Freedom from Demonic Strongholds

Before we get started talking about the third kind of stronghold, demonic strongholds, I want to give a few cautions or warnings.

1. Non-Biblical superstition is harmful, even when it sounds Christian, maybe ESPECIALLY when it sounds Christian. Reject it wherever you find it.

2. It is unhealthy to become too interested in this topic, beyond what is useful and beyond what scripture reveals. There is no evidence in the Bible of anyone having a “deliverance ministry”, a ministry that is focused on searching out and casting our demons. Deliverance, in the Bible, always takes place in the context of a larger ministry that is focused on Jesus.

 **Luke 10:17-20**. 3. If you are a Christian you do not need to be afraid of angels or demons or worried about what they do. Every story in the New Testament that deals with demonic activity demonstrates the absolute authority that Jesus (and His disciples) has over all things, including demons. If Christ is in you, His authority resides in you and you have nothing to fear.

# Demons are fallen angels, so let’s talk first about who angels are.

 ***Isaiah 14:12-17***

##  Demons are fallen angels. Angels are created beings, they are not eternal, that is, angels have not always existed. God, who is eternal, made them. Wayne Grudem says, “Angels are created spiritual beings with moral judgement and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.”

1. They are created beings; they have not always existed

a. ***Nehemiah 9:6***

b. ***Psalms 148:2-5***

 c. ***Colossians 1:16-17***

2. They have moral judgement. Some of them sinned and fell from their positions in heaven.

 a. ***2 Peter 2:4***

 b. ***Jude 1:6***

3. They have high intelligence. They are not mindless robots, as seen in their interactions with people.

 a. ***Matthew 28:5-7***

b. ***Acts 12:6-11***

4. They are spiritual beings, without physical bodies (most of the time*)* ***Luke 24:39***

 But God can give us a special, momentary ability to see them*..*

*a)* ***Numbers 22:31***

*b)*  ***2 Kings 6:17***

 ***c) Luke 2:13-14***

5.In their normal activities, angels are invisible, but there are examples of them taking on human form and appearing to people, usually to deliver a message.

*a)* ***Matthew 28:1-7***

 *b)* ***Hebrews 13:2***

6. Angels have great power. They are far more powerful than human beings.

 a. ***Psalms 103:20***

b. ***2 Peter 2:11***

 ***Matt 28:2 above***

c. ***Hebrews 2:7***

Yet, when Jesus returns we will be lifted to a position greater than the angels. And now, believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who is God and is all-powerful.

7.. Angels worship God, execute parts of His plan, and deliver important messages to people. They comfort and protect people at the command of God, and they serve as examples to us of the kind of obedience and humility we should have.

8. So, God created two groups of intelligent creatures with moral agency: humans and angels. Angels are more powerful, but humans are made in God’s image. Both humans and angels rebelled against God. God chose not to redeem any of the angels, but He chose to redeem some of the humans. This puts the undeserved mercy of God towards us in perspective!

**We do not worship angels or pray to them. There is one God Who we worship. We have one mediator, Jesus. Your faith should not be in angels but in God. Some people who may mean well get overly infatuated with the idea of angels and it becomes idolatry to them. Don’t be one of them!**

# “Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in t he world.” – Wayne Grudem

## Something happened between Genesis 1 when everything was created, and Genesis 3 where we find Lucifer tempting Adam and Eve to sin. We are only given some clues in the Bible, not the complete story.

### ***2 Peter 2:4***

**2.  *Jude 1:6***

**3. *Isaiah 14:12-17***

## These scriptures show us that some angels sinned against God, and they were cast out of heaven. They have been permanently removed from the glory of the presence of God. Hell was made for their judgement. It is not a place where Satan and his angels’ rule. It is a place where they are under the eternal wrath of God. The Jude verses also indicate that their sin was pride—they were unwilling to stay in their assigned and proper place of submission to God. They have now become God’s enemies, actively working against Him and His will. They will ultimately be judged by God, along with all those humans that refused the redemption of Christ. This eternal outcome is already assured.

### Satan is the head of the fallen angels. In rank, he was somewhere in the rank of archangels like Michael and Gabriel before he fell, so he is very powerful. **But Satan is not equal with God. There is no equal battle between good and evil going on today, no battle between God and Satan, where it is a toss-up whether good or evil will win. God is absolutely in charge and there is no contest. Satan will be cast into hell when Jesus is ready**

 2. The belief that God and Satan are equal and they are in a battle for the control of the world is absolutely false. It is a heresy called “Dualism”. Almost all of the depictions of Satan that you may have seen on tv and in movies are dualistic. It is harmful to you and to your children if you let those aspects of our culture influence your view of the supernatural.

 3. ***Colossians 2:13-15***

## Activity of Satan and the fallen angels (demons)

### Satan was the first sinner and was the first to introduce humans to the idea.

#### **John 8:43-45**

#### . **1 John 3:8**

2. Fallen angels attempt to blind people to the gospel and trick them into rebelling against God and destroying themselves.

 a) Temptation to Sin: **Genesis 3:1-6, Matthew 4:1-11**

b) Lies: **John 8:44**

c) Deception: **Revelation 12:9**

d) Murder: **Psalm 106:37, John 8:44**

e) Blindness to the gospel: **2 Corinthians 4:4**

f) Bondage: **Galatians 4:8**

3. Fallen angels will attempt to weaken, hinder, or totally destroy your witness to the world through “temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander, or any other means possible “ (W. Grudem)

 4. Fallen angels are not free agents. They are limited by the sovereign will of God. Fallen angels are not all-powerful; only God is.

 a)***Job 1:12*.**

 b) **Job 2:6**.

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## Can a Christian be demon possessed?

### This term is an inaccurate translation of the Greek word transliterated *daemonizo.* The Greek word simply means demonized or afflicted by a demon. It is inaccurate and unbiblical to use the term “demon possession” and is causes a lot of confusion.

### The inaccurate term “demon possessed” implies some kind of ownership of a person by a demon. It also implies that the possessed person is not responsible for what they do. Please stop using it! Even if some English translations still use the term it is not a good translation of the text.

 3. A Christian cannot be so dominated by a fallen angel that they lose the ability to choose right and wrong, obey God or control their actions.

 a) ***Romans 6:14***

 *b)* ***Romans 6:4-11***

4. However, there are different degrees of demonic influence on a believer. A Christian may not always “resist the devil” and can sometimes do the opposite by willfully engaging in sin without repentance, believing Satan’s lies, refusing to forgive, embracing bitterness and rage, or refusing to submit to church discipline. The demonic influence that comes along with such things can be real internal torment, and can result in a level of demonic attack that is startling.

### 5. I would caution anyone from referring to cases as “possession”. Instead, remember that the Bible assures us that when we resist the devil he will flee from us. ***James 4:4-10***