

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 5:8-11  
Lesson #57  
Deliverance ministry  
09/30/2018



## True or false

*"The devil made me do it."*

*"When in doubt, cast it out."*

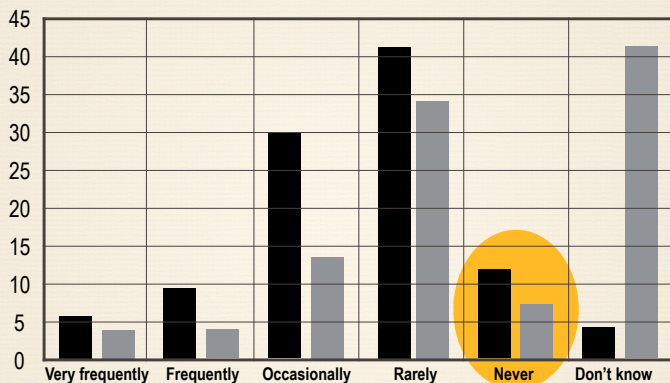
*"Satan wants to rob me of my dreams."*

*"Satan is a pre-modern euphemism for evil."*

*"Satan is a stealth spirit"*

1

How often if at all, do you think people are possessed by the devil?



Source: YouGov.uk 2013 opinion poll: Beliefs about the Devil and Possession.  
<https://yougov.co.uk/news/2013/09/27/18-brits-believe-possession-devil-and-half-america/>  
(last accessed 19 November 2015)

US

UK

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## Some distinctions

- **Demonic possession** - the control of a person's inner life by Satan. It is uncommon to those who possess the Spirit of Christ.
- **Demonic oppression** - the disruption of a person's life by Satan. It can be the experience of anyone.
- **Spiritual defilement** - the introduction of Satanic activity through external physical contact or lack of personal inner discipline.
- **Deliverance ministry** - the rescue of one from Satanic attack through prayer, laying on of hands, etc.

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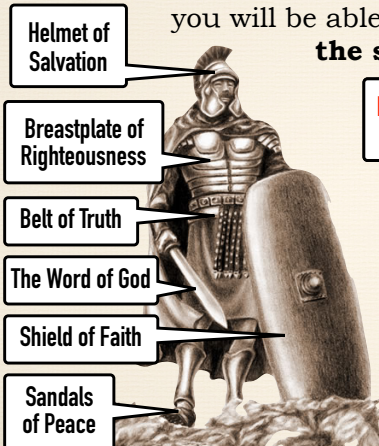
## Exorcism

- **Described in Matt., Mk., Lk., & Acts** - but not taught by the Apostles to the church.
- **Roman Catholics** - have the richest heritage and experience in exorcism.
- **Be careful** - because much of what we hear can lead to an unbalanced emphasis being antidotal and subjective.
- **The best guide for our understanding** starts with the Apostles' teaching to the church, which does not make an issue of exorcism.

4

*Ephesians 6:11*

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**"



**Prayer for deliverance from Satanic oppression?**

*Matthew 6:18*

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times **in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the **alert** with all **perseverance** and petition for all the saints." 5

5



"19 and pray on my behalf, that **utterance may be given** to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known **with boldness** the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may **speak boldly**, as I ought to speak."

### Note what is NOT mentioned

- Demons - **oppression & possession.**
- Defilement - **contamination.**
- Deliverance - **exorcism.**



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**Paul refers to Satan often in his teaching.**

**What is Paul's understanding of Satanic activity and how believers should respond?**

**Job may help us understand Paul's teaching in Eph.6:18-21**



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## The wisdom of JOB

### A study in Satanic oppression

- **The test of Job** - Will he trust God if all the temporal perks are removed and the only thing he has is God.
- **Satan's power** controls Job's material world (1:7) but not Job's spiritual responses "do not put forth your hand on him" (1:12).

8

"How many people would come to a church service where the only attraction was God - not the music, the sermon, creature comforts, friends, etc.?"



A.W Tozer

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- **Satan's power** controls Job's material world (1:7) but not Job's spiritual responses "do not put forth your hand on him" (1:12).
- **Satan removes** 1. all material benefits, 2. physical health, 3. all social support.

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## What might demonic oppression consist of?

- **Disruption** of normal life - especially as it is related to displaying the image of God.
- **Personal physical** hindrance, illness, loss, depression, and impairment.
- **Circumstantial** blocks, persecution, insults, & obstacles to following God.

**Job looks like a poster boy for deliverance ministry.**

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## Paul's personal experience with demonic oppression.

2 Corinthians 12

"7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there **was given me** a thorn in the flesh, **a messenger of Satan to buffet me** - to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this **I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in **weakness.**"

12

**Could this be demonic affliction?**

"a messenger (**angel / demon**) of Satan to buffet me"

**Did not Paul pray in faith?**

"I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me."

**Could the thorn be limited to persecution?**

2 Corinthians 12:10

"Therefore I am well content with **weaknesses**, with **insults**, with **distresses**, with **persecutions**, with **difficulties**, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

**But**

**Nowhere else do the Apostles try to pray away persecution but rather welcome it as an opportunity to share Christ's suffering.**

13

**Paul's thorn may have included an eyesight problem.**

Galatians 4

"<sup>13</sup> but you know that it was because of a **bodily illness** that I preached the gospel to you the first time; <sup>14</sup> and that which was a trial to you in **my bodily condition** you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself. <sup>15</sup> Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness, that if possible, you would have **plucked out your eyes and given them to me.**"

**As with Job it probably included a cocktail of "weaknesses" - hindrances conditions, etc.**

14

- Job bends **but does not break.**
- God challenges **Job's perspective.**

Job 38

"3 Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct Me! 4 **Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?** Tell Me, if you have understanding, 5 **who set its measurements?**"

- In the end **Job repents.**

Job 42

"5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; 6 therefore **I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.**"

15

- **Job's fortune is restored** twofold in the end?

Parallel experiences

JOB	PAUL
Special position	Special position
Loss of blessing	thorn in the flesh
Confused	Confused
New perspective	New perspective
Rewarded	Rewarded

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Deliverance is not always **FROM** but most often **THROUGH** afflictions.

1 Corinthians 15:19

"If we have hoped in Christ **in this life only**, we are of all men most to be pitied."

Philippians 3

"7 But **whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss** for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things**, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,"

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### 1 Corinthians 4

“9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles **last** of all, as men **condemned to death**; because we have become a **spectacle** to the world, both to angels and to men. 10 We are **fools** for Christ’s sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are **weak**, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are **without honor**. 11 To this present hour we are both **hungry and thirsty**, and are **poorly clothed**, and are **roughly treated**, and are **homeless**; 12 and we **toil**, working with our own hands; when we are **reviled**, we bless; when we are **persecuted**, we endure; 13 when we are **slandered**, we try to conciliate; we have become as the **scum of the world**, the **dregs** of all things, even until now.”

18

### The inner man can prosper while the outer man decays.

#### 2 Corinthians 4

“7 But we have this treasure in **earthen vessels**, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are **afflicted** in every way, but not **crushed**; **perplexed**, but not despairing; 9 **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the **dying** of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being **delivered over to death** for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death works in us, but life in you. . . . 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our **outer man is decaying**, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, **light affliction** is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we **look not at the things which are seen**, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are **temporal**, but the things which are not seen are **eternal**.”

19

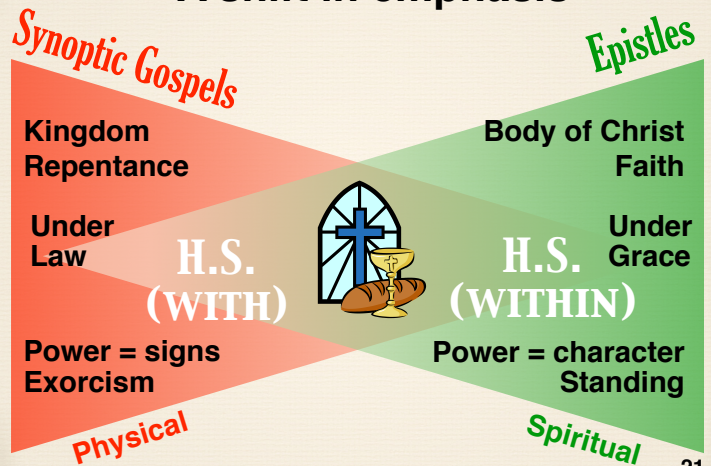
### What does this lesson suggest?

- **Spiritual warfare** may be less dramatic than we are led to believe.
- **Our need** may be perseverance and courage through hard times rather than escape from them.
- **Deliverance** may center on “sit, walk, stand” rather than “cast it out”.

**Look at the Apostles as examples.**  
**Signs and Miracles go together.**

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### A shift in emphasis



### The Biblical narrative moves from exorcism to standing against.

#### 1 Peter 5

“8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **Resist him, standing firm in the faith**, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself **restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast**.”

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