out. Jesus came in and you know what? There wasn't any room for anything else.

This is how real it was and it's the same with the girl in Acts chapter 16. When the apostle Paul turns and casts the demon out, you know what? All of her occultic power, now she wasn't being tormented. She wasn't mentally tormented.

She wasn't physically tormented. She wasn't cutting herself, but do you know what? She had supernatural power to prophesy or to soothsay or to divine. Tell people about what they had for breakfast yesterday.

This demon in her could do that or to prophesy. You're going to die this week. What wickedness the devil does.

Now that's one word. Friends, I'm telling you this because these words for having a demon get used widely in the church and there are certain Bible teachers that will tell you that almost all Christians have demons. Hold on, not even all sinners have demons according to my Bible.

And then when we look at a word like this, when we see someone having a demon, it is very extreme. Either your mind is gone, your body is being destroyed, or you're cutting yourself, or you're telling the fortune. This is extreme, really extreme.

It's not mild to have a demon. There's going to be some notable mark. Let me give you the second word, demon-possessed.

Now those who teach demonizing of Christians, those who teach that a real born-again Christian can have a demon living in them, they say it's a bad translation in our English Bible. They say demon-possessed is a bad word. Okay, well let's look at the Greek word in the New Testament.

It is the word, and it's all one word for demon-possessed, demon-osomai. Forgive me for my Greek, I'm trying my best here, but it's all one Greek word and is used 13 times in the New Testament, always in the gospel. And listen, 11 times it's the word possession, once it's the word vexed, and one other time it's the word path.

So this word, demon-osomai, it's all one Greek word, and it's speaking in each individual case. The person it speaks about is severely afflicted, either in their mind or their body. There's no mild cases of demonization.

If you don't like the word demon-possessed, then let's use the word demonization. And these people, they try to make it a very broad term. They say demonization can be mild or extreme.

It can be outward or inward. It could be mild oppression, or it could be severe domination. This is what they teach.

I want to tell you that's utterly unbiblical. It is against the written word of God. There is no mild case of demonization in my Bible, or in your Bible.

In fact, there's no outward case of demonization. The devil attacking you from the outside is not demonization. It could be oppression, but it is not demonization.

The devil being outside you in a milder form, in mild ways of oppression, that is not demonization. All Christians have to face the devil outwardly. All Christians face mild oppression and attacks of the devil.

But for the same born-again Christian, they cannot be demon-possessed. There is no example, no evidence in the New Testament of that being so. If you're washed in the blood and you love Jesus and you desire to obey his word, I'm not talking about reprobates.

I'm not talking about those that were once in ministry and turned their back on Jesus and on the word of God. I'm not talking about those soaked in sin in this world who claim the name of Jesus. Of course they can be demonized, destroyed, ruined in their life.

I'm not talking about those who once seemed to have a good testimony. Not at all. I'm talking about someone who simply loves the Lord Jesus Christ, but faces their flesh, has to deal with unforgiveness, has to deal with thoughts coming to their mind.

I want to assure you, I'm talking about the Greek words here. I've given you two of them now. To have a demon or be demon-possessed, there's no mild cases.

Do you know where all of this almost began? Certainly where I can trace it back to is over a hundred years ago, Jessie Penn Lewis wrote a book called War on the Saints. She got Evan Roberts, the Welsh revivalist, to come in with her and she began to teach that the Welsh revival was flooded with demons. I want to tell you that woman was a Jezebel.

She hijacked Evan Roberts. He never preached publicly again. He never was used in revival again.

He was used to shake a nation for two years, the entire nation of Wales. He ended up exhausted, tired, his nerves were afraid, and he went to stay at this woman's house, Jessie Penn Lewis, and she convinced him that the devil had begun to speak to him and use him. She began to convince him that the devil was absolutely infesting the church in Wales.

What a lie. She wrote that book beginning to show that the devil could intrude. She also then, from 1906 and 1907, began to accuse the Pentecostal revival of being flooded with demons.

The very same woman, she created this teaching of demonized Christians, and do you know why she created it? It was a tool against genuine revival. It was a tool against the early Pentecostal revival. You know, the early Pentecostal leaders in Britain and Europe, TB Barrett from Norway, AA Boddy from Great Britain, many other, all of the key leaders got together, and they denounced this book as being in error, and they also denounced Penn Lewis and said she was a Jezebel and that this was a wrong teaching.

Do you know that teaching was created against Pentecostal revival? It was a tool used by the devil to try and discredit tongues, miracles, healings, and outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Wales. Don't tell me that it's a token, a doctrine of the Holy Spirit. It is absolutely not.

It's not a teaching of the Bible. The early Pentecostal leaders rejected it. They rejected it at Azusa Street.

They rejected it in Sutherland and England. In more recent times, Derek Prince taught this. Bill Sebrisky taught this.

Peter Horobont of LL Grange in Britain teaching all of these same things, and they'll tell you many remarkable testimonies that will shock you, astound you. There's genuine Christians who love Jesus who have gone to these places and ministries. They had illnesses, and suddenly they're helped, they're delivered, they're set free.

Therefore, they begin to believe Christians can have demons, not according to the Bible. I'm not going to argue with your experience. I'm not going to argue if you got healed through some sort of ministry.

All I'm telling you is what the Bible said. I've had experiences. When I was 21 years old, I got caught up in all this deliverance ministry.

I mean, I went into churches. I went through a Derek Prince breaking of curses course. I got told at a meeting that one of my arms was shorter than the other.

They left me in the living room. They said, you've got a demon, a twisted religious spirit within you. These prophets, these ministries, not the ones I just named here, but other people.

They started prophesying and said, we discern you have a demon. One arm is shorter than the other. I just keep forgetting which one it is now.

I need Candice to show me maybe. They left me standing, 21 years old, and they walked off to have a cup of tea. That's the sort of games that these ministries play.

I want to tell you, in those days, I come under inner healing, deliverance, counseling, all sorts of psychology. I saw it for what it was. You want to know why I preach on these things, and I deal with it.

It's because there's people out there that are held in bondage, come under torment through these wrong teachings. I assure you, stick with the word of God. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

My fourth point, a worse condition. A worse condition. I told you there were some worrying words that when you know them in the Bible, they're not worrying anymore, but there's a worse condition.

What do I mean? Matthew chapter 12 and verse 22. It says there in the Bible, then was brought unto him Jesus, one possessed with the devil, blind and dumb. That's why I say that to be possessed by a demon, you cannot have a demon in you and not know it.

You cannot have a demon in you and not to have some extreme manifestation. It's utterly impossible. Here it says in Matthew 12, 22, here's a person who is blind and dumb brought to Jesus.

Do you know why they are blind and dumb? Because a demon is indwelling them. It says that Jesus healed them in so much that the blind and dumb both speak and saw. That's the answer.

When the demon was cast out, they were free, absolutely free. Do you realize that some blindness and dumbness can be from this? Not all, not most, but it can be. If there's no natural human reason, there can be a power of darkness.

When the Bible talks about unclean spirits going out of men, it doesn't mean immoral spirits or something to do with sexuality. Not at all. Unclean spirits can be just like this.

It can be connected to some disease or some illness. And it said all the people were amazed and said, is this not the son of David? Do you know what the Pharisees done? They began to accuse him and said, this fellow does not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. And Jesus, when he knew their thoughts, he said, he began to argue with them.

Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. And every house divided against itself shall not stand. Satan cannot cast out Satan or be divided against himself.

That's not possible. And if Beelzebub cast out devils, then how do your children cast out demons? That's what Jesus said to them. Listen to how he responds.

If I cast out devils by the spirit of God, then is the kingdom of God come on to you? Do you realize, here's an example. Jesus cast one demon out of one man. He's instantly delivered.

A miracle takes place. Here's the religious begin to accuse him of operating in demonic power. But you know what he says? He said that it's the Holy Spirit that chooses me to deliver this man or woman.

Then he tells them a parable. You know why? Here's a situation, a real life situation, but he wants to teach them about it. He wants to begin instructing them through a parable.

What's a parable? It is something natural brought in to teach or to show you a spiritual truth. Listen to the parable he gives. In Matthew 12, 29, how can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil his goods except he first bind the strong man? What's he talking about? He's talking, the house is a man.

The strong man is a demon and an occult power. A strong man means a mighty powerful or forcible one. So the house is an individual man.

The strong man is a demon. And what does Jesus say? How can anyone else enter into a strong man's house? If he's in there, it's his house. But how can anyone else enter in and spoil his goods except he first bind the strong man? Then he will spoil his house.

Jesus here is talking about what he has just done. He spoiled the strong man. He cast him out.

He bound him hand and foot. He broke the power of Satan in that one life. And he cast him out, cast out Satan, out of this individual person.

And he bound him by his own power and authority. Here is one demon-possessed person. A demon is indwelling them.

But Christ has to first bind the demon before he enters the man. Do you know Christ cannot enter a man unless he casts the demon out first. You've got to cast the devil out to translate him into the kingdom of God.

You've got to cast the strong man out. You've got to bind the strong man by casting him out in order for Jesus to enter in. This is the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He'll never come into a heart of a man. He'll never come in to save someone unless he casts out the devil. That's why there's a radical change in a person when they get saved.

He ejects, expels, or drives out the demon. Then he comes in to spoil his goods. The word spoiler means to seize or take possession of the property.

Christ, listen, I'm giving you the Bible, the teaching of Jesus. Christ will never seize or take possession of a house and take possession of the property or the man or come to indwell them unless he casts out the devil first. First you bind the strong man.

Then you enter in and possess the house. This is the teaching of Jesus. Over in Luke 11, it also says, when a strong man armed keepeth his place, his goods are in peace.

When a stronger than he shall come upon him and overcome him, he taketh away his armor, which he trusted in, and he divided his spoils. Look a bit further in Matthew chapter 12, verse 43. Jesus gives a serious warning.

I really want to leave you with serious warnings here today. Very serious warnings. Don't play with the devil.

Don't play with fire. Don't play with sin. Don't play with the word of God.

If you neglect the written word of God, if you're drifting along in a boat asleep and being drawn away from the scriptures that you once loved, that you believed that you stood on, that you walked in, you're in a very dangerous position. It says in Matthew 12, verse 43, Christ speaks once more about an individual being indwelt by a demon. He uses the example of a house again.

Listen to what he says. When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, being cast out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest and findeth none. Then he says, I'll return into my house.

You see how a man and a house are the exact same thing. The demon goes out of the man, but he says, I'll return to my house. That was my house.

And so it says that he came from whence I came out. And when he came, he findeth that house, that man, notice three things, empty, swept, and garnished. And then he goes, so he finds that the man is empty.

He looks clean. He's all tidy. He's empty.

Nobody is living there. Jesus has not moved into that heart. He is swept.

He is garnished. In other words, all the trash is cleaned out. All the drugs are gone.

All the alcohol is gone. All the sexual immorality is gone. And now it's garnished.

You brought nice tables in and beautiful curtains and a beautiful carpet on the floor, but you're empty. I believe there's many in the church. They have been set free and they sit there in church, but they never have a real experience with Christ.

They're empty. You know what that demon will come back knocking on your door. Have you been set free from the power of darkness? Have you been set free from drugs? You say that it's impossible to be set free from drugs and yet to be empty.

No, it's not. There is an alcoholic came into our meeting, Suf and Paul ministered onto him, preached, evangelized, spoke the word of God. He was a terrible drunkard, addicted.

His life was a mess. They evangelized him and said, Christ is the only answer. Do you know, not long after that, man got free of all that.

I mean, he was free. We were praying fervently for him. We prayed for his deliverance.

He got free. Suf, I think met him if I remember right. And again, spoke to him.

He said, no, I'm going back to the Catholic church. He warned him. You need Jesus Christ.

You need to be born again. No, I'm free. You know what? I wonder where that man is this morning.

We have seen people who in one meeting while Candice led the worship, they got set free from 30 years of alcohol addiction. They fell on their knees. They got free, but you know what? They turned back again.

They were empty. They were swept and garnished, but they were empty. Christ was not dwelling there.

They thought they could play with anger, bitterness, jealousy, false accusation. That devil came knocking on the door again. You know, Jesus said, this demon goes out, doesn't find rest, returns to the same man.

If you ever get free of the devil, you better fill yourself with someone. You better make sure Christ comes to live in that house. I can assure you, while there's anyone dwelling there, Satan can't get back in.

Do you notice that? He went looking for another seven demons. Why? It's empty. You know what he's saying? I can get in here.

If Jesus would have been there, if anyone else was living there, I couldn't get back in. But because that house is empty, I can go get seven other demons and we'll come back and we'll dwell there. Friends, I want to tell you that there is a worse condition.

There's a worse condition. It's not enough to be free of drugs. It's not enough to be free of the occult.

It's not enough to be free of your alcohol addiction or sexual perversion or your atheism or unbelief. You must be born again. You've got to be saved by the grace of God.

You've got to repent of your sins and you'll be free. But here are my fifth point. Let me finish quickly here.

One fifth final point. Warnings to warriors. As I close, let me speak to warriors.

What do I mean, warriors? I mean good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ. I mean real born-again Christians. As soon as you're born again, you become a soldier.

You're on a battlefield. You're in a war. You may be saved just one week.

I mean really born again, just one week. That might be all that you've been saved and it's a warfare. I'm sorry to tell you, but it is a warfare.

You've got to have clear. If you're really born again, you cannot have demons indwelling you. You've been delivered, have been delivered.

You cannot be demonized. You cannot. But I do want to tell you before we close, warnings to warriors.

This devil is very real. This battle is very real. This warfare is face to face.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities. As I close, I don't want you to be in light about your inheritance, your position in Christ. It's glorious.

A Christian who treats the devil lightly is on dangerous ground. A Christian who rests on their laurels is on dangerous ground. A Christian who says, I'm saved by grace.

The devil cannot touch me, enter me, live in me, possess me. And so you're very slack in holiness and obedience to God's word and resisting the devil. You don't take care over the thoughts entering your mind.

You don't keep the devil out of your life. I want to tell you, you're playing with fire. I can't stress that.

I'll preach against demonized Christians. I'm against that. But now let me speak to you personally who don't believe that and who have drawn a line.

If you're using that as an excuse to rest on your laurels and you think the devil's leaving you alone, you're in serious trouble this morning. If you're here backslidden in heart, if you've given all sorts of inroads to the devil, if you're living in spiritual defeat, I want to tell you the devil is behind that. Don't you dare think that the devil can come knocking on your door.

Don't think you're immune from the attack of the devil. And yet you can play with sin and play with unbelief and neglect the written scriptures. You cannot do that.

Let me give you these brief warnings for warriors. First of all, we can be tempted. It says in 1 Corinthians 10, 13, there is no temptation taken you, but as is common to man, but God is faithful.

He will not suffer you to be tempted above what you're able, but will with the temptation also make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it. The devil can tempt you. God doesn't tempt you.

Only the devil tempts you. If you're being tempted to sin, the devil is there. Do you hear me this morning? Don't you dare ignore that.

Every temptation, the devil is in the ease. He is behind it. He promotes it.

He brings it. He offers it. If you're being tempted and you ignore that and say, the devil can't touch me.

I want to tell you and warn you this morning that there's a way out. If you do not believe the word of God, that there's a way out, you cannot play with sin. You cannot treat temptation lightly.

Why do you think the devil brings temptation to destroy you, to undermine you? And when you sin, he'll condemn you. If you live in under a perpetual cloud of condemnation and guilt, it's because you've let the devil walk all over you. You are not dealing with temptation in a biblical sense.

How do we? Like Jesus, we say, get thee behind me, Satan. Or we say, it is written. We resist the devil by quoting the word of God and say, it is written.

That's the first thing. We can be tempted. Second of all, we could be sifted.

In Luke 22, 31, it says, the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan had desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat. In other words, like that grim reaper with the scythe. My dad used to use a scythe and cut in the grass.

It's a remarkable instrument. You know what? It cuts down everything. Better than a lawnmower.

It'll just cut down everything in its pathway. Satan come to Jesus and said, I want him. Do you know what Peter's problem was? Pride.

I'll never fail you. I'm stronger than this other bunch. I'll never deny you.

Jesus says, you're going to deny me. See, before that cut crews, you're going to deny me. Peter says, never.

I'll die rather than deny you. I'll never deny you. Do you know pride in the heart? He didn't know he was dealing with his own flesh.

Do you know what the Lord allowed the sifting? The Lord allowed it. Allowed the devil to come and even prophesied it. But he said, I prayed for you that your faith does not fail.

You know, Satan came in to sift them, to scythe them, to cut them down. Do you know that denial that he was brought to? Satan was behind it. Do you think you're denying Christ and that's just you? Don't you realize that your denial of Christ, your cowardly disowning of the person of Christ, your shame of being a Christian, don't you know the devil is there behind that? I assure you, but you know what? God uses all of these things to make you strong.

This is the same Peter that stands up on Pentecost with the power of the Holy Spirit and 3,000 get converted. You know, God allows the devil to work, to deal with weaknesses, to bring you to a place of the power of God. The very place of your defeat today could be the greatest place of your victory tomorrow.

Also, buffetings. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12 that this messenger of Satan, a thorn in the flesh was given to him to buffet him, lest he be exalted above measure or become proud. Three times he prayed for deliverance.

You know, there's Christians out there that are into demonized Christians. They'll say you can bind every demon. No, you can't.

They'll say you can remove every devil. No, you can't. Here was one demon given by God to Paul.

It was outward. It affected the things of his life. Three times Paul prayed, deliver me from this messenger from hell.

It kept buffeting him. It was a spiritual attack, buffeting him. And do you know what? Three times God said, no, it's good for you.

This buffeting, this punching with the fist of the enemy. It was the devil using, stirring up enemies in every town and village that he went to. Also, the Bible talks about the hindrance of the devil.

1 Thessalonians 2 and 18, wherefore we would have you to know, Paul writing, even I, Paul, once and again would have come on to you, but Satan hindered us. Paul is walking with God. He is in the will of God.

He is a man of prayer. He is a man who knows the word of God. He's a man who knows his authority in Christ.

He does, but Satan is hindering them. Satan is hindering them on the way. Do you know, as real Christians, we face things, we are being hindered.

Have you ever been hindered in doing the will of God and performing the will of God? Don't you know, powers of hell can do that? Don't you know we're in a warfare? You see, I'm not saying there isn't real warfare and a real enemy and a real hand-to-hand battle. Also, it says in 2 Corinthians 2 and verse 10, it

warns us about the advantage of Satan. It actually talks there about forgiving certain people in the church.

Less Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices. So we see that in a real church, amongst real Christians, Satan can get the advantage. Not only can he tempt you, he can get the advantage in this church.

Be aware of that. You won't forgive your brother. You won't forgive your family members.

You won't forgive someone who's done something to you. Be very careful. Less Satan gets the advantage.

This word means the upper hand or he overreaches or gets one over on you. Do you know the devil can get an advantage of you when you don't walk in the light of scripture? Ephesians 4 talks about being aware of deception. And let me finish on this one.

A foothold in Ephesians 4, 27. A clear command, neither give place to the devil, neither give place to the devil. That means a small spot, not a big place, a small spot, a limited area in your life, a confined place, a hand grip or a foothold.

It says, give no place to the devil. Speaking of real born again, Christians, saints don't play games with the word of God this morning. You can give the devil place in your life.

Have you given him some grip, some foothold on your life, some small area? You say, oh, but not in these other areas, but you're giving them room there. The verse before this talks about anger. The verse after it talks about stealing and lying.

Saints, if you do these things, you're giving a foothold to Satan. And the Bible says, give him no foothold. I want to close here this morning by reminding you of our first scripture, who had delivered us from the power of darkness and he's translated us into the kingdom of his dear son.

Is that your testimony here this morning? Do you know that you're born again, washed in the blood? Have you been delivered from the power of darkness? Have you been translated into the kingdom of his dear son? But even more than that, can I ask you, as we close this gathering, are you giving room to the devil? Are you ignorant of his devices? Have you been playing on the devil's territory? Have you given him a foothold area in your life? Is he gaining an advantage? If you're living in spiritual defeat this morning, you need to repent and come back to the blood of Jesus. It is the devil playing games with you. And you need to stand up like a man or a woman of God and begin to fight him.

If you don't fight him, he's going to play games with you until the day you die. You may say, oh, I know I'm not demon possessed. But you know what? A day will come you don't even know the difference.

Because you know what? You so allowed him to play games with you. But the blood of Jesus Christ washes me from all sin, gives me the victory, and causes me to triumph. Saints, I could preach a hundred messages just like this using many other scriptures because this is the truth of the Bible.

Can a Christian, a real born-again Christian, be demon possessed? Absolutely no. But can he be afflicted? Can he be attacked? Can he be tempted? And can he be hindered? He certainly can. Let's pray here as we close.

Lift up your hands. And as we're just in the presence of God, Candice is going to lead us into just worshipping here as we close.

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