

THE TELL-TALE SIGNS OF DEMON-POSSESSION

- A. A demon-possessed person may be characterized by immodesty and nakedness (Mk.5:15; Lk.8:27; Acts 19:16).

- B. A demon-possessed person may display unusual strength (Mk.5:3) and self-abusing activities (Mk.5:5; 9:22).

- C. A demon-possessed person may be involved in religious activities and parading himself as a preacher or Christian leader (II Cor.11:13-15; Acts 16:16-18; Mt.12:43-45; Rev.18:2).

- D. A demon-possessed person may be afflicted by physical or mental disease although such cases are not all confined to demon-possession.
 - 1. Notice the dumb man couldn't speak as a result of demon-possession (Mt.9:32-32).

 - 2. Demon-possession caused epilepsy in some cases (Mt.17:14-18).

 - 3. Demon-possession was associated with insanity as well (Mk.5).

- E. Demon-possessed persons often have the ability to Fore-see future events as fortune-tellers (Acts 16:16-18).

- F. A person who is demon-possessed may be characterized by unnatural appearances (Rev.9:8), unscriptural teachings (I Tim. 4:1-3), and ungodly activities.

- G. One should note two important considerations in the matter of demon-possession:
 - 1. First of all, while a Christian may be influenced in certain ways by demons or the devil, he cannot be demon-possessed (Ro. 8:9; I Cor.6:19,20; I Jn.4:4).

2. Oftentimes Christian counselors and other well-meaning individuals identify every kind of disease (physical or mental) with demon-possession. Schizophrenic illness is not another word for demon-possession. Many mental disorders are the results of physiological problems and chemical deficiencies in the body. To associate these problems with demon-possession exclusively would be a grave and careless mistake. So how does one distinguish between the two? To answer this question, let me say that this author has had much experience with those afflicted by mental disorders and it appears in cases where medicines can control the persons afflicted the problems are physiological and not demonic. As powerful as demons are, no mere medicine would control even one single demon.

H. Unsaved persons may become demon-possessed. In most cases it happens as result of voluntarily yielding to temptation and repeated acts of sin. The more a person sins the greater sins he will commit and after awhile the person has no will to resist evil. When this occurs demons come in and take control.