

The Characteristics of Evil *Spirits*

By: Calvin Ray Evans

In the past year, I have included a number of articles in our writings that deal with many of the real life issues that people are confronted by. I usually select subjects based on questions people ask frequently. The content of the following material is not popular and often shunned by ministries. However, I am asked so many times about evil spirits or demons. So after much prayer, I have decided to include some information on the subject in this publication. This is not something that we should take lightly. I am certainly no expert on the subject and do not claim to be a scholar by any means. I only have one goal in mind. I want to help someone who may be fighting the battle of their life against the forces of evil.

I recently preached an entire series of sermons on spiritual warfare. In that study, I came across an Old Testament passage of Scripture that was an absolute summary of the characteristics of evil spirits. The Lord declared to the children of Israel as they entered into the land of promise that they would encounter many false religions which were in fact demonic in nature. The parents had the responsibility to make sure they protected their children from these demonic influences. In order for them to recognize this demonic activity, the Lord gave them a listing of the characteristics of evil spirits in ***Deuteronomy 18:10-12***. When these things were present, the children of Israel knew that Satan and his followers were behind it and they were to avoid anything with the following demonic characteristics.

I do think it interesting to note that the word ***“demons”*** is not found in the King James Bible. The word ***“devils”*** is used in the King James Version. These are just a few of the characteristics of demons found in just one passage of Scripture:

“any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire” (vs.10) - This portrays the characteristic of mind over matter which is still used by demons today.

“divination” (vs. 10) - Another characteristic of demonic activity which means fortune telling.

“observer of times” (vs.10) - A type or a picture of an astrologer. Many people who watch the horoscope or other heavenly signs do not realize that these things are demonic in nature.

“an enchanter” (vs. 10) - This means a magician and is not referring to a trick with an explanation but is the same word used for those in Pharaoh’s court who had magical power endued to them by demons.

“a witch” (vs. 10) - An individual with supernatural power.

“a charmer” (vs. 11) - This is making reference to our modern day hypnotists. Many Christians are going to hypnotists to lose weight and overcome other weakness and this power is from demons.

“a consulter with familiar spirits” (vs. 11) - This is another way of referring to our modern day channelers. These are people who make claims to consult with spirits for direction in an individual’s life. In reality, they are consulting with demons.

“A necromancer” (vs. 11) - This is a person who is a median to communicate with the dead on behalf of the living. Once again, this is a trait of demons.

Some people today will scoff at the idea of demons existing in our society. In reality, we need the help of the Lord and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives as believers to be overcomers in this age we live in! The devil is still alive and well. We should never make fun of him or leave opportunity for him to gain a “stronghold” in our life. Always, prayerfully approach the works of the devil. The seven sons of Sceva, in the Bible, found out there are some things you simply should not do on your own. We need the help of God. So, whenever the very forces of evil confront you, always rely on the power of the Lord to fight the battle for you. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

Also, I pray this message better equips the reader for spiritual warfare. When Jesus was confronted by Satan He stood on “it is written.” Our strength as a Christian lies in the Word of God as well and being reinforced with the whole armor of God.

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