

## CHAPTER 6

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### ***Be Gone In The Name Of Jesus***

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#### **Does The Name “Jesus” Magically Remove A Demon?**

In Yeshua’s world, there were always religious men and healers who went about gathering disciples and sharing a message of encouragement and hope. Jesus wasn’t the only popular preacher who travelled the area. We see mention of these self-styled religious teachers in Mark chapter 9;

*Mark 9:38-40*

*38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.*

*39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.*

*40 For he that is not against us is on our part.*

*See commentary on Luke 9:49-50 for more on this story.*

Many of these men would not and did not recognize Yeshua and they certainly did not see the need to walk in accord with the Messiah. If in fact Jesus was the Messiah, then He properly expounded on the Torah. These men who John saw as not following their group were likely not expressing their faith the same way the Disciples were, yet they still shared truths that were from the Scriptures. So what could be meant by the charge that they were “casting out devils?”

To cast out devils was known to mean more than one thing. In this situation we see where the phrase is referring to one who is dispelling false doctrines and teaching. To dispel a false doctrine is the meaning of *“we saw one casting out devils in your name.”* If anyone can cast out a cosmic demon by simply using the Messiah’s name then there is no faith involved and all we have is a magical incantation. An “abracadabra” situation if you will. In fact, in Kabbalistic lore we find the connection to the magic term, “abracadabra”. This term originated from the belief there are special words with mystical power that can be spoken in certain situations to alter the present reality. Interestingly, the Hebrew word “abracadabra” literally means, *“He has created as he has spoken” – manifestation according to the power of words.*<sup>24</sup> The use of power words and magical names has been a common theme in many ages.

Before the story mentioned above, we find Jesus had just rebuked the generation He lived in for being of little faith. Hence, the reason the seizing child could not be healed. Next we are told there is a man who is using the name of Yeshua as his source of authority to eradicate some type of spiritual entity, yet the disciples tell us that this guy is not following Yeshua. Some would try to understand this occurrence with a reference to demonology. Believing the “demons” have no choice but to submit when the name of “Jesus” is spoken in a command for the “demons” to leave. If this were true and “demons” are real, then that would be a winning formula to set people free from all manner of affliction throughout the whole world. Anytime and any place a demon is present the magical name of Jesus simply need be invoked to banish said demon from sight. This however must not be the case because the name of Jesus has been invoked in countless instances and arenas without any change to the person or situation it is respectively invoked upon. I have certainly been guilty of attempting to invoke the magically powerful name of

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<sup>24</sup> The Kabbalah of Concious creation;  
<http://kabbalahofconsciouscreation.wordpress.com/tag/abracadabra/>

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Jesus in numerous instances myself. But in reality, repeating the name “Jesus” does nothing.

## **Using A Magical Name To Bust Demons**

In the days of my hyper-charismatic demon-busting life, I thought the verses that mention casting out demons in Jesus name meant a demon must flee when the name “Jesus” is mentioned. As a leader in a large church for a number of years, I employed the practice of pronouncing the name of “Jesus” in many situations to remove spirit demons from people, places, and objects. Let me share a story about my demon-busting while I was part of a popular mainstream outreach ministry called “Power to Change.”

Part of my role was to deliver instruction on how a believer could effectively share his or her faith with people. I had the charge to share this message with groups around Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I recall, with a little embarrassment knowing what I know now, how demon focused my journeys were in that stage of my life. When I picked up the rental car to head out on the highway, I would command all demonic spirits that had attached themselves to the car to leave in “Jesus” name. Obviously, I believed in Satan at the time and was certain his demons would attach themselves to animate or inanimate objects in order to cause grief for believers.

At the command to leave in Jesus’ name, I would believe they left. It was a short demonic warfare session but of course I couldn’t see or hear demons but I “knew” they were there because demons were everywhere and wanted to stop me from spreading what I thought was the good news. Oh you may laugh, but it all was very real to me. In those days, I learned that demonic spirits could attach themselves to anything or anyone and begin scheming to thwart the plan of God by messing with His faithful servants. I see now that the experiences I had often affirmed my belief. This was largely due to how strongly I believed something. For instance, while traveling through the province to get to a

“Power to Change” meeting, a skunk crossed my path on the highway. This harmless but likely very smelly skunk could have caused me to get in an accident. Thinking demons were interested in thwarting God’s plans for me to go teach in His name, I instantly attributed the skunk’s mindless act to a demonic attack. This adversarial encounter led me right into believing Satan was after me, but luckily, in this instance he had just missed me. After such an encounter, I proceeded to pronounce the name of Jesus over the remainder of my journey. Because of course, this magical name was not enough to cover my whole trip when I had called on the “powerful name of Jesus” at the outset, so I had to incorporate the formula of repeating the prayer regularly along the way.

Then there was the hotel room. Surely the hotel room had demons inhabiting it. This was always a biggy because so many people with seedy lifestyles and fetishes would have used that hotel room. Surely unspeakable debauchery would have occurred in that room before I had booked it for use. Debauchery was the work of demonic influence and of course, I had come to believe that various demons might have remained in that room to try to attach themselves to the next tenant when he or she arrived. My response was textbook Pentecostal charismatica. It was the formulaic response I learned from some “spiritual warfare” aficionado who learned it from another and so on. The defense against demons went like this.

## **The Formula To Cleanse A Hotel Room Of Demons**

I was to take my little vial of olive oil, which had been imbued with divine power through praying over it, and daub the doorposts and bed. This was done while adding the name of Jesus to each sentence about cleansing the room and covering it in His blood for protection. The thinking was, and is for many, that “Holy Oil” used in conjunction with the name of Jesus is a powerful tool in the arsenal of the righteous. This combination proves to be almost as effective against demonic assault and

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inhabitation as would be the literal blood of Jesus. So in spotting the room with holy olive oil, (sorry for the extra cleaning work I made for the maid) I was eradicating powerful demons from remaining in my presence. While daubing oil a prayer might go something like this;

*In the name of Jesus, I command all demons of anger, murder and lust to leave this room immediately. I command, in the Mighty Name of Jesus, every foul spirt to be gone and not return. I plead the blood of Jesus over this entire room, hotel, and my family back home. In Jesus name, Amen.*

Today I see very differently and am certain my hyper-charismatic spiritual warfare was foolishness born out of self-deception and looking to find a place of purpose. I could go on, but the point is, there are many who think using the name of “Jesus” or “Yeshua” in some charismatic Messianic circles, is a type of incantation that will dispel any evil force any time. This is no longer true in my view of “satan” and “demons.”

### **Why Isn't Satan Kept From His Dirty Work If Prayers Are Invoked to Bind Him?**

With all the spiritual warfare in the world that goes on to bind Satan, why is he still roaming freely? Prayer warriors are continually binding “Satan” and casting out “demons” in the name of “Jesus”, so shouldn't we expect this so called “Satan” has been rendered impotent? The activities that are attributed to Satan are unaffected by the incantations of the Prayer warriors, yet the demon binding and use of the name of Jesus continues to ring throughout the world as a war cry intending to render any satanic force inoperative. This being the case it seems that one of three things is going on here.

- Either those who have come to believe they are battling the forces of wickedness are saying the magic name wrong;

- Or the magic name of Jesus has no power because if it did the demon fighting that is going on around the world 24/7 to bind Satan would in fact bind Satan;
- Or there are no demons to bind and prayer can't stop the unsubmitive heart of humans.

Just imagine for a moment that those who are “spiritual” have been praying in “Jesus” name to bind the forces of wickedness. This cry is going up continually throughout the world and this cosmic force of evil persists to have an effect on the world, at least in the mind of the demonological thinker. Obviously, the idea of casting out “devils” is something else, otherwise we would see a significant reduction in supposed demonic activity throughout the world. As we are told in the Apostolic Testimony, “wicked men shall wax worse and worse.” Because it is man who is the true force of wickedness, and man has been given the privilege to choose his path, all the binding and use of “Yeshua’s” name is not going to stop a man from using his own will. Only a man humbling his heart before the Creator can put an end to wickedness.

The disciples who spoke of other men casting out devils in Jesus’ name were not reporting men were invoking the name of Yeshua to remove some type of supernatural demonic spirit being from their subject. The disciples saw much of what is going on today with Christianity and popular New Age religions. These religious groups are claiming they are teaching truth in the name of the Messiah, yet they don’t follow the Messiah. They keep man made commands instead of the commands Yeshua taught and kept. They claim to have the answer to lead people to eternal life yet they have designed a religion that is about God or Jesus, yet is not the religion of God or Jesus. Do the New Agers teach some truths that are able to dispel lies and wrong teachings? Yes. Does Judaism teach truth in many areas yet deny that Yeshua is Messiah? Yes! What about Christianity, does it profess some truths like forgiveness and to take care of the poor and needy, or to not steal and to not commit adultery? Yes! These groups may

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be similar to who the disciples saw teaching truths in the name of Yeshua. There were men who indeed were able to expound on the philosophical and moral principles that were able to bring the light of a truth unto a person who “had a devil.” Yet they were not followers of Yeshua in the way that Yeshua was asking His followers to walk. If you are not loving your wife and I tell you to love your wife, in Jesus’ name, then according to John I am casting out a devil. Also according to John I ought to be living my life and practicing my faith the way the disciples of Yeshua are. As John put;

*We saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us.*

These men did claim they were bringing Yeshua’s message and claimed to be of the faith Yeshua was but they had not become followers in the true sense of the word. Providing truth to those who they were ministering to was occurring and therefore false teachings were being cast out or removed, therefore Yeshua was able to allow this type of ministry to exist. If you look through many New Age books today, you will find numerous references to God and quotes of “Jesus” yet typically these books are from writers who do not show their faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When they teach such rudimentary concepts as love, integrity, forgiveness, faithfulness to family and marriage partners, they are delivering teachings that will “cast out devils.” Thousands of seekers have become better people who are displaying behaviors and attitudes that are honoring to the Creator, and that is a good thing. The disciples were not asking Yeshua to define where these teachers would spend eternity. They just wanted to know if He approved of the things they taught in His name. In essence, Yeshua told the disciples that if a guy teaching truth is not against us then let him teach that truth.

If a person teaches a truth that removes a false teaching or thought, then let them teach it because all truth is Yahweh’s anyway and we should receive truth no matter where it comes

from. For our part though, we would do well to follow Messiah fully and cast out the devils of false teaching and erroneous thinking which is not from God.

Whether the “devils,” which were cast out is referring to false teachings and ideas, or to adverse health conditions, matters little in this instance. The overriding message in this, is that if there really is a healing or there really is some truth taught, it is somewhat of a miracle and Yeshua is OK with it. He seems to be ok because the recipient is the one benefiting and the God of the Universe doesn't care how we get our truth or healing, just as long as He gets the credit for it. The non-followers of Yeshua doing the teaching were still crediting their casting out of devils to the right God, the people who received stood to benefit, and the teacher would be inconsequential to the whole thing. Yahweh got the glory and Messiah was credited as the one who brought the truth anyway.

I suppose the long and short of it is this; God will deal with the individual and if he or she is not truly following Yeshua then he will get what is coming to him. In the meantime, the message of truth advances and Yeshua sees the seeker learn and apply truth in spite of the motive of the messenger. I know of many believers who sat under the teaching of an adulterating leader in a religious institution yet in spite of that fact they still grew as followers of Messiah when they heard and applied truth, regardless of the lack of integrity and purity of their pastor. **Don't reject the message because the messenger isn't right with God. You deal with the truth and let God deal with the messenger.**



# CHAPTER 7

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## ***Devils Are False Beliefs And Incorrect Teachings***

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**Matthew 7:22**

**Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

If we understand this verse from the charismatic perspective of demon-busting sects of Christianity, we are inclined to believe this verse is about something it is not. We are led by a charismatic bias to think the passage is talking about a future group of people who think they are on God's side but are actually deceived. The theory claims that there is a group of people who claim to be followers of Messiah and even though they are not, they have expelled spiritual entities from people who are possessed by demons. **The basis of this thinking comes from a Gnostic concept that the use of the name of Jesus carries mystical power.** If we are to use logic and accept the truth that there is no magical power in the name "Jesus" to eradicate a disease or a spiritual entity from a person, then we may be able to look at this verse more objectively. Let me tell you about a time I was challenged by an old friend on some beliefs I had. This challenge was aimed at beliefs I adhered to while I was part of the Christian church. When questioned about the inconsistency and validity of certain beliefs I adhered to I had

to honestly assess my beliefs. This honest assessment opened me up to a more correct belief that came into line with the Scriptures. When I had fully been freed of the false belief, or seen the light and recognized that I had a false belief --- I could then continue my faith journey released of the power this false belief had on me. Having a false belief exposed so it cannot remain in my belief system was liberating. The false belief was my demon and therefore, the eradication of a lie and the introduction of the truth was the process of having a “demon” cast out of me.

## **So What Does This Have To Do With Casting Out Demons?**

I now see it is proper to claim this friend had cast out a demon or many demons from me by sharing truth with me that removed a lie from its place in my mind, will, and emotions.

My false belief was a “demon” in every sense of the term as understood by a Hebrew person in a Greek culture during the first century. The devils which were being cast out by those claiming Yeshua as their Lord are the false and heretical, religious teachings and beliefs that have been propagated and accepted by many. Many who themselves were often taught incorrectly or had failed to learn the way of truth more correctly for one reason or another. The verse that follows tells us that Yeshua will claim He never knew these false teachers;

*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:23*

One who was never known by Yeshua certainly would not be able to simply use the magic word “Jesus” and have the power to cast out a supernatural devil inhabiting an individual. On the other hand, if the demon is simply a false belief, it is possible that one might share truth that comes from the Scriptures yet doesn’t know Yeshua. If the demonic inhabitation of an individual was rectified simply by the application of the name of Yeshua in a

mystical sense, to overpower “demons”, then the fruit of this practice should be readily observable today?

## **Can We Just Use The Name “Jesus” And See A Devil Leave A Person?**

The demons that are being cast out are not so much supernatural as they are errors in theology and sinful behaviors. These errors and behaviours are part of the lives of those who are subject to these ministers. Ministers who think they know Yeshua. There are many religious teachers who claim to follow Messiah but are involved in a man-made religious system that has some resemblance to the Faith of the Messiah. These men and women are telling people about biblical things such as to not commit adultery and to not murder, steal, covet, or dishonor their parents. In so doing, they are casting out “devils” from those who had been doing the opposite in some way. The subject who thinks it is okay to mistreat his wife or steal from his employer could be said to “have a devil.” Many teachers who have shared truth from the Scriptures, and have subsequently impacted the hearer in such a way that their life changes and they are released from believing a lie and living that lie, are “casting out demons.” According to what a demon is in a first century context as found in the New Testament, the person who turns from a lie in their life to a truth is having a demon removed. This is a good thing for the hearer but according to Yeshua, there are many of these “name-it claim-it” teachers who are using the truth to help people yet they don’t follow Yeshua themselves.

The fact remains, that a preacher or a person may teach people not to commit adultery yet they themselves are not keeping from iniquity. They say they follow Messiah but do not keep the teaching and instruction of God. Casting out “devils” in this passage is referring to getting people to move away from the belief that keeps them in a sin and to begin to walk in agreement with God.

## Did Gandhi Cast Out Demons?

I might even go so far as to speak of the great leader Gandhi or Mohammed as spiritual men who did the work of casting out demons. When one of these men led a person to turn from doing evil, perhaps from beating a child, and inspired the ex-child beater to make things right, then in the sense of the first century Hebraic understanding of demons, they would have been spoken of as casting out the demons from one who's lifestyle was changed for the better as a result of their teaching. Although the castigated subjects of Christ's words in this account did in fact cast out "devils", those subjects did not obey the Messiah and did not follow Him, therefore He said that He never knew them.

The same can be said for many of the world's great and renowned spiritual teachers we might hear of or see on the television, or perhaps glance at their spiritual books in the bookstore. These teachers and spiritual guides are indeed casting out demons because the numerous and varied spiritual advices they deliver, do allow people to get free of such things as self-abuse and greed, or perhaps insecurities which keep individuals from moving forward as a productive, contributing human being in society today. Yes the "demons", which keep them from forward progress in one realm of the human journey or another, are being cast out by these spiritual leaders. Yet the reason why Yeshua, the God of the Universe, would say to any one of them, "*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*", is because they failed to honor Him out of properly placed obedience, love, and worship, which is required by one who says they know God. Jesus was in agreement with 1 John, which tells us that if you or I say we know God and we don't keep His commands then we are seen as a liar and the truth is not in us.

Is there any logical reason that this God of the Universe would align Himself with the liar? Or does it seem more likely that He will do as is stated elsewhere in the Apostolic Testimony, and

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cast them from His presence? The work of these people in teaching others to turn from sinful ways is not referring to a mystical power garnered through the use of the name “Jesus” to eliminate a cosmic spirit being that is allegedly inhabiting a person’s spirit. The work of these people in teaching others to turn from sinful ways and beliefs is what is referred to when speaking of casting out demons in Yeshua’s name. The demons are the false beliefs, the sinful ways, and the pagan practices that are performed by those not yet submitting to the ways of God. Accepting that “demons” are supernatural cosmic beings is to accept nothing but a human manufactured lie. When those who claim they did all kinds of teaching in the name of “Jesus” and have led all manner of people out of their sin to more righteous living, declare these facts to Jesus, He is in essence going to reply, *He never knew them because they didn’t keep His commands.* He is not going to say to that person that they didn’t teach people to try to live righteous lives, rather as the Scripture teaches, they are guilty of practicing iniquity. To cast out someone’s demon in this instance is to remove a false belief and replace it with the truth. This particular account of “demons being cast out” is perhaps better put in these words;

### ***Matthew 7:22-23 Paraphrase***

In the Day of Judgment many will be calling out, perhaps in their heart or perhaps with their voice, saying; Hey! We told about the future which is found in the Scripture and we spoke God’s message (**prophesied**), we led many people away from choosing to sin in various ways (**cast out devils**); and from pagan beliefs (**cast out devils**); we did a lot of great things in your name. Things like give money to the poor and build churches and go on missionary trips and help sick people (**many wonderful works**). We did all of these things in your name. And Yeshua will tell them to depart from Him because they did not keep His Torah (practiced

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iniquity) and therefore He never became intimately close with them as they were claiming.