



Part 51: Jesus' Authority Over Demons

Matthew 8:14-17

Jesus has authority and power over demons that he delegates to his disciples.

I. Awakening to the Reality of Personal Evil (John 10:10)

"The first major awakening in our journey of faith is coming to realize that God exists. It can be quite a jolt. The second, and far more life-changing, epiphany is when we come to realize that we have to deal with him. Take him into account. We come to see that God is not to be ignored. This can be an even bigger jolt and a major course correction for any human being. Many people avoid it for years. But hopefully, we come to see that there is no better way than to place our love and trust in God, accept his invitation to life, and give our hearts to him. We become his sons and daughters through faith in Jesus Christ. And hopefully his followers.

*But there is another major awakening. The next epiphany in our journey of faith is coming to realize that Satan exist. And that we have to deal with him too. We come to realize that he is not to be ignored either. I'm sorry to say that this awakening is uncommon, even among the followers of Christ – despite the fact that Scripture is filled with warnings of an enemy." – John Eldredge, *Walking with God**

*"One of the things that surprised me when I first read the New Testament seriously was that it talked so much about a Dark Power in the universe – a mighty evil spirit who was held to be the Power behind death, disease, and sin...Christianity thinks this Dark Power was created by God, and was good when he was created, and went wrong. Christianity agrees...this is a universe at war." – C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity**

A casual reader of the New Testament will discover that a spiritual battle is simply assumed. It's a normal part of this life lived out in the clash of kingdoms (John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7; 1 John 3:8; 5:19; Rev. 12:17).

The Bible clearly teaches us that there is a kingdom of darkness ruled by a personal presence of evil known by many names: **Satan** = the adversary (Job 1:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18); **the Devil**= slanderer (Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8); **the prince of this world** (John 12:31; 1 John 5:19); **the tempter** (1 Thessalonians 3:5); **the accuser of the brethren** (Revelation 12:10).

We are taught by Jesus' instruction and example to learn Satan's schemes against us (2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 6:11), to resist and fight against Satan and his demons (Ephesians 6:10-18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9).

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings." 1 Peter 5:8-9

This is a question of worldview. Think of one world: two realms (see greenwoodcc.com/resources/miscellaneous).

II. Jesus' Authority & Power Over Demons

The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus freeing people from all kinds of demonic oppression. The demons recognize Jesus as "the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24) or as the "Son of God" (Matt. 8:29).

What do you want with us, Son of God? Have you come to torture us before the appointed time? Matthew 8:29

The spiritual realm operates according to spiritual authority and power.

III. Living in Jesus' Authority and Power

Jesus gives his authority and power in the Kingdom of God to his disciples to resist demonic attacks and fight for the Kingdom to come on earth as in Heaven (Matthew 28:18-21; Luke 9:1; 10:17-19; Acts 8:7; 16:18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:10-20; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 4:4; Rev. 12:11).

A. Protection over me and my family

Lord Jesus Christ, I bring myself and (mention by name) under your authority and the power of your shed blood on the cross. I ask you and our Father to protect us by the power of your Name. I ask you to assign your holy angels to defend us and minister to us. I ask you to give me discernment to recognize Satan's schemes in our lives and to resist him in the power of the Holy Spirit. I ask you to deliver us from the evil one.

B. Dealing with a direct demonic attack (Ephesians 6:10-18)

"I speak in the authority of Jesus Christ to every foul spirit sent against me and (mention by name). I bring the cross of Christ between me and you (Colossians 2:15). I say 'The LORD rebuke you!' In the Name of Jesus Christ, I cancel your assignment, and I send you to Jesus Christ to obey his orders."

C. Opening Doors to Demons (Ephesians 4:26).

"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a stronghold (place to stand; inhabitable space)." Ephesians 4:26

It is generally agreed there are four basic ways a demon may acquire a stronghold in a person's life and begin to influence or torment them.

1. Occult involvement (spirits of occult)

Solution = renounce and repent of your involvement in the occult; deliverance.

2. Repetitive, unconfessed sin (spirits of sin)

Solution = renounce and repent of your particular sin pattern, deliverance.

"Lord Jesus Christ, I ask your forgiveness for sinning by (name the sin specifically). I bring myself under your authority and the power of your shed blood, and I ask you to cleanse me from this sin. I ask you to reclaim the ground I've surrendered to Satan by my sin. I speak in the Name of Jesus Christ to every foul spirit oppressing me, and I claim that ground back by bringing it under the authority and power of Jesus Christ. I give this area (name it) and all areas of my life over to the full control of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, I ask you to fill me with (name the fruit of the Spirit most needed in this area)."

3. Emotional or physical trauma (spirits of trauma).

Solution = inner healing; deliverance.

4. Generational sin (spirits work in a family system).

Solution = generational healing through the sacrament of communion; deliverance.

IV. Conclusion

“You are living out your daily life in the context of war. The men and women who choose to equip themselves and become practiced in warfare prayer are the ones who enjoy the greatest freedom and breakthrough – ‘the glorious freedom of the children of God’ (Romans 8:21).” – John Eldredge, *Moving Mountains*

Discipleship Resources:

1. [Introduction to Jesus' Healing Ministry](#) (GreenwoodCC.com→Resources)
2. [God's Armor](#) (GreenwoodCC.com→Resources→Miscellaneous Resources→ God's armor)
3. [Biblical worldview](#) (GreenwoodCC.com→Resources→Miscellaneous Resources→Worldviews Resource)
4. *Live No Lies* by John Mark Comer
5. “A Battle to Fight” by John Eldredge (ransomedheart.com)
6. “Finding Freedom: An Introduction to Spiritual Warfare for Women” by John Eldredge (ransomedheart.com)
7. *Moving Mountains* by John Eldredge
8. *I Give You Authority* by Charles Kraft

Discussion Questions:

1. What has been your experience, if any, teaching about spiritual warfare?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Paul clearly expects Christians to have a direct experience with demons. Are you aware of any direct experience of temptation or intimidation you have had? If so, how did you respond?
3. What is your response to the story of M-A and Carrie Williams about praying in the authority of Jesus for their son, Sam, not to be tormented at night?
4. Read the suggested written prayers provided by Doug. What is the difference between asking the Lord to do something for you and exercising your spiritual authority in Jesus? Why do you think this is important?