

DEMON EXPERIENCES

in Many Lands

by

Various Contributors

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CHAPTER THIRTY

MODERN DEMON POSSESSION

Some months ago, the writer was asked by an Alliance pastor to come to his help. At once, accompanied by his wife, he set out for the home in question. On arrival, he found a small gathering of Christian friends who had been called for a like purpose. The cause of the meeting was the condition of a woman who had appealed for deliverance. Though not fully recognized at first, it was soon realized that she was under the power of demons.

The story of her possession was simple. A few years previously, following the death of her mother, she had sought the services of a spiritist medium, believing that she could come into touch with the departed loved one. The person in question was a sincere Christian, but very poorly instructed in the Word of God. She had no conception that in thus tampering with necromancy she was breaking God's direct commands, and also opening herself to the danger of spirit attack in some form.

The medium quickly recognized that her visitor was specially open to psychic impressions. Before long she asked her to unite with her in certain trance experiences, and later sought her co-operation in spiritistic séances, inducing her to surrender herself to the will of the spirits.

Some time afterward, the woman found herself in serious trouble through the control exercised over her. But her efforts to obtain relief were thwarted, both by the opposition of the medium and the active working of the demon powers to which she had yielded. In this condition several years passed before she sought the aid of the pastor above-mentioned and made a full confession of her actions. There was still no realization of the sin; merely the desire to be free from the control exercised over her life.

Though the individual was in a coma, the scriptural test was at once put to the indwelling demon. "Thou evil spirit, has Jesus Christ come in the flesh?" (I John 4:3). Instantly there came a response in the form of a bitter "No." The spirit being thus identified, another question was presented, "Spirit, what is your name?" Refusal to tell followed, but under the power of continued prayer, the name was eventually given.

However, there quickly came the consciousness that the demon was not alone, but one of a company. All that night, from about 8 o'clock until 7 the following morning, the battle continued. In that time eighteen separate demons left the body of their victim, each one identifying himself before he left by uttering his name. Most of the names given were those of spiritual states, such as "Fear," "Death," and so on. But these were varied by others, as "Chief," "Mug," "Legion," one calling himself the "Chief Servant of Lucifer."

When morning came the patient seemed revived and normal, and it was thought by some that the work was done. Four days later, however, a hurried call came again, and a visit revealed the woman in the same condition. That night four more spirits revealed themselves and departed. For perhaps three weeks a measure of relief continued, and then the trouble recurred.

The question arose as to whether other spirits had gained entrance, but this did not seem to be the case; rather there were those which had not discovered themselves. At intervals, covering a period of two months, fresh manifestations occurred, and these were dealt with as they appeared. In all seven entire nights were spent.

The sufferer was throughout this time unable to take hold of the Lord for herself. Intense fear possessed her mind.

At times, during the season when definite effort was being exerted by prayer and authority for the casting out of the evil spirits, she would come briefly out of the coma in which her senses were bound. In reply to exhortations to utter the name of Jesus, or to give praise to God, she would attempt to do so, but immediately the spirits would seize her, and use her hands in a fierce endeavor to strangle herself. Two brethren were constantly on the alert to hold her hands. At other times she would try to bite those about her, as a dog might do.

The trouble was seen toward the end of the long struggle to be attended by a sexual mania. One demon, calling himself by the name of "Internal Masculinity Cacoethes," seemed to be the source of this uncleanness. He remained alone, after perhaps thirty other demons had been expelled. Having gained a hold in the sensual part of the being, it seemed almost impossible to dislodge him.

But God's Word gives unquestionable authority to His faithful people.

"Ye are of God, little children," says the beloved disciple after his instructions regarding the presence and deceitfulness of the agents of the evil one, **"and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."**

The end came at last. One demon, as mentioned above, had held the fort definitely, giving whenever asked the name mentioned above. On the last night the powers of evil seemed to fill the room. The patient, awaking from her coma, cried out in fear that spirits were coming at her first from one side and then from the other. These unseen beings were rebuked in the name of Jesus and seemed to withdraw. The quoting of passages from the Bible were resented by the indwelling demon with cries of "No! No!"

Finally a pastor said to the demon, “You are beaten,” which he acknowledged, but refused to go.

The spirit then said, “I will go out tomorrow.”

The reply was, “No, you will go out now.”

He spoke again, “I’m going out,” and then, through the lips of the patient, “I’m outside now.”

At once the question was asked, “Why do you lie to us?” bringing the reply, “Because I am going to kill her before I go.”

Shortly after, in a sad voice, the spirit said, “I must find a new home,” and suddenly came out through the mouth, the woman nearly strangling. But, immediately she began to praise God with complete freedom, and has so continued. Attempts were made by the spirits to regain possession, but steadfast resistance has given full relief.

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