

Vineyard Workshops



Discovering and Continuing
the Ministry of Jesus

the **Vineyard** church

Love God. Love people. Period.

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The Worldview and Language of Demonization

I. Introduction

A. Who is the Holy Spirit?

B. Why does the Holy Spirit matter?

II. Problems in Worldview

A. Have we become Christian atheists?

1. We find there is a world where angels visit, demons manifest, dreams and visions guide, God intervenes, and signs and wonders occur.

2. Has science, psychology and medicine replaced the need for Jesus' ministry of revelation and power?

3. As Westerners, we are often converted into Christianity as "Christian Atheists." We believe in God the Father and in Jesus, but we do not believe in the spirit world.

B. We are open intellectually, while closed experientially.

1. This need to think right while refusing to do right is counterproductive.

2. We develop ingenious tools to avoid dealing with the spiritual realm in general, and with demons in particular.

- C. The argument used to distance us from these spiritual phenomena takes on a familiar pattern.
1. The only difference in them is where to draw the line of division between us and these strange experiences.
 - a. Demons were primarily a problem encountered by Jesus in the Gospels;
 - b. Demons are confined to the New Testament era;
 - c. They were initially encountered by the early church;
 - d. Demons only inhabit un-Christianized territories (in distant mission fields);
 - e. Even if demons do occasion these parts, it's rare and cannot affect Christians.

III. Worldview

- A. **Definition:** Charles Kraft, *Christianity in Culture* (Marysnoll, N.Y.; Orbisbooks, 1979), 53.
1. "Cultures pattern perceptions of reality into conceptualizations of what reality can or should be, what is to be regarded as actual, probable, possible or impossible."
 2. "These conceptualizations form what is termed the 'worldview' of our culture. The worldview is the central systemization of conceptions of reality to which the members of its culture assent (largely unconsciously) and from which stems their value system."

3. “The world view lies at the very heart of the culture touching, interacting with, and strongly influencing every aspect of the culture.”

B. Problem

1. A set of beliefs, a theology, a paradigm can control our perceptions to lead us to the wrong conclusions when we observe the data.
2. For example, Jesus’ disciples and other contemporaries expected the Messiah to establish a political kingdom.
3. This theology controlled their perceptions and conclusions and kept them from the proper understanding of Jesus’ words and deeds until much later.
4. We must reexamine our presuppositions as they are exposed in light of the Holy Spirit’s guidance.
5. Paul Hiebert, Anthropologist and Missiologist, says that the western worldview has a blind spot that makes it difficult for many western missionaries (and pastors) to understand, let alone answer, problems related to spirits, ancestors and astrology.
(John Wimber, Signs and Wonders and Church Growth: MC510, Class syllabus for Fuller Seminary, SWM, 1983, p. 7.03; citing Hieberts article, “The Flaw of the Excluded Middle,” Missiology: An International Review, January 1982: X: No. 1: 35-47).

C. Diagrams

1. The Modern Westerner's two-tiered worldview:

Transcendent:

- heaven, hell, eternity
- God, angels
- sovereignty, fate

Empirical:

- Explanations based on empirical observations: e.g., one cooks a meal and attributes the cooked meal to the fire under the pot.
- Theories about the natural world: e.g., how to build a house, plant crops, etc.

1. The Non-Westerner's three-tiered worldview:

The Transcendent World Beyond Ours Includes:

- Heaven, hell, other times, eternity
- High god (African), Vishnu, Siva (Hindu), cosmic forces, karma
- Jehovah, angels, demons, spirits of other worlds

The Supernatural Forces On Earth Includes:

- Spirits, ghosts, ancestors, demons
- Earthly gods and goddesses who live within trees, rivers, hills, villages
- Supernatural forces: manna, planetary influences, and evil eyes, the power of magic, sorcery, and witchcraft
- Holy Spirit, angels, demons, signs and wonders, gifts of the Spirit

The Empirical World of Our Senses Includes:

- Folk sciences to explain how things occur
- Explanations based on empirical observations:
 - A person shoots an arrow into a deer. Death is attributed to the arrow
 - One cooks a meal and attributes the cooked meal to the fire under the pot
- Theories about the natural world: how to build a house; plant crops; sail a canoe
- Theories about human relationships: how to raise children; treat a spouse, etc.

3. Conclusion:

- a. The Bible is definitely more at home in the three-tiered world than in the modern western two-tiered world.
- b. Ephesians 6:12 expresses a theology of the middle zone with reference to the demonic.
- c. The synoptic gospels and Acts (explicitly and the rest of the New Testament implicitly) richly illustrate the ministry most effectively in this context.

IV. Problems in Language

A. Demon (daimonion) Definition: destructive, evil spirits who are actively opposing God's people.

1. In classical Greek, this word was often used in a good sense, even to describe a god, or one with divine power (cf. Acts 17:18 in Athens).
 - a. It was sometimes used interchangeably with *Theos*, meaning 'god'. There seemed to be little concern for discerning good from evil in character.
2. In the New Testament, demons are malevolent spirits, evil disembodied personalities (exhibiting intellect, emotions and will), actively opposing God's people and purposes, serving their master, Satan, and harming people who bear the image of God.
3. Their intent is to express their evil natures through people whom they are holding in captivity. The result is the distortion, harm and ultimately the destruction of their victims.

- B. “Possession” – a *complete* misnomer as a general term
1. In English versions of the bible, both before and after King James, the word possession is used.
 2. Our western way of thinking causes us lots of problems here: is the demon in me, or on me, or what?
- C. “Influence” is the key term—the best word we could use here
1. Substance verses function thinking
 2. Degrees of influence
 - a. We might be harassed, oppressed, obsessed, or completely controlled
 - b. Illustration: Alcohol in Ephesians 5:18
 - c. 2 Corinthians 10:4
- D. “Demonize” a transliteration functioning as a flexible term: daimonizomai (passive Greek verb, meaning “to be demonized”), demon influenced.
1. We use the term “demonize” because everything else has been destroyed through bad usage.
- E. New Testament Phrases (Observation)
1. “He/She who is demonized” (daimonizomenos) = a demoniac (KJV always uses the word “possessed”). The 13 New Testament examples: Matthew 4:24; 8:16, 28, 33; 9:32; 12:22; 15:22; Mark 1:32; 5:15, 16, 18; Luke 8:36; John 10:21.

2. “With an unclean spirit” (en pneumati akatharto)
Examples: Mark 1:23; 5:2
–using the preposition “with”

3. “Having...demons” Luke 8:27
“a dumb spirit” Mark 9:17
“[an] unclean spirit(s) Mark 1:23; 7:25; Acts 8:7
“a spirit of an unclean demon” Luke 4:33
“a spirit of infirmity” Luke 13:11

4. “Those who were troubled” (enokhloumenoi) by unclean spirits”
Luke 6:18

5. “Those afflicted with unclean spirits” (okhloumenos)

6. “A spirit seizes him” (lambanei) Luke 9:39

7. “Many demons had entered into him” Luke 8:2, 30
“Satan entered into Judas Luke 22:3; cf. John 13:27

8. “Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?” Acts 5:3
–same word as in Ephesians 5:18

Healing The Demonized, Key Scriptures, and Biblical Examples

I. Introduction

A. Discernment is the most important element of understanding what is going on in the Spirit realm.

B. There is no better way to push back the enemy than to become a radical follower of Jesus.

C. How do you keep Satan out?

1. Demonisation can be defined as a relational influence by an evil spirit, in one form or another, to one degree or another, in one or other area of human personality.

2. Walking in obedience.

a. Unconfessed sin is where the arrows of the enemy go, right through the chinks in our armor.

b. The best way to keep from being afflicted by the enemy is to stay rooted in the gospel and apply scripture to our lives and to become whole.

3. “Can any of us be entered into?”

4. Philippians 4:8 says to think on what is pure, honorable, just, and of good report.

5. When demons are coming your direction, they re looking to see if there is a place for them or not.

6. How do we know if it is a domination and no just another problem?

II. Key Scriptures

- A. James 4:7, “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 1. Deliverance is a process

 2. Need to teach people how to submit to God and resist the devil

- B. Luke 11:26 the demon “goes out (leaves them) and takes 7 other spirits more wicked than itself and they go in (back into the person being set free) and live there, and the final condition of that man is worse than the first.”

- C. John 8:31-34, “Whatever you are in bondage to you are a slave to.”

- D. Romans 6:16, “When you yield yourself to someone, you come under their authority.”

- E. Ephesians 4:22, “give no opportunity to the devil.”

- F. 1 Peter 5:8, “Be careful! Watch out for the attacks of your great enemy. He prowls about like a lion looking for someone to devour.”

III. Biblical Examples:

A. Mark 1:21-28 Encounters Religion

B. Mark 5:1-20 Try to destroy Jesus through the storm

C. Luke 13:10-17 Christians can be influenced by demons

D. Judas Iscariot's life Digression

1. Petty Dishonesty
2. Serious Dishonesty
3. Religiosity
4. Betrayal
5. Suicide

E. Annanias and Saphira Digression

1. Deceit
2. Religiosity
3. Death

Entry Points

I. Entry Points

A. Our own sin can be an entry point.

1. Choice—Bondage Continuum

- a. Our own sin can be an initial a choice that leads to bondage.
- b. Series of choices and then habits that are formed.
- c. And at some point the enemy sees that as a green light, especially the longer those habits go on.
- d. Enemy capitalizes on sinful habitual choices that can lead to bondage.

2. Enslavement to Sin

- a. The first time you sin you are stepping into it knowingly. If you enjoy it and are not retentive you begin to take on more and more of the identity of that spirit.
- b. Some of us think that some of our personalities are just the way we are because we have lived with the demons so long. Most of these demons we are so comfortable with we are not even sure we want to get rid of them.
- c. i.e. perfectionism (it helps me do really good work/art/musicals) but eventually it leads to criticism. Some of your “personalities” you just need to get deliverance from.
- d. Maybe you knowingly walk into a fortuneteller for the first time and you think it’s harmless.

3. If you submit yourself to God and the person getting deliverance wants it, there is nothing that can take you down.

B. Being sinned against can be an entry point for the enemy.

1. Being the victim

- a. This often starts a continuum of demonization also.
- b. Example: rape or abuse -> hurt -> anger -> fear -> spirit of control.
- c. The very act of becoming a victim of someone's sin against you can be an entry point for the enemy.
- d. An emotional rift **always** occurs, and **usually** there is a need for deliverance along with emotional healing.
- e. **So many things that you need emotional healing for can become an open door for demons if left unhealed.**

2. Our bloodline - generational spirits

- a. Multi-generational or ancestry bondage- passed down from one generation to the next.
- b. If we are praying and not seeing a breakthrough, it could be a bloodline type of bondage
- c. Perhaps someone in our family line was involved in sin, placed curses on us, or was involved in witchcraft.
- d. Ex. 20:3 says, "You shall not have any other Gods before me."
- e. The person who breaks covenant chooses another power or comes under its influence.
 - 1) In dealing with generational spirits, we ask God to give us information about multi-generation sins and curses and then we need to pray to have their power broken in our lives.
 - a) For example if a person's mother was a prostitute a young Christian women can have years of struggle with different kinds of sexual spirit.
 - 2) Adopted children often don't know what went on in past generations.

3. Soul-ties

- a. Dominating dynamic that someone has over another person, especially emotionally.
- b. Often we see this in relationships that are over (divorce) but the person is still under the control of the dominating person.
- c. It has a negative affect on their life.

- d. Usually this should be addressed in people who have had significant abuse physically, emotionally, or spiritually or been under a spirit of control.
- e. It also can happen through physical relationships where two people are having sex immorally.

4. Exposure / Accidents

- a. Emotional or physical trauma the enemy enters in.
- b. For example in severe car accidents or death of a close loved one.
- c. Hispanic cultures have healers called Cooninderas or Native American voodoo or witchdoctors.
 - 1) We need to break ties to it and break the power that it has over a person.
 - 2) So exposure to those cultures causes suffering from demons
 - 3) i.e. Jackie's exposure to demon on a trip to Africa spirits of depression and apathy got attached to her.

5. Spirits that gravitate towards each other

- a. Fear and Control

6. Inner vows

- a. Idle words are not innocent.
- b. What we habitually say has power (Matthew 12:36-37)
- c. "I wish I were dead!" invites a spirit of death
- d. Inner vows often due to hurt "I will never trust again"

II. Use Resources

A. *The Bondage Breaker* by Neil Anderson

B. Clash of the Kingdoms online teaching or in class

III. Recognize the need for deliverance

A. Remember that even the most demonized man in the Bible was able to recognize his need for freedom and fall at Jesus's feet and say heal me Lord.

IV. Expect Resistance

A. They will hear an increase of lies

B. They will have a hard time coming to their appointment for prayer

C. They will struggle desperately to follow through with their homework

D. They will feel confusion and lack of understanding

E. They will hear the enemy say, "This is a hoax, this is ridiculous, this stuff isn't even real, you don't want to do this or I'll kill you, hurt you, cause you more damage."

F. The person may even feel lots of fear about the deliverance

Symptoms, Tactics, and Weapons

I. Symptoms

A. We diagnose symptoms in two ways:

1. Supernatural knowledge from God

2. Learned skill

B. Actual things we might see that indicate there is some demonization going on:

1. Contorted physical reactions

2. Addictions

3. Compulsions

4. Leaving the room abruptly

5. Abnormal Emotions

6. Abnormal Attitudes

7. Sickness

8. Discernment received from God by the senses

 9. History of Abuse
- C. How do we diagnose a demon?
1. Entice: An independent, persistent enticement towards certain things like stealing. It goes beyond 'natural' enticement of temptation (James 1:13-15)

 2. Harass: Demons victimize/harass us via our weaknesses, causing sickness (Matthew 9:36) and things to go wrong beyond reasonable explanation.

 3. Torment: Demons torture and torment beyond our ability to stop it—often through unforgiveness (Matthew 18:34; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11). It can be physical torment (pain), mental (fear of insanity) or spiritual (“You have committed the unpardonable sin”)

 4. Compel: Irrationally compulsive and controlling behavior, like compulsive gossip, eating, drinking, lying. This produces chemical reactions in the brain which lead to dependencies and addiction—entrance point for demons.

 5. Enslave: The fruit of compulsions. Demons enslave people to habits (pornography), substances (drugs), and to people (dependence-dominance).

 6. Defile: Demons are “unclean spirits” that defile the mind, imagination and mouth by filthy thoughts, pictures and words (even when praying).

7. Deceive: Forms of destructive self-deception and deception of others, primarily via spiritual deception in terms of erroneous doctrines and religious beliefs (I Timothy 4:1-5)
 8. Discourage: The Holy Spirit never discourages; he convicts and encourages. Demons discourage, leading to accusation, condemnation and despair—to the point of suicide by a spirit of death (Isaiah 61:3; Revelation 12:10-11)
 9. Attack: Demons attack through circumstances and people, especially via emotional wounding and weakness in our bodies (tiredness and sicknesses).
 10. Restlessness: If there is one symptom characteristic of the presence and work of demons, it is constant restlessness or driven-ness.
 11. God reveals them
 12. History of abuse
- D. What areas of our lives become demonized?
1. Spirituality: Our spiritual capacity and formation can be demonized through deception, erroneous beliefs, idolatry, religious spirits and occult practices.
 2. Emotions and attitudes: They can be demonized through negative sinful moods and choices, as they become habitual, obsessive and driven.
 3. The Mind: This is the main battlefield (2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Philippians 4:6-9). Demons of fear or lust control our imagination (fantasy world). Doubt, unbelief, indecision, confusion and insanity can torment our thoughts.

4. **The Tongue:** The tongue is demonized through habitual and then compulsive, lying, exaggeration, slander, gossip, criticism and being foul-mouthed.

5. **Sexuality:** Sex is God's good gift: it is not dirty. Because it is such a strong drive, God has set boundaries for its practice for our own good. It is a prime target of Satan—if he can gain control of it, he can wreck people and relationships. Compulsive and addictive pornography, fantasy, masturbation, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, pedophilia and other perversions are generally demonisations of our sexuality.

6. **Physical appetites:** Not only the sexual appetite, but any God give appetite or desire can be demonized by habitually 'giving them over to sinful ways: eating/obesity, drinking/alcoholism, excessive sleeping, 'uncrucified flesh' attracts demons like vultures to a carcass.

7. **Physical body:** Demons attack the body through weaknesses and sicknesses like epilepsy, muteness, blindness and curvature of the spine. (Mark 9:17; Matthew 9:32; 12:22; Luke 13:10) We must distinguish between these causes (hysteria) and organic and functional causes of physical illness.

II. Helping Others

A. What have they gained from the homework

B. Have they lined their will with God's will for them

C. Have them explain clearly what their role is and how they plan to keep the enemy out of their life.

III. Avoidance Tactics

A. Hide or lay low: demons try to complicate things to avoid deliverance.

B. Lying

C. Mocking: especially if your new at this you may start to feel stupid, inadequate, the demons will lie and you'll here things in your head like, "there's probably nothing really there.", "you can't do this", "it's not going to work".

D. Confusion or chaos: what's going on? Why are we doing this?

E. Fear: the demons lie to you and you hear things in your head like "you better stop this or I'll hurt your family or your going to get in a car accident on the way home"

F. Dumbness: the person being prayed for can't talk or hear.

IV. Troubleshooting

A. Unconfessed sin:

- Secret sins they have never been honest about. We see deceptive spirits keep people from saying what they are really involved in and not letting us or God speak to that in their lives. This always leaves demons in control and having a hey day in their lives.

B. Gnosticism:

- They are seeking healing or freedom or spirituality in many other places besides Jesus. They've opened themselves up to Native American rituals, tarot cards, fortune telling, mystics, budhism, new age, etc. Then they just want to add Jesus to this huge melting pot, but they need to abandon everything else and surrender to Jesus as the absolute truth. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through him.

C. Soul-ties:

- The person's emotions or spirit are controlled by someone else or a demon. These have to be broken over their lives and proclamation that only Jesus will be the one to control their emotions or spirits.

D. Co-habiting demons:

- Demons tend to run in packs and attach themselves to one another. One thing leads to or lends itself to another. If you see one or identify one, it's likely others are there as well. Here are some common ones:
 - ✓ Anger/Unforgiveness/Bitterness/Hurt
 - ✓ Fear/Control/Obsession
 - ✓ Sex/Lust/Deception/Lying/Cheating/Shame/Guilt
 - ✓ Control/Manipulation/Fear
 - ✓ Pride/Control/Insecurity
 - ✓ Religion/Blaming/Easily Offended
 - ✓ Confusion/Fear/Anxiety
 - ✓ Sexual Abuse/Shame/Guilt
 - ✓ Infirmary/Pain/Addiction
 - ✓ Jealousy/Hatred/Insecurity
 - ✓ Rejection/Abandonment/Loss

E. Exposure/Accidents:

- Because of past events or trauma in someone's life, the enemy has gained access to their spirits. Families involved in accidents can have spirits of death or curses on them that need to be broken. Loss of a child can affect a whole family.

F. Rejection:

- A spirit of rejection can be there due to a Father or Mother not wanting a child before birth or even after they are born. This is a lens that they wear, truly believing they are rejected no matter how much love and acceptance they receive. This needs to be identified and broken.

G. Loss:

- A spirit of grief or loss and pain settles on them causing disappointment, pity, sense of victimization that lasts for years and is controlled by demons. Unrecognized loss is an open door for Satan to oppress people for years. These spirits need to be identified and broken off, spirits of disappointment and victimization.

H. Control:

- Most who believe they have spirits of control really want to be in control and it's very hard to get rid of that spirit. It takes a lot of bad fruit.

V. Weapons

A. Anointing from God.

1. Learn to be receptive,
2. Humble,
3. Have a good sense of timing (my mental hit list),
4. Pray and worship to receive God's anointing.

B. Willingness to Risk

C. Spiritual Gifts. They are a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to enable you to do the words and works of Jesus.

1. Discernment (God tells me bondage's about people we are praying for),
2. Prophetic insight.
3. Gift of faith
4. Deliverance
5. Miracles
6. Healing

D. Jesus Name

1. They hate it because it identifies you with the one who has already defeated them and they know it.
2. The power of it comes out of my relationship with him,
3. It's not magic. We're not just using it like a rabbit's foot (7 sons of someone tried to use his name but didn't know him and the demons knew it)

E. Authority

1. Luke 10:17-19 says, "When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning! And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice just because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered as citizens of heaven."

2. It's not about you.. it is about the Kingdom and your place in it. The key is to know that you have it or it doesn't work.
 3. I.e. Women in Detroit Lakes banging her head.
 4. I.e. Women here running through the church.
- F. Word of God—Quote scripture to them, memorize it.
- G. Armor of God—Ephesians 6:10-18

We Learn By Doing and Q&A

I. We Learn By Doing

A. Memorize Luke 10:17-19

The seventy came back triumphant. “Master, even the demons danced to your tune!” Jesus said, “I know. I saw Satan fall, a bolt of lightening out of the sky. See what I’ve given you? Safe passage as you walk on snakes and scorpions, and protection from every assault of the Enemy. No one can put a hand on you. All the same, the great triumph is not in your authority over evil, but in God’s authority over you and presence with you. Not what you do for God”

B. When deliverance is about to take place, life gets worse

C. Prepare for Prayer

D. Teams of 2

E. Invite the Spirit to come, release gifts, and begin praying

1. Don’t get into power struggles with demons

2. Jesus clearly tells them to leave

F. Check In

G. Follow Up prayer times