

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **HOW CAN WE TELL WHETHER A PERSON HAS A DEMON INSIDE THEM?**

*That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.*

*Matthew 8:16 (ESV)*

#### **Extreme examples of demonisation, where people get into a very bad state**

In its broadest sense the word ‘demonised’ refers *both* to situations where the demon is on the *outside*, “whispering from our shoulder” *and also* where it is on the *inside*, having a much greater level of power and influence over us. So, we can use the same word, “demonised” to refer to all cases, from the most minor to the most serious, because to some degree they are all influenced and harassed by demons.

In that sense, therefore, we are all demonized to one extent or another, even if only from the outside. That said, in practice, people only tend to use the word demonised in relation to those who have a demon on the inside. So, when we say someone is demonised or has a demon we are almost always talking about a demon on the inside, even though a demon on the outside can still cause substantial harm and disruption in a person’s life.

An extreme case of demonisation in the Bible is the way Satan enters into the antichrist (the Beast) and how demons, also known as unclean spirits, enter into the false prophet, as we see in the book of Revelation. Each of these wicked men have senior demons, or even Satan himself, actually inside them. It is also clear that in each case it is the unclean spirit which is empowering these men to perform the signs, i.e. supernatural activities, they display or engage in:

*<sup>13</sup> And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. <sup>14</sup> For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.*

*Revelation 16:13-14 (ESV)*

Another extreme case in the gospels is when Jesus cast thousands of demons out of a deranged man who was living in a graveyard. He was attacking passers-by with the aid of his supernatural demonic strength. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of the man but He permitted them, at their request, to go into a herd of pigs nearby:

*<sup>1</sup> They came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup> When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him. <sup>3</sup> He lived among the tombs; and no one was able to bind him anymore, not even with a chain, <sup>4</sup> because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces; and no one was strong enough to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; <sup>7</sup> and shouting with a loud voice, he said, “What business do You have with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!” <sup>8</sup> For He had already been saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”*

<sup>9</sup> And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." <sup>10</sup> And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the region. <sup>11</sup> Now there was a large herd of pigs feeding nearby on the mountain. <sup>12</sup> And the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us into the pigs so that we may enter them." <sup>13</sup> Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the pigs; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.

<sup>14</sup> Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the countryside. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup> And then they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had previously had the "legion"; and they became frightened. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the pigs. <sup>17</sup> And they began to beg Him to leave their region. <sup>18</sup> And as He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was begging Him that he might accompany Him. <sup>19</sup> And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." <sup>20</sup> And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

*Mark 5:1-20 (NASB)*

The 'demon' said its name was *Legion* because there were so many of them. The word 'Legion' normally means about 2000-4000 Roman soldiers. Bearing that in mind, and given that 2000 pigs were involved afterwards, it is likely that there were thousands of demons in that one man. Therefore, although perhaps only one demon was speaking through him, it was speaking on behalf of the thousands of other demons who were also in the man.

However, we must not make the mistake of assuming that this unfortunate man was a typical case. If we were misguided enough to assume that then it would lead us to a number of other wrong conclusions about ourselves and the people we deal with. Many people think that if a person has a demon inside them they will inevitably do extreme and bizarre things, such as living in tombs and attacking people.

Then, if they aren't doing such extreme things, it is assumed they cannot be demonised in that sense or "have a demon" on the inside of them. But that reasoning is wrong. The case we have just seen of the man with a legion of demons is at the extreme end of the scale, but most cases are not spectacular and tend instead to be very mundane, even when the demon is on the inside. We shall return to that point in due course but, for now, let's look at another extreme case:

<sup>37</sup> On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. <sup>38</sup> And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy, <sup>39</sup> and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. <sup>40</sup> "I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."

<sup>41</sup> And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." <sup>42</sup> While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father.

*Luke 9:37-42 (NASB)*

In this case there was only one demon but it still had a dramatic effect on the boy it was oppressing, causing him to have seizures and to scream and foam at the mouth. Therefore, this boy is another *extreme case*. Many would disagree and say this boy was doing what one would expect any demonised person to do. Therefore, if something less than this was happening, they would not call the person demonised because it is not spectacular enough.

The popular expression '*demon possessed*' is a misleading and inappropriate phrase and we should simply say '*demonised*'. That prevents a lot of confusion as it contains within it the whole range of possible levels of demonic involvement in a person's life from minor attacks from the outside all the way through to major attacks from the inside.

The key point when we look at extreme cases like these, which most of the recorded incidents Jesus dealt with tended to be, is that the *average* demonised person is *not extreme* and therefore does not manifest these dramatic symptoms even when the demon is inside them. Many demonised people do not look or sound as though they have any demon at all, or at least not to those who don't know the signs or what to look for.

That is why we need discernment to identify whether a demon is inside them or not. For the extreme cases, such as those we were looking at above, you wouldn't really need any discernment. The presence of a demon would be obvious because either supernatural power is displayed, such as breaking metal chains, or extreme symptoms are occurring.

But, ordinarily, one never sees such things. That is why it is in the lesser cases, involving ordinary people with ordinary problems, where nothing remarkable is happening, that we most need the spiritual gift of the discerning or distinguishing of spirits. In the extreme cases, common sense alone will make it obvious the person has a demon inside them.

### **When Satan himself 'entered into' Judas**

This is a very unusual case because we are told it was not just an ordinary demon that entered into Judas, but Satan himself. Let's look first at how it began and then at what happened later:

*<sup>1</sup>Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. <sup>2</sup>The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people. <sup>3</sup>And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. <sup>4</sup>And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. <sup>5</sup>They were glad and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>So he consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the crowd.*

*Luke 22:1-6 (NASB)*

*<sup>21</sup>After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup>The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. <sup>23</sup>One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, <sup>24</sup>so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. <sup>25</sup>So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup>Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." <sup>28</sup>Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.*

*<sup>29</sup>Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup>So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.*

*John 13:21-30 (ESV)*

We are told it was at the feast of Passover, just before Jesus' crucifixion, that Satan entered Judas. He did so in order to arrange the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, so as to cause His arrest and execution. However, it clearly didn't begin there because much earlier, in John chapter six, Jesus refers to Judas as being "a devil".

*<sup>70</sup>Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"*

*John 6:70 (NASB)*

Evidently, Satan, or perhaps some other demon on his behalf, had been coming and going into and out of Judas even before the final incident when Satan himself went into him to bring about the events that were needed to get Jesus arrested and crucified. Indeed, the very fact that Satan was able to enter him so easily at that point strongly suggests that a lot had been going on before which had already created the necessary 'openings' in Judas' life to enable Satan to come straight in like this.

Such a right of entry is far from being automatic. Judas would have to have behaved in such a way as to 'open the doors and windows' of his life so as to allow Satan in. But that's precisely what he had been doing, as we shall see below. Later we learn more about Judas' past misconduct involving theft from the money bag which he looked after on behalf of the apostles and Jesus. Clearly, he had been false for a very long time. Indeed, I personally believe, he had always been false, i.e. he had never been a genuine disciple at any stage:

*<sup>1</sup>Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup>Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

*<sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?" <sup>6</sup>Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.*

*John 12:1-6 (NASB)*

Next, we see the first open mention by Jesus of the fact that Judas was going to betray Him:

*<sup>20</sup>Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. <sup>21</sup>As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." <sup>22</sup>Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup>And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. <sup>24</sup>"The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup>And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself."*

*Matthew 26:20-25 (NASB)*

In the end Judas actually betrays Jesus by showing the Jewish High Priest where they could find Him at night, so they could arrest Him without a crowd being present:

*<sup>47</sup>While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. <sup>48</sup>Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him." <sup>49</sup>Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. <sup>50</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.*

*Matthew 26:47-50 (NASB)*

Then we see Judas as he is after the crucifixion, but before the resurrection. Satan has probably left him by now, having made use of Judas in the way he intended. Now Judas regrets what he has done and feels remorse. But regret and remorse are not real repentance. Had it been real, he would have gone to see the other apostles to confess his sin and to ask them to pray for him. Instead he just commits suicide by hanging himself.

That itself is evidence that a demon was still influencing Judas, or he wouldn't have done it because suicide is so contrary to our instincts for self-preservation. It strongly suggests that a demon, probably not Satan himself, who would have had bigger things to do by then, was whispering into his mind telling him there was no hope for him now and that he ought to kill himself.

*<sup>1</sup>Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; <sup>2</sup>and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor. <sup>3</sup>Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, <sup>4</sup>saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" <sup>5</sup>And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup>The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." <sup>7</sup>And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers. <sup>8</sup>For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup>Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "and they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; <sup>10</sup>and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."*

*Matthew 27:1-10 (NASB)*

It was, almost certainly, a demon that talked Judas into hanging himself. That episode illustrates how malicious they are. This was a man whom they had used to benefit themselves but they then turned on him savagely immediately afterwards to get him to end his own life and to share their terrible fate in going to a lost eternity

It is possible that by the time Judas hanged himself Satan and the demons had realised, a moment too late, that they had made a major strategic mistake in arranging to have Jesus killed. They had possibly also realised by then that He would rise again, which Jesus Himself had openly said He would do.

My feeling is the Devil's mind must have been temporarily blinded or confused when he got involved in arranging the crucifixion. He could not see at that time that he was actually helping to bring about his own downfall and the beginning of the end of his reign as 'the god of this world' and the 'ruler of the kingdom of the air'.

Whether it was Satan or a demon that induced Judas to despair and to hang himself, they possibly knew (and caused Judas to forget) that Jesus had said that within three days He was going to rise from the dead. Therefore, if Judas had not hanged himself when he did, and had stayed alive for just another day or two, he would have realised that Jesus had risen. He could then have gone to Him and repented and been forgiven. He could then have begun to genuinely believe in Jesus for the first time and could have been saved.

The demon who influenced Judas quite possibly knew all of that and was aware that to prevent Judas getting the opportunity to repent and be saved they had to get him to kill himself immediately. From their depraved perspective there was no time to lose. They therefore enticed him to take his own life, which only he could do, as they do not ordinarily have authority to kill people themselves, not unless God authorises it.

However, it may be different if a person speaks death over themselves or says “*I wish I was dead*” etc. That is a self imposed curse and demons don’t need many invitations to grab the chance to take you at your word, accept your invitation, and end your life. Therefore, never say such things and if you have said them in the past then repent now and renounce and revoke your foolish words.

Consider how twisted demons must be to do what they did to Judas. They took pleasure from sending him to Hell and the Lake of Fire for all eternity, when merely to wait for a couple of days could have enabled him to be forgiven and to make something of his life. That sad episode is worth pondering on, if only to help you to see how cruel demons are. There is nothing fair about them and no limit to what they are willing to do if permitted.

Their only boundaries are those which God imposes on them. They set none for themselves. However, even the most wicked man, serving a multiple life sentence in a prison, has many things he would not be willing to do, or not even wish to do. That is not so with a demon. They will do as much harm as they possibly can, *and enjoy every moment of it*, especially if they can get you to lose your eternal life.

Therefore, most of us need to develop a hatred of demons. It is fully justified. They are God’s bitter enemies and your enemies too and they will do anything they are allowed to do in order to destroy you and your family. They are not proper objects of pity and we should show them no mercy at all. They are utterly wicked, worse than the vilest jihadist or Nazi concentration camp guard. Therefore, we need to stop being passive and start hating them with a passion, because they fully deserve to be hated.

### **Don’t be too quick to form a conclusion about whether a person has a demon inside them**

On the issue of whether *a particular person* does or does not have a demon *inside them* we need to proceed with caution and must not leap to instant conclusions based on fragments of evidence. Neither should we insist that our opinions or our ‘diagnoses’ are correct and stick to them rigidly, without being willing to listen to people or to consider other possible explanations for strange or unusual behaviour.

Although I believe emphatically the *general proposition* that a saved Christian *can* have a demon, I am far less adamant about believing that *a particular Christian actually has* a demon. So, whilst being fully prepared to believe it possible, we should be slow to conclude that it is actually so in the case of the specific person we are dealing with.

One frequently finds that people are adamant and definite in the wrong places, by either *refusing to believe that any Christian* can have a demon OR by *insisting that this particular Christian does have one*. Both these errors cause problems. So be open minded to the possibility, or even the likelihood, that a particular Christian *could* have a demon but slow to conclude that they *actually do* have one.

I hope I am being clear about the balance that is needed here. Likewise, a sense of proportion and common sense are essential, just as they always are whenever we face complex questions affecting the lives of the people God has placed in our care or to whom we are seeking to minister.

### **A list of key indicators or more obvious symptoms which suggest a Christian has a demon inside them**

Nevertheless, whilst keeping in mind the vital need for balance, caution and common sense, let's now look at some of the key indicators which might cause us to believe that *a particular Christian* (or someone who claims to be a Christian) does actually have a demon inside them. This list is by no means exhaustive but it covers many of the cases we are likely to come across:

#### **1) Where there is clear evidence of serious wrongdoing**

This would include sins such as deception, sexual impropriety, manipulation, domination or control, behaving abusively towards others, or being malicious. I could give so many examples of this but one who springs to mind is 'Rick', the church leader I write about in chapter 1 above, and in whose eyes I actually saw a demon. He was definitely guilty of all the sins listed above and told lies habitually.

He also left his wife and was very devious and malicious towards me in his efforts to silence me and prevent me exposing his misconduct. Then of course there is the leader of Kidz Church to whom I also referred in chapter 1 who was having an affair while being in charge of the children's work. Then there is 'Sonia' whose face briefly became (in my eyes) a grey 'gargoyle'. She was a very devious, controlling lady and had been a spiritualist for many years.

Plus, there is the man from Chile to whom I refer below in chapter 7. He not only had demons in him but he used them to conduct his "ministry" and to do supernatural things which were not of God. At any rate, that was my belief after having spent a week in his presence as his volunteer chauffeur and seeing at close quarters what he did.

I am quite sure that at least some of these people whom I have listed were real Christians, or had been, in particular Rick. He had once been an inspiring and dynamic church leader until he lost his way.

Some of them, however, were probably always false and were never saved at all. That was probably the case with 'Sonia'. However, you will observe that I am not being adamant as to their status i.e. whether they were real Christians. I am sure they all had demons inside them because of the things they did, but I am far less certain about whether they still were, or had ever been, truly saved.

The point is *they purported to be so*. They said they were Christians and they seemed to be. Realistically, that is all you will ever really know about other people in churches. So, I am speaking about people who *claim* to be Christians, and *seem* to be, and may well actually be, but who have demons inside them.

## 2) Compulsive behaviour or what the world calls “addictions”, which means the person feels “compelled” to do something

This is quite common and one sees it with people who are “addicted”, to use the world’s phrase, to things like drugs, gambling, alcohol, pornography, sex or even food. I believe a better word for this is ‘*compulsion*’. By that, I mean the person feels they are compelled to do the thing, even where they are trying not to do it, or even where they are determined not to do it, because they believe it to be wrong, harmful or sinful.

The point is that, despite all that, they still do it and they can’t stop themselves. To be precise, they feel *drawn to it* as if something is *making them do it*. The point is the ‘something’ is actually a ‘someone’. The clue is to be found right there, in the fact that they are *compelled* to do it, even *against their will* and contrary to all their beliefs and the resolutions they have made to stop doing it.

I once dealt with a man who would gamble his entire wages away on pay day and then despise himself and sink into despair after having done it yet again, despite making so many promises to himself, and to his family, to stop gambling. I knew another man who couldn’t stop watching pornographic films, which he saw after his wife had gone to bed. And he was in a leadership support role in a church and was, in many ways, a good man.

Yet, he had this overwhelming urge, which he couldn’t conquer and which instead kept him in its grip. It forced him to do things he knew to be wrong, which went against all his beliefs and even *overruled his free will*, forcing him to do what his mind and his will did not want to do.

If there is something, or rather someone, overriding a person’s will and compelling them to do something, no matter what it might be, it shows *there is another will involved*. If so, that tells you there must be *another person* involved, because there is no such thing as a will existing on its own in the absence of a person. But, given that no human being is doing it, and indeed that it usually happens when the person is *alone*, it clearly indicates it is a demon doing it.

Moreover, the fact that the demon’s influence goes far beyond mere suggestion or tempting, as occurs when the demon is on the outside whispering in, shows us the demon must be on the inside. It must be so because the demon’s involvement has gone beyond the level of mere influence and has reached the level of *power or control* over the person.

Where you see that, it is a clear indicator the demon is on the inside and has a high level of control, because it is capable of not just steering or redirecting the person’s *thoughts* as is the norm, but actually overriding their will completely and forcing them to *act* in sinful ways.

Therefore, when you see a person who is compelled to do something, or “addicted” as the world calls it, you should be very much on your alert. And your default setting in diagnosing that person’s condition should be to assume until it is proved otherwise, that there is a demon inside them who is causing it all. I prefer not to use the word ‘addicted’ because it implies the condition is medical, chemical, or even psychological rather than demonic.

I prefer to call things by their correct names and to point directly to the true cause, which is that it is a *person* doing it, i.e. a demon, not something medical or chemical or otherwise impersonal. Don’t use words or accept words being said to you which have the effect, intended or otherwise, of concealing the real point.



See below in chapter 8 for the case study which I share concerning ‘Frank’, a man compelled to drink alcohol. It contains comments as to how the demon operates in the mind of a person who has a compulsion, whether it be to drink or whatever else. I think that detailed case study is helpful as it brings the problem to life and makes it easier to understand. It is also quite revealing about the demons’ craftiness in concealing themselves and getting the person to blame themselves for what the demon is doing.

### 3) Suicidal thoughts and urges

The instinct which God put into us for self preservation, i.e. the will to live, is so strong and so deep that anybody who wants to die or who has suicidal thoughts or urges is almost certainly demonised. And the problem is so severe that you can safely conclude the demon is very probably on the inside, not just whispering into their ear from the outside. I don’t think it would work from that more distant vantage point.

Obviously, where any person contemplates suicide there will also be adverse circumstances in their life i.e. problems, difficulties, anxieties and stresses, including very severe ones sometimes. However, such problems or circumstances, however bad they may be, cannot, *in themselves*, explain the person’s suicidal urges unless they are exceptionally catastrophic.

I believe that in virtually all cases it is a demon which is speaking into the person’s mind from the inside, planting the thought of suicide, advocating it, and arguing that there is no hope and no other way out. Of course, as I regularly remind people, this is always done in the person’s own voice, sounding like their own speech when they ‘hear’ the thought in their head, so the person takes it for granted that it is their *own thought*.

That being so, it is assumed to be *obviously correct*, given that 99% or more of people believe, without ever saying it out loud, that any thought of their own can automatically be assumed to be right. Therefore, the vast majority of people never question the accuracy of their own thoughts or examine whether their own beliefs are true.

There is no need to, in their view, as the rightness of their own thoughts is self evident. Ironically, the very idea that they are obviously always correct was planted into people’s minds by demons in the first place, thereby rendering them immune to correction by other people or by self examination.

That one trick by the demons, whereby they

- a) speak into your mind in your own voice, as if it was you thinking, such that you believe that *all thoughts you have are your own*, and
- b) get you to assume as a given that your own thoughts are *obviously right* and therefore don’t need to be checked

has been the undoing of countless people. Whichever demon thought up that trick deserves the demonic equivalent of a Nobel Prize for services to Satan because it is stunningly effective and tremendously hard to overcome.

I know, because I have tried to persuade loads of people over the years to question the validity of their own opinions, and to cross examine themselves about the truth or otherwise of what they believe. But

I have had very little success. Most people “*know for a fact*” that they are right in all their opinions and beliefs and that there is no doubt about it. That stubborn certainty then seals their fate, making them immune to correction and impossible to win over.

#### **4) Depression, i.e. where it is very severe, habitual, prolonged and can’t be shifted**

Most people assume depression to be a purely medical matter caused by physical, organic, chemical factors and nothing to do with demons. I would challenge that view very strongly. Of course, I am quite sure *some* cases of depression are caused by such things, *but not all*. Indeed, I doubt very much whether even half the cases are medical. Instead, I attribute a high proportion of cases of depression to demons.

Therefore, if you come across a Christian who suffers in a *severe* way and their depression is *regular, prolonged and ongoing*, and if it does not respond to prayer or counselling or encouragement from others, or even to medication (which I would generally urge people to avoid) then you are very probably dealing with a demon, not a chemical imbalance.

Therefore, have the confidence to treat it as such, or at least potentially so, and begin to look for other evidence to confirm or to cast doubt upon that being the cause. If you want a case study on depression being cured by casting out the demon who is causing it then refer to Derek Prince’s book “*They Shall Expel Demons*”.

In that book he discusses the ministry of deliverance including his own experience of being set free from a demon which had dogged him for years and caused him deep ongoing depression which could not be shifted by anything. But then, when he realised it was a demon causing it and cast it out, he was totally and permanently set free from depression and never suffered from it again.

#### **5) Epilepsy – if it does not respond to any medical treatment**

I fully accept that many cases of epilepsy have organic, medical, physical causes and many of those can be treated successfully and controlled by drugs. I don’t dispute that and I am not talking about those cases. I refer to all the other cases of epilepsy which appear to have no organic or physical cause and don’t respond to medicine.

Rightly or wrongly, the late Derek Prince thought the proportions were roughly 50:50, i.e. about half of all cases of epilepsy are caused by demons. I wouldn’t contradict him on that. Therefore, if you encounter such a case of epilepsy which has not responded to medical treatment you are very probably looking at a case caused by a demon.

In chapter 6 below, I actually give a detailed account of a case of a man I know well whose epilepsy was, in my view, undoubtedly caused by a demon. Indeed, it began two days after he was cursed face to face by a practicing witch. I have first hand knowledge of this particular case and have no doubts about its authenticity. Therefore, in such cases, have the confidence to consider demons as the likely cause, or at least a possible cause, and make further enquiries to make sure of it.

**6) Where the person hears audible voices in their head and where the things said are horrible, macabre, obscene or hostile**

I came across a very clear case of this which I speak about in a later chapter. In that case, the man was a member of an FIEC church, i.e. a reformed evangelical denomination, and absolutely nobody in that church was willing to believe he had a demon – or indeed that a demon was involved in any way, however indirectly. They were adamant it was a purely medical issue and so he was seeing a psychiatrist about it.

But it seemed obvious to me that those voices he was hearing were demons, not just his own imagination as he was constantly being told. The reason I am so sure of that is that the voices he kept hearing were *always horrible, macabre and nasty*. He never heard voices in his head saying “*I expect we shall have fine weather today*”. It was always about death, horror or vile things of some kind.

But why would that be if his condition was chemical or even “psychological”? Why wouldn’t he sometimes hear nice things when his head malfunctioned? So, if you come across a person who is hearing audible voices and where those voices are saying *horrible, vile, sinful, obscene or hostile things*, then your starting assumption should be that it is a demon.

Then set about looking for other evidence to confirm or disprove that assumption. The reason I stress that the voices need to be horrible, macabre etc is that it is also perfectly possible for the Holy Spirit to speak audibly to a person. It is rare, but it does happen. However, when He does that the message is *always wholesome and helpful*. It has happened to me a number of times.

For example, when I was 10 years old I fell off a bus shelter (as lots of respectable people do) which I had been playing on. As I was falling, I heard an audible voice saying twice in an urgent tone “*Lift your head up!*”. I did as it said and arched my head up as much as I could and then hit the concrete floor with my shoulder instead of my head, thereby breaking my shoulder, not my skull. If it hadn’t been for that voice you wouldn’t be reading this now.

There was also another occasion when I was driving on a motorway with a perfectly adequate gap between me and the car in front. Then I heard an audible voice saying “*Slow down. Leave a bigger gap!*”. I was startled by this but I did so. Then the voice spoke again, saying the same thing even more urgently. So I slowed down even more, creating what I felt was far too big a gap and also slowing down the cars behind me.

Then, all of a sudden, a car in front lost control, swerved out of its lane and spun around into my lane. There would have been a high speed collision had I not created such a huge gap in the traffic and slowed everyone down. It saved me, and the cars behind me, plus the car which lost control, from getting into a serious motorway pile up. So, I am not talking about cases like that which, while rare, are perfectly normal and good. I mean cases where the voice only ever says cruel, vile, nasty things.

**7) Where the person is engaging in, or feels drawn to, behaviour which is deviant or perverted**

We are all sinners and we all continue to sin, even after we are truly and properly saved. So, I am not referring here to the sins we all continue to commit where we are selfish, proud or disobedient. All sins are important and they all harm us, but what I am referring to here are cases where a person does things, or even just wants to do things, which are *deviant or perverted*.

For example, you might come across a man who wants to wear women's clothes. Whether or not he actually follows through and does it, the point is that even the urge to do it is perverse and is an abomination. And I believe nobody would ever do it, or even want to do it, unless a demon was putting the thought into their head and egging them on.

For a man to look admiringly at a scantily dressed woman in the street and to feel lustful is sin, but it isn't perverted. It is wrong, but it isn't an abomination because, although it is a misuse of the sex urge that God placed within us, it is not a *redirection* of it into something deviant or abominable.

The point is that God made us all male and female. The Bible clearly says so, and God makes no mistakes and never installs "faulty software" at His factory when He is making us. Therefore, if a person even wants to do something perverted like cross dressing or wanting to change gender, you can be sure they have been influenced by another person as it cannot have come from within the person themselves.

The instincts which God puts into us at conception are not faulty, or deviant and so such things cannot be blamed on Him. Indeed, I don't even believe that it comes from the person himself. It comes from *someone else* and the only person capable of exerting that level of influence is a demon.

Yes, perhaps other people can lead the person astray or fill their head with woke nonsense, but I think it still requires the involvement of a demon to get the person to *fall for it*. And I think that demon would almost certainly need to be on the inside to be capable of exerting that amount of 'leverage' whereby they get the person to act, or even to want to act, contrary to their very nature and gender.

In any case, even if you want to argue that it could have been caused by a demon on the outside, or even by the influence of a human being, the fact that they have gone ahead and got into this level of perversion would then give the demon a right of entry anyway i.e. from that point onwards. So, whether the demon entered before or after the perversion began is perhaps academic when we are considering the question of whether there is a demon within them now.

But it isn't just cross dressing or transgenderism. There are many other forms of deviancy, in particular where the person is drawn to *paedophilia*, even in their minds where they don't act upon it. That would still be a clear sign in my view that a demon is within them.

Likewise, if the person is *homosexual* or feels drawn to that, I would conclude that a demon is the cause and that the demon is within them, not on the outside, given the fact that we are looking at a situation which is an *abomination*. It is not just ordinary lust, which, while sinful, is still *heterosexual* and therefore not deviant.

## **8) Where the person has had an *abortion* – or where they conducted one, or paid for one, or advised a woman to have one**

Please refer to chapter 4 below in which I discuss abortion and explain the seriousness of the sin, and how widespread it is, given that approximately half the entire adult population has either had an abortion or been involved indirectly in causing or persuading a woman to have one. I explain there why it is so serious, indeed one of the most heinous sins a person can commit. But that chapter is addressing the issue from the perspective of *how to repent of it*.

What we are looking at here is whether this woman having had an abortion means there is now *likely to be a demon within her*. That same question might also apply to the husband, boyfriend, mother, father, sister or friend who persuaded her to kill her child and also to the doctors, nurses and administrative staff who work at the abortion clinic, or what I call the death camp, because that is a more accurate word for it.

When we reflect on the fact that demons are likely to enter a person who has committed a very major sin, it need hardly surprise us that a demon would gain a right of entry in the case of abortion, given that it is the *deliberate, planned murder of a child*. How much more serious can a crime get than that? And the mere fact that the law no longer calls it a crime is irrelevant from God's perspective and is certainly no excuse.

God does not change His position or alter His definition of words such as 'murder' just because the UK Parliament or the US Supreme Court changes the law. That is why I would make it my default setting to assume that any person who has had, conducted, procured, caused, permitted or advocated an abortion is likely to have a demon within them, especially if they have done it more than once.

I would personally take that as virtually a given unless there were compelling reasons to think otherwise. And when you consider the number of people who have been involved in abortion, i.e. roughly half the adult population, you can see why I don't consider it strange or exceptional for a Christian to have a demon, quite apart from all the other ways they can gain entry to a person.

Strictly speaking, abortion is different from all the other examples in the list because it is the *cause* of the person being demonised, whereas all the other examples in this chapter are *symptoms* of having a demon. Nevertheless, I included it because it is such a huge issue and affects half the population. Therefore, if it has happened you should ask more questions because you are likely to find it enabled a demon to enter.

I also included abortion here because the very fact that a person would be willing to kill their own child, or urge another person to do so, is evidence in itself that the person was *already demonised*, even before they did it. That is to say abortion might properly be viewed as both a cause and a symptom of demonisation, because the chain of causation is circular and can point to either or both conclusions.

## **9) Self harm**

This is more common than you might think, although people rarely speak of it because of the stigma. Therefore, it is something you will only be aware of if you notice someone doing it, or if a relative or friend of theirs tells you they are doing it or if you are counselling the person and they open up and tell you themselves. What it amounts to is that the person chooses, or feels compelled, or is deceived into hurting themselves, perhaps by cutting themselves, or pulling out hair or injuring themselves in some other way.

A boy I went to school with used to cut himself. By the way, he also announced to us one day that, as per the song by The Who, he wanted to "*die before I get old*". Both these things jarred with me at the time, even though I was not yet saved. But, sure enough, he did die young when he was only 40, of a heart attack.

My point is the self harm was very probably a *symptom* of his having a demon inside him because, as we saw with suicidal urges, it goes so totally against our God given instinct for self preservation, it must be coming from another person, not ourselves. And the only person who could have the power (and desire) to do that is a demon, especially if it occurs when the person is alone when they self harm, as they almost always are.

So, the very fact that a person is deliberately cutting or hurting themselves is, in my view, clear evidence that they almost certainly have a demon within them. The fact that my friend also spoke of wanting to die young was linked to this in that it was a self imposed curse which I discuss elsewhere.

The very fact that he would say such a thing was further corroborative evidence that he had a demon. Saying it was, in itself, evidence of the presence of a demon but it also, very probably, opened a door to allow the demon to enter him and to subsequently bring about his early death.

Therefore, never speak any negative things about yourself and, in particular, never speak of wanting to die or predict that you will die young. The demons see that as an invitation to kill you and they don't need to be invited twice. And if you ever have said any such things then repent of it now and renounce all your words, as I explain in chapter six below.

## **10) Anorexia**

Anorexia is, in a sense, linked to what I said about self harm in that the person is damaging their own body deliberately by starving themselves. Again, I believe nobody would do that unless a demon was telling them to do so and, to be effective in that, the demon would probably need a vantage point *inside the person*. Otherwise they wouldn't have enough 'leverage' or influence to pull it off.

This condition, which usually only affects girls, is generally assumed to be purely psychological, based on pressure about body size and shape from the media and films/ pop music videos. Of course, those influences obviously play a large part in this.

However, my point is that peer pressure and the influence of worldly TV/music videos alone are not enough to induce a person to starve themselves. Neither can those influences alone create the entrenched delusion that they are fat – even though they are actually emaciated and look like famine victims.

**The above list is not exhaustive and there are also people who do have a demon inside them but don't do those particular things**

Remember I was just giving some of the more obvious examples of symptoms which indicate that a demon is probably inside the person. There are many other forms of evidence too, which while not being "symptoms", strictly speaking, are indicators that a demon is within them. For example, in chapter 1 above I spoke of 'Rick' in whose eyes I saw a demon. I also spoke there of 'Sonia' whose face suddenly became like a stone gargoyle for about 10 seconds. Both of them claimed to be Christians.

I am fairly certain that Rick was a real Christian, or had been, because he was the leader of the church, albeit that he had gone seriously off the rails. But, in his younger years he had done many impressive things, knew the Bible well, and seemed genuine. I am much less sure about Sonia as she had spent

many years in Spiritualism and that background had never been dealt with, or even addressed at all, when she allegedly became a Christian. She simply joined a church. But joining a church doesn't make you a Christian, just as standing in the garage doesn't make you into a car.

On another occasion that springs to mind, I saw a demon's eyes in the eyes of a young man, called Paul, aged 17 whose mother had asked me to help her and give advice because he was behaving so badly. He had also got himself a girlfriend who was a practising witch! When I met him I suddenly saw his eyes light up with a strange gleam that was not natural and I saw the demon's eyes in his.

As it happens, this young man was not a Christian and didn't claim to be, whereas Rick and Sonia did. However, the same things happened, or at least similar, and I believe God was revealing to me what was in each of them. Therefore, be ready to accept that such a sign could be given to you, perhaps in circumstances where you are unaware of the demon's presence and are not noticing the other signs and symptoms.

It isn't a symptom but it's still evidence and you need all the help you can get from God when trying to discern what is going on in a person's life. So, don't despise or ignore such clues. It doesn't happen often, but it does happen occasionally and you need to be aware of this form of guidance.

Oddly, in the case of Rick, another leader in the church also saw the demon in Rick's eyes. So it wasn't just me. And in Paul's case, his mother saw it, even though she wasn't a Christian. But in the case of Sonia I was the only person to see the demon. Things don't always happen in exactly the same way so you need to be mentally flexible about the evidence and the signs that God gives you.