

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

A NEW BEGINNING

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PART 2: ARE EVIL SPIRITS FOR REAL?

As a Christian you have been forgiven, born again and given eternal life in heaven. You might even have been baptized in water through immersion, but there is nagging feeling that something is not right, you just can't put your finger on it. Could it be demons? Most Christians scoff at the idea but there is ample proof in the New Testament that they are real.

JESUS CAST OUT DEMONS

Let us go through the four Gospels and see if we can find some kind of a trend:

1. There were people who were possessed by devils and Jesus cast them out and healed the sick. **Matthew 8:16-17**

We don't know if the demon possessed people were saved after the spirits were cast out nor do we know if the sick people were saved.

2. Jesus encountered a gentile Canaanite woman who had a daughter that was severely vexed by a devil. Jesus spoke a word and the spirit was cast out and the girl was healed. **Matthew 15:21-28**

Again there is no mention of salvation for the woman and her daughter.

3. The next case was a boy that was mentally ill, which was caused by a devil. The apostles could not cast out this devil and they were chided by Jesus for their unbelief. Jesus threw out the spirit and the child was healed. **Matthew 17:14-21**
4. In the Gospel of Mark we are told about a man who was a member of the synagogue and had an unclean spirit which Jesus cast out. **Mark 1:21-27**
5. Jesus encountered a demon possessed man that the evil spirits made to run to Jesus and worship. Jesus found out that some 7,000 devils lived in this man and they were scared of Him. They did not want Jesus to send them away from the area and requested to enter a herd of swine. Once Jesus ordered them into the pigs, they caused the pigs to commit suicide and the devils were set free to roam again. **Mark 5:1-16**
6. Luke points out that a number of women had been set free from evil spirits, and as a result, they were part of his staff, doing the cooking for Jesus and his disciples. **Luke 8:1-3**
7. There was a woman that had a spirit of infirmity for 18 years. Jesus spoke that she was to be loosed, laid hands on her and immediately the spirit of infirmity left and she was instantly healed. **Luke 13:10-13**



JESUS COMMISSIONED HIS DISCIPLES

Before Jesus went to the cross, He commissioned the disciples to preach the Gospel, cast out devils and heal the sick. **Matthew 10:1, 5-8**

This commission is repeated in the Gospel of Luke. **Luke 9:1-2**

Then Jesus went a step further and gave the same power to 70 other men who also followed him and later became part of the 120 in the upper room. **Luke 10:1-3; 9**

They marveled when they came back that even the devils had to obey them in the name of Jesus. **verse 17**

Jesus told them that He would give them more power, and this was only known to his disciples at this time, whom he called “babes.” **verses 19-22**

HOW LONG WAS THIS POWER AVAILABLE?

Was this power only available until Jesus died on the cross? No, but this is what is taught in the seminaries and Bible colleges in the United States and what most denominational pastors teach. The New Testament tells an entirely different story. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus expected that everything He had taught the disciples would be passed on to the next generation, which in turn would be passed on to each successive generation until Jesus came back. **Matthew 28:16-20;**

The same teaching is recorded in the Gospel of Mark. **Mark 16:14-20**

CONCLUSION

The same devils that lived on the earth at the time of Christ are still on the earth. People are still possessed or oppressed by devils, nothing has changed. The same afflictions that troubled the people in the first century are hurting people today. Jesus had one cure: Cast the devils out! That is the same cure we must apply in the 21st century. **Hebrews 13:8**

God has not necessarily called you to be successful but to be faithful!
Hebrews 3:1-5

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?