

DEMONOLOGY
Message 14
Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

INTRO: Well, we have come to the last two messages on demonology. We have completed all the heavy things I wanted to cover and from here on it is a little lighter.

So let me first go back with you and refresh your memory on where we have been. We dealt first with the fact of the existence of demons, what the names, Satan, devil and demons mean and what the task of demons is. We saw that the battle between God and Satan takes place in the mind of man. Then I gave you an overview of demonology from before creation to the new creation. We covered the dwelling place of demons and then the matter of dealing with demons. I covered what I believe is the difference between exorcisms and casting out demons. Shared with you that the phrase 'demon possession' is not biblical and a better translation would be 'demonized'. We considered demonic manifestations and that a man with a suit and tie can be demonized as well as the one we call a maniac.

Then we considered the three major ways demons find entrance into a person. First was if there are any in one's family history up to the fourth generation who have been involved in any occultic practices. Second is if one has experimented with any occultic things, and last, is the transference of demons from a demonized person. Then we looked at demonic or occultic practices and questionable practices. I believe that one of the key areas in questionable practices is in health matters.

This morning we want to talk about how to test questionable practices. Then I want to warn us that some of what seems demonic is actually what I will call a quack practice. We have heard doctors called a quack sometimes. That is because he may have the degree, but he doesn't know what he is doing. Some claim to get hidden messages, but in fact they are quacks.

But last, I want to give some safeguards against all demonic powers. We will only begin that point this morning and conclude it in the last message.

3. Testing questionable practices

a. Is it sacred?

So, our first task this morning is testing questionable practices. Let us say you have a health concern and you hear about something like iridology and it is strange and new but it sounds like a very painless way of determining what might be wrong with you. The first question to ask is what does the Bible say? Is it biblical? Now here the interpretation must be sound as well. Many things are shown to be biblical but the method of interpretation may be wrong so that it is actually unbiblical.

The second question is, is the practitioner a godly person who can show you from the Bible that God approves of this method or this practice. If the answer to both is yes, it is more likely to be safe. So the practice must be biblical and the practitioner a Christian. But, just because the practitioner is a Christian does not make the practice safe. In the little book I recommended to you on health practices there is an account of a midwife lady that would have nothing to do with the occult but she was involved in homeopathy. But which homeopathic medicine to prescribe to a client was difficult to determine. And then she learned how you could hold a bottle of pills in one hand, have the patient stretch out one hand and she would push down on the patients hand and in this way determine which medicine was the best, and there she was into the occult. So even a Christian practitioner may be missled.

b. Is it scientific?

So, if you cannot prove something from the Bible, the next question to ask is, is the practitioner's method scientific? For example the method of holding a bottle of pills in one hand and pushing down the client's hand with the other, what is scientific about that? If the method or the medication does not have scientific explanations, this is a big

warning. This is likely magic. It is not scientific. It is not to be trusted.

On the other hand, if it can be shown to be scientific then it is likely OK. Now in such cases the practitioner does not even have to be a Christian or even a godly person. For example, a very ungodly doctor can be a very good physician if his methods are scientific.

c. Is it satanic?

If it is not sacred and it is not scientific, then it is likely satanic. Take for example the matter of sleight of hand. You can check this out and you will find it has scientific explanations. That means it is not Satanic. These are simply tricks that appear to be magic, but they are not. But when you hang a needle on a thread, and determine the gender of a child, is this scientific? No. Then it is likely satanic.

d. Is it doubtful?

The last point I would make is this: What if I cannot determine if it is sacred, scientific or Satanic? The last principle I would give is this: if in doubt, leave it out. For example, let us say you are a young person and you are tempted to cut yourself. Somehow it seems it would do something for you. Is it wrong to cut yourself? Well, is it sacred? No. Is there scientific evidence that it will help you? No. Is it Satanic? Well, maybe. Then leave it out. What about playing cards? You say, "Listen, I just don't see anything wrong with it. I only use cards for games that have nothing wrong with them." Well, along with that you must now ask, "What if others see me using cards and they trust me as a Christian and get involved in that which is wrong?" Romans 14 is a good study to do on this subject. Will they now not be able to discern between right and wrong because of you? So, if in doubt, leaven it out.

4. Quack practices

Then, in all of demonic practices there is also such a thing as quackery. What is quackery? Well, Wikipedia says a quack is, "A person who dishonestly claims to have special knowledge in some field, typically in medicine." For example, let us say someone says they can read your future from the stars or from cards and so you let him or her do that and they tell you what is in store for you. But they may be a quack. They made their information up and you gave them your money.

Watchman Fellowship says, "Much of the mystique and lure of modern psychics is the 'proof' of their claims and information through various alleged supernatural manifestations. People often trust psychics because of their persuasive demonstrations. The history of psychics is littered with cases of proven fraud. Faked psychic phenomena may involve stage magic or 'sleight-of-hand'. It is possible that Pharaoh's magicians used common magic tricks to duplicate the first three plagues God gave as signs through Moses (Exodus 7-8). Professional magician James Randi, whose stage name is 'The Amazing Randi' has publicly exposed a number of psychics, spiritualists, channelers, and charlatans. One of Randi's first targets was Israeli Uri Geller, tested by Standford Research Institute (now SRI International) for his powers to bend spoons and levitate objects. Randi successfully demonstrated the tricks were very simple... there was nothing you couldn't get off the back of a corn flakes box, so to speak. Dan Korem, a Christian illusionist, has also used his talents in stage magic to debunk a number of fake psychics" (pg. 3).

For an example, in Muslim teaching there is a Djinn called, 'zar'. One encyclopedia on demons says, "In Muslim lore, a possessing DJINN that usually attacks women and refuses to leave until the victim receives lavish gifts of jewelry, perfume, clothes, and dainty foods." And so, in some Muslim cities there are regular exorcisms of 'zar'. Sometimes the same woman is possessed more

than once because the husband has committed some wrong. The exorcisms can last several days, depending on how much the offending husband can afford. The husband does not dare disagree because of the possible demonic consequences. (Rosemary Ellen Guiley. The Encyclopedia of Demons and Demonology (Kindle Locations 7577-7578). Kindle Edition.)

To prove whether someone is a quack in such fields as demonology is almost impossible. For example, if someone is speaking to the dead for you, how do you know they are telling you what is what they are hearing from elsewhere or whether they are just making it up? I have no doubt there is a lot of quackery in fortune telling and such things, and because there are quacks, some may conclude there is actually no such thing as demonism. But there are those who are not quacks, and are actually in touch with demons.

Let me mention here as well that no psychic, even if he or she gets his information from demons is 100% accurate. By God's standard, if a prophet failed in one point he was to die. If that standard was held for psychics they would all die, including Jean Dixon. They are either frauds or of the devil. It is not likely that any psychic would continue the practice if they would die as soon as they failed in one point.

E. Safeguards Against Demonism

Well, we want to move on to the last point, safeguards against demonism. Merrill Unger says, "Believers who would be spiritual and live victoriously face tremendous conflict with Satan and demons, who vehemently oppose the true spirituality and Christian usefulness (Eph. 6:11-12). The panoply of prayer (Eph. 6:10-20), faith (1 John 5:4), and the Word of God (Matt. 4:4-7, 10), combined with a knowledge of Satanic devices (II Cor. 2:11), are the Christian's resources for triumph."

We will take our points of safeguards against demonism from Ephesians 6:10-20. Let us begin by

reading 6:10-13 (read). Our battle is not with flesh and blood. Our battle is not only to seek to keep demons from entering into our bodies but to not let demonic influence enter us through the senses as well.

In the last half of this message and next message I want to reduce 12 messages I did some years ago on this passage. Maybe some day we can get those onto CD as well. We begin with verse 10, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." Now I want to point out to you that the verb 'be strong' is passive in the original language, not active as we have it in our text. It should read, "be strengthened in the Lord." The original clause is passive not active. We cannot make ourselves strong in the Lord, it is He who must make us strong. And what do we need to do in order for God to make us strong? That is what verse 11 tells us (read). For God to make us strong we must put on the whole armor of God. If we do that, He will strengthen us; He will empower us.

And when we put on the whole armor of God, it will enable us or empower us against the 'wiles of the devil.' Do you know how subtle the wiles of the devil are? We must not only be watchful against demonization. I agree with D. Martyn Lloyd Jones who insists that discouragement, anxiety, lack of assurance of salvation and worldliness are just a few of the wiles of the devil.

Maybe you are not a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you say, "Listen, the devil has nothing to do with my unbelief. I have chosen to be like this and the devil has nothing to do with it." You do not know the wiles of the devil. If you recognized the wiles of the devil, you would know you have already fallen for them. If you will read 2 Corinthians 4:4 you will learn that you do not believe because the devil has blinded your mind. You do not just choose without influence. You are influenced and if you are an unbeliever, you are under the sway of the wicked one, but you think you are in charge. There is

not a one of us who is capable of recognizing and overcoming the devil. If we do not surrender to God by putting on the whole armor of God, we are incapable, unable to stand against the wiles or schemes of the devil. None of us are an exception.

Now note verse 12 why we need to be strengthened in the Lord by putting on the whole armor of God (read). Our battle is spiritual. In this battle we cannot see physically what is going on. Our battle is not with flesh and blood. John MacArthur says of these verses in Ephesians, "The great supernatural warfare raging throughout the universe that Paul describes in [6:11-12](#) is between God and His angels and the forces of Satan. Because Christians belong to God they are drawn into this spiritual conflict as they are attacked by the various 'schemes of the devil.' God's enemy becomes their enemy."

Now it is essential, before we consider this passage, that we consider in ourselves whether we believe the devil is a real threat to us. Do you and I believe that the devil is real? Do we believe that there is a real person called the devil who has multiplied millions of demons under him and that he has in mind the goal to destroy us? Do we believe that? If not, we are in trouble. 1 Peter 5:8 says he goes about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. The whole purpose of these messages has been to bring home to us the reality of the existence of Satan and his demonic hosts and how to overcome them.

Now I ask you again, why do we need to be spiritually empowered in the Lord? The answer is that we have an enemy against whom we have no chance at all, unless we are empowered spiritually. But there is a Scripture that is very comforting here. It says, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

So, because of all this Paul says in verse 13, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day."

Let me just mention that I believe there should be a period after the word day. To end the sentence after the word 'stand' leaves an incomplete sentence.

With regard to the meaning of the evil day, let me quote from my messages some years ago. I said, "There are a whole host of explanations, such as the day of death or the day of judgment etc... My conclusion is that it speaks of a certain time period with a marked beginning and a marked end and therefore it is called a day. There come, in each Christian's life, evil days. There came an evil day in the life of the Lord Jesus. He had just been baptized and God Almighty had just said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased", and then came an evil day. That day lasted forty days. It was a time of testing. But that day ended in victory. There came another evil day in the life of the Lord. It began in the Garden of Gethsemane and ended in the grave. I think the evil day is a time when Satan is allowed to test us. The duration of that day is of indefinite length.

"Now let us notice what kind of an evil day, this evil day is. In our last message I mentioned that there are two Greek words for wickedness, *kakos* and *poneiros*. A *kakos* person is happy to live in sin by himself. A *poneiros* person wants to drag others into sin as well. This evil day is the *poneiros* day. It is a day that is specifically designed by the devil to pull you down to his own depravity and doom. Think of Jimmy Swaggart for a moment. There came a time in his life when the devil desired to have him. No wonder. He was a great servant of the Lord preaching great messages. There came a time when Satan desired to have him. It was an evil day. It was a time when he got hurt. He failed!

"Such a day came in Peter's life (Lk. 22:31-32). Jesus said to Peter, "Satan has asked for or demanded, *exaitew*, to have you." The verb is in the middle voice indicating Satan was asking for Peter for his (Satan's) own benefit. You see, Satan is *poneiros*. He has to drag others into his

own debauchery. Surely Satan believed that if he was allowed to sift Peter, that impetuous big-mouth Peter, would fall through the sieve. For Peter, surely this was his evil day.

"Now here is Paul's final point as to why you and I must be empowered in the Lord. It is that you and I will be able to stand in the evil day. Do we say, "I will not fail the Lord? Though all forsake him I will not?" Do we think we stand? Then let us take heed lest we fall. Do we realize how vulnerable we are to Satan's wiles? Then surely we will put on the whole armor of God. Oh how we need it! Oh the ruin that can come to each one of us in one brief moment of time!" end quote.

And so God has instructed us on how to wage this battle against the devil and no better passage could be found on this than Ephesians 6:10-20.

Well, my time has run out this morning so we will begin the next message by looking at the first piece of armor.

CONCL: So, let us conclude. First, how can we test questionable practices? We first check to see if it is sacred. Can it be found to be endorsed by Scripture and is the practitioner a Christian? This can begin to help us to determine whether this is OK or not. Second, does it have good solid scientific explanations. For example, certain health practices. And last, is it Satanic. And if in all of these no definite answers are found, it is doubtful and the safest thing is to treat it as dirty.

Then I mentioned that not all those who claim to have powers or special or magic abilities are actually getting their information from the devil. They are frauds. People may spend a lot of money on fortune tellers and they are actually frauds. Frauds are demonic too, but in a different way.

And last, we began to show how to be victorious over Satan. We are taking this from Ephesians 6:10-20. We are to be empowered by the Lord and then we are to stand. We looked at the first of seven points, the matter of truth. Truth, in Paul's order of things, is number one.