Dag Heward-Mills



Overcoming Demon Activity

in Your Life

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First published 2008 by Lux Verbi.BM (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 5, Wellington 7654, South Africa
Tel +27 21 864 8200
www.luxverbi-bm.com
Reg no 1953/000037/07
1st Printing 2008

ISBN 13: 978-0-7963-0909-9

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Chapter 1

Demon Activity Exists Side by Side with Worshipping Christians

…when he saw Jesus…he…worshipped him,

Mark 5:6

The madman of Gadara ran to Jesus and worshipped Him. A few minutes later, this mad man was resisting his deliverance. This is a mystery, which must be understood. It seems that it is possible for demons to invade a godly man and be compatible.

I asked myself, "How can these two extreme forces be compatible? How can a man with a legion of demons worship God?" The man with a legion of demons was a worshipper of Christ Jesus. "How can a man who runs to Jesus be full of demons?"

Today, how many Christians run to worship the Lord? They come strolling into church saying in their minds, "You are lucky I came to church today!" But not so with the madman of Gadara; he ran to Jesus! This phenomenon explains how many Christians come to church every Sunday and yet have evil spirits influencing them at home and at work.

A Worshipper with Demons

The man in the synagogue was another worshipper who had a demon. The demon was exposed as the preaching came forth.

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us

alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

Mark 1:23-24

As you can see, churchgoers and worshippers may have evil spirits in them.

Satan and the Apostle

The Apostle Peter was moved by the Holy Spirit to say that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. However, a few minutes later, Satan was rebuked in his life.

In a surprising and stunning turn, gentle Jesus turned into a Jesus of steel and said, " Satan get thee behind me."

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, BLESSED ART THOU, SIMON BAR-JONA: FOR FLESH AND BLOOD HATH NOT REVEALED IT UNTO THEE, but my Father which is in heaven.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

But he turned, and SAID UNTO PETER, GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Matthew 16:16-17,22-23

Samson is another example of someone who had the Spirit of God moving in him.

And the woman bare a son, and CALLED HIS NAME SAMSON: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD BEGAN TO MOVE HIM...

Judges 13:24-25

Unfortunately, this did not stop the spirit of fornication from operating in his ministry. This phenomenon explains how some ministers seem to be very anointed and also troubled by evil spirits. Some prophets have amazing gifts and yet are subject to the influence of evil spirits.

Chapter 2

Demons Operate from a Spiritual Distance and Not a Physical Distance

The confusion over the apparent compatibility of the Holy Spirit and the forces of darkness can be explained by this principle.

When something is physically close it does not mean that it is spiritually close by. In other words, one thousand miles of distance in the natural does not mean one thousand miles in the spirit. Something may be next door in the natural but thousands of spiritual miles away.

This is why someone can be close to a spiritual person but not be affected by the anointing on his life. He is physically close but spiritually far away!

Someone else may be thousands of miles away and receive a greater blessing than someone nearby.

Jesus said, "A prophet is not accepted in his own home." This means that the gifts of the prophets are unable to spiritually affect people who are nearby. The prophet's gift and anointing seems to work on people who are physically further from him.

Somehow, familiarity increases the spiritual distance between the anointed and the one who has to receive the anointing.

And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house

Matthew 13:57

I find that the anointing of the Lord flows more easily from my life into the lives of people who are further away from me physically. *Many who are near in the natural are far in the spirit.* This proves the theory that spiritual distance and natural distance are different things.

Spiritual Distance

There is something like distance within the realm of the spirit. Jesus once said to a man who came to Him, "You are not far from the Kingdom."

And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, THOU ART NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD...

Mark 12:34

This saying proves that you can be far or near to the Kingdom. Other Scriptures speak of drawing near to God. Drawing near to God is not a physical thing. God is a spirit, and cannot be approached by any physical or natural

manoeuvre. Sitting next to the man of God does not make you near to him spiritually. In fact, someone sitting six thousand miles away may be closer than you sitting at his feet.

Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Psalm 65:4

This Scripture speaks of the blessing of a man who is allowed to approach God. God chooses those He will allow to come near. Some people are nearer to God than others! We may all be physically located in New York City, but God's close friends and servants may be only five spiritual metres away from the presence of God. Whereas another Christian, also in New York City may be five thousand miles from the presence of God.

Being physically near to a shrine or a witch's house does not mean you are near to these evil things in the spirit.

You are spiritually far from them unless you open yourself up to them. Give no place to the devil!

The same person can be filled with the spirit of God and within a few minutes be controlled by evil spirits. This happens because within a few minutes, this same person may move very far spiritually although he is physically in the same position. This is what happened to Peter and it explains how Jesus called him "the rock" and a few minutes later called him "Satan".

Chapter 3

Demons Seek to Influence Human Beings by Thoughts, Imaginations and Suggestions

Casting down IMAGINATIONS, and every …THOUGHT…

2 Corinthians 10:5

Satan's entry into our lives is through the power of suggestion. When Jesus was attacked by Satan in the wilderness, He had to defend Himself against clever suggestions.

The suggestions of demons come in three categories. You must be aware of these three categories of satanic attacks that come to all of us.

Type 1 Suggestion: The suggestion to yield to fleshly desires.

And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it BE MADE BREAD.

Luke 4:3

We are constantly urged by the voice of Satan to succumb to our flesh. Jesus was hungry after forty days of fasting. The devil urged Him to follow His flesh. The voice that urges you to sleep on, to break your fast and to do immoral things is the voice of Satan.

Do not be deceived; this is the first and basic entry point of demons into your life.

Type 2 Suggestion: The suggestion to worship and serve something other than God.

This is also a suggestion to choose the quick and easy route to your goal.

And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Luke 4:6-7

Countless Christians are urged to live for money and other earthly achievements. It is the voice of no other than Satan which urges you to spend your life, your time, your energy and your money on everything but God's work.

Satan will not mind if you spend your money on politics, football, clothes etc. Some people think that what I am saying is too strong. But Satan hides in the darkness and uses Christians and righteous looking people to do his work.

Do you remember when Peter said to Jesus, "You will not die on this terrible cross; we will do everything to prevent you from having such an unpleasant experience?" That was the first and only time Jesus rebuked him publicly. Unfortunately, decent Peter had been used by Satan to suggest the need for self-preservation. Jesus showed us that men's craving for self-preservation is of the devil.

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

But he turned, and SAID UNTO PETER, GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN: thou art an offence unto me: FOR THOU SAVOUREST NOT THE THINGS THAT BE OF GOD, BUT THOSE THAT BE OF MEN.

Matthew 16:21-23

The things that men value are often things that are not of God. Please take note of this for your personal life.

Perhaps men are urging you to do certain things but God is urging you to die for Him. We must have the character of Christ. We must take up our crosses and follow Jesus to Calvary. We must embrace the plan of God and not follow the deceptions of Satan.

Die Like a Lamb or Die Like a Pig?

Christ died with the calmness of a lamb. He embraced the will of God with peace. Most Christians die for the Lord like pigs - with a lot of squealing and reluctance. Have you ever seen a pig being slaughtered?

We reluctantly embrace the will of God with a lot of squealing, screaming and resistance. Receive the lamb-like nature of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Type 3 Suggestion: The suggestion to misuse the gifts and blessings of God.

And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

Luke 4:9-10

Jesus had the power to use the gift of God to protect Himself. Was He going to misuse this power at the suggestion of demons? Certainly not! This common category of suggestion seeks to make you misuse whatever God has placed in your hand. God has given some of us spiritual gifts, callings, money, talents, education, contacts, power and influence.

Most people with these gifts from God misuse them. Satan cleverly suggests that we use our God-given blessings on anything other than the will of God. This is why many blessed Christians do not support the work of God whole-

heartedly but they support their own lives! This also explains why many men of God deviate from the call and misuse the gift of God.

The power of suggestion seems weak and insignificant but this is the principal access route of demons.

What the devil originally brings to you as a suggestion, embeds itself in your mind, and eventually possesses your heart and spirit. This is how Satan uses the power of suggestion until you are totally destroyed.

Right and Wrong Thinking

This is why the Bible teaches exactly what we must think about. The mind is the battlefield for your soul.

When the wrong thoughts become established in your mind, you suffer from deceptions and delusions. Satan then uses these delusions to destroy you.

It is important to constantly cast down imaginations that are contrary to the will of God.

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds)

2 Corinthians 10:4

You must also control the pattern of thinking in your mind. Your thoughts must pass the Philippians 4:8 test before they are allowed to stay. Thoughts are like birds, they can fly over your head. But you can prevent them from building their nests over your head.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

Chapter 4

Demons Are Persistent

And when the devil had ended all the temptation, HE DEPARTED FROM HIM FOR A SEASON.

Luke 4:13

Satan is a very persistent being. In the temptation of Jesus, he left the Lord only for a season. Any time you are dealing with a demonic attack, you must be aware of this nature of persistence. You must counteract it with an even more persistent determination to be free.

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness to take a short cut to His ministry. Satan asked Jesus to bow down and worship him so that he would give Him the whole world.

It was a quick way to win the whole world, instead of having to suffer. Some years later, Satan came through Peter and opposed the idea of suffering on the cross.

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Matthew 16:21-22

Once again, Jesus had to rebuke Satan. Even later, Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "Do you not know that I have the ability to set you free?"

Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

John 19:10

This was another suggestion that Jesus could avoid the cross. Even while Christ was on the cross, men wagged their heads and suggested that He came down from the cross to prove that He is the Son of God.

Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

Mark 15:31-32

Satan never gave up until Jesus died. Satan will never give up until you and I are dead. You may be seventy years old but he may still try to deceive you. We are dealing with a persistent enemy.

God has given us the tenacity of a mountain goat, the eye of an eagle, the heart of a lion, the endurance of a camel, the strength of a horse and the steadfastness of a shark! We are more than able to resist the onslaught of the devil.

Someone asked me when he would be free from the devil's attacks. I said to him, "Only when you are dead." He was shocked but that is the truth.

In my own life and ministry, I have watched as Satan has persisted in his attacks against my life. Satan has been relentless and unyielding in his onslaught. He shamelessly returns with the same problem after a season of respite.

Sometimes he gives the problem a new look but it is the same problem repackaged and represented.

Don't let the persistent nature of problems discourage you. That is the nature of the enemy we are dealing with. Rise up with the tenacity of a mountain goat, and prevail over your enemy today.

Chapter 5

Deliverance Has a Practical Side

Howbeit Jesus…saith unto him, Go…and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee…

Mark 5:19

After the Lord has set you free, you need to make practical adjustments, otherwise the demons will return. You need to obey the Word of God practically.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first…

Matthew 12:45

Notice from the Scripture that the house was empty, swept and clean. A house, which is not filled with the Word of God, will be filled with demons.

I have watched as many go for deliverance sessions and yet never seem to be free. This is because we are ignoring a most basic truth from the Lord.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

It is the knowledge of the truth that actually sets us free. Many pastors attempt to use the laying on of hands to accomplish what only the truth can do. However, none of us is wiser than God. We may anoint people with oil a thousand times but that cannot be substituted for the knowledge of truth.

Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:27

Demons cannot have access to Christians unless we give them a foothold. Demons keep returning because they still have access. Often, the foothold of the devil is not removed and so the demons keep returning.

What is there in your life that allows the devil to keep returning? Perhaps bad company is ruining your life. Perhaps, the alcohol you take in is opening the door to the spirit of death.

Without some practical steps, your deliverance from demons will never be complete. Jesus told the madman of Gadara to go around witnessing about what the Lord had done for him. The continued deliverance of this madman lay in his obedience to this command.

What has the Lord asked you to do? Obeying this command will keep you free from demons.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

One night, whilst studying as a medical student in a remote town of Ghana, God miraculously anointed Dag Heward-Mills as he waited on the Lord. He was supernaturally anointed and heard the words, "From now on you can teach…" This supernatural call is what has ushered him into a worldwide ministry.

Today, his Healing Jesus Crusades are conducted throughout the world with thousands in attendance and many accompanying miracles. These phenomenal miracles, attested to by medical doctors, have included the opening of the eyes of the blind, the restoring of hearing to the deaf, the emptying of wheelchairs and even the raising of the dead.

Dag Heward-Mills, an author of several best-selling books, also founded the Lighthouse Chapel International, which has become a worldwide denomination. His radio, TV and internet programs reach millions around the world. Other outreaches include pastors and ministers conferences and the renowned Anagkazo Bible and Ministry Training Centre.

Other Best-Selling Books by Dag Heward-Mills:

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ISBN: 0-7963-0909-9

