



## Conversing with Demons

(April 2001)

On some occasions demons may speak through the person with whom they are associated. Sometimes a limited conversation with this voice is necessary in order to ascertain that it is actually a demon speaking rather than the individual. In these instances speaking with the demon is beneficial in revealing or confirming its presence.

When a demon speaks through the person in the course of a deliverance attempt, however, it is usually best to command the demon's silence except to answer specific questions directed to it. These questions should be limited to those essential to the deliverance process. Using the demon to gain other supernatural knowledge is both unwise and dangerous.

First of all, it is succumbing to the exact seduction which Satan used to ensnare Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Secondly, doing so ascribes value to the demon and in a sense ingratiates you to him. Thirdly, demons are masters of deception and cannot be trusted to speak truth (unless you specifically bind them to doing this).

The occasional times when asking legitimate questions is appropriate include:

### **A. Requesting a demon's name**

In Scripture the only question Jesus ever asked of a demon was "What is your name?" and he only did this once (Mark 5:9). Therefore, even this is not always necessary. However, it seems that just knowing the name of a person or an entity may in some instances constitute a step of authority over them. Names were extremely important in Scripture as evidenced by the number of times God specifically changed a person's name to more accurately reflect some characteristic in their life. Also, when Jacob wrestled with the Angel of the Lord, he would not give his name to Jacob (Gen. 32:22-30). Knowing the demon's name sometimes also reveals the function or nature of the demon so you can be alert to specific characteristics in the individual which might indicate that it has returned for whatever reason.

### **B. Requesting the legal grounds for their attachment**

Just as the physical world usually operates under certain inviolable laws of nature, so also does the spiritual realm follow a strict legal code. If an individual has done something that has given a demon legal grounds to be attached to him or her, it will usually not leave until those rights for attachment are removed through renunciation or confession. Therefore, when a demon does not leave immediately when commanded to do so in the power and authority of Jesus' name, it is sometimes helpful to ask what gives it the right to be attached to the individual. Be sure, however, to bind it first in the name of Jesus to tell only the truth. Sometimes this is not necessary because the individual already knows what permitted the demon to gain its right of attachment. At other times God can provide the necessary insight regarding the demon's legal right to be there.

### **C. Requesting information concerning their rank and hierarchy**

In difficult or resistant cases it may occasionally be helpful to know the rank of the demon and whether he is under authority to a higher level spiritual being, in which case the spiritual warfare must be directed against the higher ranked being. Jesus taught that one must first bind the strongman before he can successfully plunder his house (Mat. 12:29). Jude 8-9 also indicates that man should not attempt to come against the highest ranked demons (celestial beings) but instead ask the Lord to rebuke them.

In case there are also demons ranked below the one you are addressing, it is wise to command that he take all other demons under him along as he exits, including those shared by different parts of a dissociated individual. Sometimes it will be necessary, however, for the various alter-identities involved to each break the legal ground providing its attachment.