



The Devil Made Me Do It

Part 17: Concluding Summary

Since our study of the various ways in which Satan and his forces can impact our lives as humans has spanned several years, I thought it would be good to summarize the various degrees of attachment they can have and the effects they can reap in our lives through each one. Even this will take two issues.

1. **Demonic control/possession**

In these cases demons can override the person's will and take control of various aspects of his life (2 Tim. 2:26). This control can be constant (Mark 5:2-5) or intermittent (Luke 9:38-39); involve a single demon or host of them.

Possible Causes:

- Deliberate "contract" with Satan or a part of his domain
- Dedication of a child to Satan by parents
- Inter-generational bequeathing of a spirit onto a child

Possible Effects:

- Can affect physical health (Mat. 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 9:17, 25; Luke 11:14)
- Can affect mental health (Mark 5:2-13)
- Can exert self-destructive behavior (Mark 5:5; 9:20-22)
- Can control speech: use of obscenities (Mark 1:23-24; 3:11; 5:7-9; Acts 19:15)
- Can bestow supernatural abilities: strength, magic, divination (Mark 5:2-4; Acts 8:9-11; 16:16; 19:13-16)

2. **Demonic attachment**

In this somewhat less extreme case one or more demons have a specific legal right to be associated with, and affect, a person but (at least in the case of Christians) cannot take control of his/her actions without some level of compliance by the person or alter (in DID).

Possible Causes

- Overt participation in occult activity
- Certain habitual, ungodly behavior patterns (Rom. 6:12-13, 16; Eph. 6:26-27; 1 Tim. 5:14-15)
- Generational inheritance (Ex. 20:5)

Possible Effects

- Control of voice and behavior, *if assent is given*
- Tainting of character, behavioral tendencies, and thought patterns
- Increasing desensitization to sin and searing of the conscience (1 Tim. 4:1-2; Titus 1:15-16)
- Increased vulnerability to deception, demonic lies, and false teachings (2 Cor. 11:3-4; 1 Tim. 4:1-2)
- Decreased spiritual discernment

3. **Demonic assignment**

This type of demonic affliction is the result of one or more demons being sent by the specific direction of God, Satan, or another individual to accomplish a specific, usually short-term, purpose in a person's life.

Causes

- Spawned by the direction of God or Satan (Judges 9:23-24; 2 Chron. 18:18-22; Job 1:6-12)
- Fulfillment of curses and instructions of people (Judges 9:16-20, 23-24, 57; 1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20)

Effects

- Destruction of one's possessions (Job 1:13-16)
- Death in one's own life or in one's family (Job 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 5:1-5)
- Hindered health and well-being (Job 2:1-8; 2 Cor. 12:7-9)
- Infliction of mental torment, mania, and even murderous, behavior (1 Sam. 16:14-23; 18:10-11; 19:9-10)

- Stirring up animosity between people (Judges 9:23-24)
- Pressure to deny one's faith (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Luke 22:31-32; 55-62)
- Permeate one's thoughts, words, and actions, disconnecting one from the intentions of his heart (Mat. 16:21-23; 26:31-35; 56, 58, 69-75; 27:3-5)

4. **Demonic contamination**

This refers to the opportunity demons gain to "hang around" and harrass a person because he/she has been in a place where demons have been particularly prevalent.

Possible Causes

- Intentionally or unintentionally entering a place where idolatry or other evil activity has occurred (Lev. 18:27; Isa. 52:11; 2 Cor. 6:17-18)
- Counseling or doing deliverance with a demonized individual

Possible Effects

- Spiritual oppression, depression
- Irritability and other forms of emotional instability
- Increased susceptibility to sin, immorality

5. **Demonic influence**

This refers to ways in which demons with no legal right for attachment are able to affect a person in various ways because of the fallen world in which we live.

Situations increasing susceptibility

- Spiritual immaturity (Luke 8:13; Eph. 4:14; 1 Peter 2:1-3)
- Not cultivating godly disciplines: study of the Scriptures; prayer; righteous living; self-control; perseverance; brotherly love (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Peter 1:3-8; 1 John 2:9-11)
- Not utilizing the spiritual armor by standing firm in truth, righteousness, peace, and faith (Eph. 6:10-18)
- Giving in to the desires of the flesh (Rom. 6:12-19; 8:5-7)
- Falling in step with the lusts and pleasures of the world (Rom. 12:2; James 1:27; 4:4; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Jn 2:15-16).
- Loving money for the pleasure, prestige, & security it gives (Mat. 6:19-24; Luke 12:16-34; Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:9, 17)
- Allowing love for God to wane (Rev. 2:4)
- Uncontrolled anger (Gen. 4:6-7; Eph. 4:26-27)
- Pride (1 Cor. 10:12-13)
- Lack of sexual intimacy in marriage (1 Cor. 7:5)
- Going through times of afflictions (1 Thes. 3:1-5)
- Being a spiritual leader or playing a major role in God's plan (Gen. 3:1-6; Mat. 4:1-11; Luke 22:31, 44-46; 1 Tim. 3:7)
- Confronting a brother who is sinning (Gal. 6:1)

Possible Effects

- Loss of faith (1 Tim. 6:10)
- Lack of spiritual fruit (Mat. 13:22)
- Spiritual blindness and lack of direction (1 John 2:11)
- Loss of wealth (Mat. 6:19)
- A sinful, shipwrecked life full of misery, grief, ruin, and destruction (1 Tim. 6:9-10)
- Indulgence in self-centered, sensual pleasures, sexual improprieties, and lawless behavior (Gal. 5:19, 21)
- Pursuit of occult interests (Gal. 5:20)
- Jealousy, anger, and the instigation of divisive actions among one's fellowman (Gal. 5:20)
- Being captivated and led astray by deceitful spirits, false teachers, and/or human philosophies (Acts 20:29-30; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 4:1-3; 6:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:13-14; 4:3-4; Titus 1:14; 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 18-19)
- Falling into the trap of legalism (Gal. 2:4; 3:1-10; 4:9; 5:1-7)

Note: Since beginning this topic of Scriptural exploration, we have come to a fuller understanding of the evil spiritual beings of a higher rank than demons. While I have continued to use "demon" and "demonic" throughout this study, higher cosmic beings may also be involved in some of the effects mentioned.