

APPENDIX B

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON POSSESSED?

Technically, a Christian **cannot** be demon “possessed” because possession implies ownership and demons cannot claim ownership over any part of a Christian.

- *Or do you not know that 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 at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

Because the spirit of a Christian is “sealed” [G4972- “sphragizo”] at salvation (2 Corinthians 1:21,22, Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30), it stands to reason that it has no strategic value to Satan. However, the soul (mind/ will/ emotions) of a child of God is not sealed and therefore is vulnerable to demonic attacks. If not dealt with quickly and scripturally, control and occupation of areas of the soul are possible if evil forces are given legal rights to do so through some form or outworking of sin.

The most common argument against the premise that a demon can inhabit and have access to the mind, will, and emotions of a Christian is the following hypothesis:

“Since our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, it is not possible for evil to cohabit with that which is Holy. Therefore, once a person is born again, demons can only intimidate, tempt, and harass a Christian but not occupy and control any part of his being”.

If such is your conviction, then consider the following two doctrinal statements:

1. When a person repents and receives Christ into their life, they are sealed unto salvation, and nothing can separate us from His Spirit (“once saved, always saved”).

- *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable Romans 11:29*
- *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
Romans 8:35-39

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS NOT FOR SISSIES

APPENDIX B (cont.)

2. It is possible for a Christian to sin after salvation.

- *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 John 2:1*

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Do you have convictions that the two statements above are true? If so, how is that possible? How can the Holy Spirit coexist in a body where sin is present? The inescapable conclusion must be that **God's Spirit resides in our spirit, not our soul** and our spirit is sealed from the enemy for eternity. But while we are in these bodies of flesh, our mind/will/emotions are subject to attack and occupation by evil ("demonized" vs "possessed"). As further support for this position, consider also the following:

- Satan still had access to heaven in the presence of God for a season after his rebellion and even dialogued with God (Job 1:6). Christians can receive another spirit not of God (2 Corinthians 11:4).
- People who knew God have been controlled by Satan (e.g. Simon Peter [Matthew 16:23], Ananias [Acts 5:3]).
- Human experience and the counseling room affirm the conclusion that Christians can be demonized, and scripture does not apparently conflict with it.