

The Power of God's Word

By Don Krow

(Discipleship Lesson 7)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

I used to think that demon possession was something that happened only in foreign countries such as India, Africa, etc.. That was, until the night I happened to visit a Baptist church in Dallas, Texas.

We were standing in the church singing from the song book, when suddenly a young girl about nineteen years of age fell on the floor and began to have what I thought was a seizure.

A medical doctor who attended that church told several of us to take the girl to a nearby house belonging to one of the church members, and there he would examine her. By the time the girl got to the house, her eyes were dilated and a masculine voice was speaking from her. Although this girl was a United States citizen and had never traveled outside of America, she was speaking in a foreign language that seemed to be German, and at other times English.

This unclean spirit, which the Bible also calls a demon or devil, immediately began to accuse me and say in a loud masculine voice, "You're going to Hell!" "No, I'm not!" I replied, and we argued that way for a while. It seemed this demon had authority and power over me, and I was not getting very far with it when suddenly I had an idea.

I turned in the New Testament to Philippians 2:6-11 and proceeded to read verses 10-11 out loud – "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Suddenly in a loud voice the demon screamed, "Shut up! Don't say that!" I thought to myself, "This is quite a reaction." So, again I began to read the scriptures out loud. "Stop that! I can't stand that!" the demon cried. So, again I read the scriptures. This time the demon in the girl began to make her hold her ears. I continued to read and this time the demon threw the girl on the floor and she began to bow before me at the Name of Jesus.

This is the first time in my life that I realized the power that is in God's Word, the Bible. The demons had the upper hand over me until I read them the scriptures. This is the first time that I also realized that every time I began to read the Bible, I was distracted. I remembered all the things that I hadn't done that day, I suddenly became hungry and had to go to the refrigerator, etc. Something always distracted me. Now I realize that there is something in God's Word, the Bible that Satan doesn't want you and me to know.

To make a long story short, Patti, the demon possessed girl, was delivered from many demonic spirits over the next few weeks. It was Jesus' Name, faith in His Name, and the power of God's Word that brought forth this miracle. Patti is now a beautiful Christian woman, who married one of my best friends and who is raising her children in the knowledge of the Lord.

My friend, have you realized that there is a kingdom of darkness and a kingdom of God's dear Son? The Apostle Paul's commission from the Lord Jesus Christ was to "turn people from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 26:18). A "kingdom" in the scriptures refers to the people over whom one has authority or rule. What kingdom are you in? What master are you serving?

Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters" (Matt. 6:24). Would you consider turning today to Jesus Christ as the Savior from your sins and following Him as your Lord?

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(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11. *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* All the things that happened in the Bible were to give us an _____ and they were written down for our _____.
2. Read John 17:17. *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* The Word of God is the standard by which all things must be judged and tested. This is so because God's Word is _____.
3. Read Matthew 7:24. *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."* Jesus said that whosoever hears his sayings and _____ will be like unto a _____ man, which built his house upon a _____.
4. Read 2 Timothy 2:15 and Acts 17:11. [2 Timothy 2:15] *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* [Acts 17:11] *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."* What should be our attitude toward the Bible?
_____.
5. God's Word is like a seed (Luke 8:11 *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."*) It is to be planted in men's hearts. Some people: (underline one)
 - a. Read Luke 8:11-12. *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. [12] Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved," and John 14:6. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Never come to believe Jesus' claims (that He is the only way to God).

- b. Read Luke 8:13. *“They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”* Believe for a while but when times get rough, they fall way.
 - c. Read Mark 4:19, *“And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful,”* and Luke 8:14. *“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”* Investigate the claims of Jesus but other things take priority.
 - d. Read Luke 8:15. *“But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”* With an honest and good heart will follow Jesus Christ and will continue to do so.
 - e. All of the above describe the various conditions of men’s hearts.

6. Read 1 Timothy 4:1. *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”* The scripture teaches that some people in the last days will depart from the Christian faith because they listen to _____ and _____.

7. Read Luke 13:10-11. *“And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. [11] And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.”* Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath. There He met a woman who was bent over for eighteen years and could not stand up straight. This condition was caused by a _____.

8. Read Luke 13:12-13. *“And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. [13] And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.”* We see the power of the word of God (Jesus’ words) demonstrated when He said, “Woman you are _____ from _____ (your) infirmity and immediately after He touched her she was made _____, (healed), and she _____ (or praised) God.”

9. Read Mark 5:1-13. Verses 12-13 in the New American Standard Bible states: *“The demons implored Him (Jesus), saying, ‘Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.’ Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.”* Demons are subject to the Word of God. The demons cried, ‘Send us into the swine’ and Jesus gave them p_____. (vs.13).

10. Read Ephesians 6:17. *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* There is nothing more effective in spiritual warfare than God’s Word when empowered by His Spirit. It is the only offensive weapon in a Christian’s armor that can cut, harm and hurt the enemy (the devil). It is referred to as the _____ of the Spirit, which is _____.

11. When I read Philippians 2:6-11 to these demons, (referred to in the discipleship lesson), they went crazy. The reason is that Philippians 2:11 states every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Deity; Master; Ruler; King; Boss; and He who has the right to control), to the glory of God the Father. This means that demonic activity will some day end and Christ will take full control in His kingdom. Have you acknowledged Jesus to be Lord of your life? _____.
12. Read Matthew 7:21-23. *“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* Although those people described in these verses used the words “Lord, Lord,” was Jesus truly their Lord? _____. Why or why not? _____
13. Read Matthew 7:23. *“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* Jesus told us why these people would not enter His kingdom. They had never truly repented (had a change of heart that would send them in a new direction). What phrase in Matthew 7:23 indicates their lack of repentance?
_____.
14. Read Matthew 7:23. *“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* What phrase in Matthew 7:23 indicates they had no personal relationship with Jesus? _____.

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(Discipleship Answer Key)

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.
Compare your answers with the following answers.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11. All the things that happened in the Bible were to give us an **example** and they were written down for our **admonition or warning and instruction.**
2. Read John 17:17. The Word of God is the standard by which all things must be judged and tested. This is so because God's Word is **Truth.**
3. Read Matthew 7:24. Jesus said that whosoever hears his sayings and **doeth them will be** like unto a **wise** man, which built his house upon a **rock.**
4. Read 2 Timothy 2:15 and Acts 17:11. What should be our attitude toward the Bible? **We should study it, and rightly divide or handle the word of truth. We should also search the scriptures daily to see if what others tell us is the truth.**
5. God's Word is like a seed (Luke 8:11). It is to be planted in men's hearts. Some people: (underline one)
 - a. Read Luke 8:11-12, and John 14:6. Never come to believe Jesus' claims (that He is the only way to God).
 - b. Read Luke 8:13. Believe for a while but when times get rough, they fall away.
 - c. Read Mark 4:19, and Luke 8:14. Investigate the claims of Jesus but other things take priority.
 - d. Read Luke 8:15. With an honest and good heart will follow Jesus Christ and will continue to do so.
 - e. **All of the above describe the various conditions of men's hearts.**
6. Read 1 Timothy 4:1. The scripture teaches that some people in the last days will depart from the Christian faith because they listen to **seducing spirits** and **doctrines of devils.**
7. Read Luke 13:10-11. Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath. There He met a woman who was bent over for eighteen years and could not stand up straight. This condition was caused by a **spirit of infirmity, an evil spirit.**
8. Read Luke 13:12-13. We see the power of the Word of God (Jesus' words) demonstrated when He said, "Woman you are **loosed** from **thine** (your) infirmity and immediately after He touched her she was made **straight**, (healed), and she **glorified** (or praised) God."
9. Read Mark 5:1-13. Verses 12-13 in the New American Standard Bible. Demons are subject to the Word of God. The demons cried, 'Send us into the swine' and Jesus gave them **Permission** (verse 13).

10. Read Ephesians 6:17. There is nothing more effective in spiritual warfare than God's Word when empowered by His Spirit. It is the only offensive weapon in a Christian's armor that can cut, harm and hurt the enemy (the devil). It is referred to as the sword of the **Spirit**, which is the **Word of God**.
11. When I read Philippians 2:6-11 to these demons, (referred to in the discipleship lesson), they went crazy. The reason is that Philippians 2:11 states every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Deity; Master; Ruler; King; Boss; and He who has the right to control), to the glory of God the Father. This means that demonic activity will someday end and Christ will take full control in His kingdom. Have you acknowledged Jesus to be Lord of your life? _____.
12. Read Matthew 7:21-23. *"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Although those people described in these verses used the words "Lord, Lord," was Jesus truly their Lord?
No. Why or why or why not? _____
12. Read Matthew 7:23. Jesus told us why these people would not enter His kingdom. They had never truly repented (had a change of heart that would send them in a new direction). What phrase in Matthew 7:23 indicates their lack of repentance?
Depart from Me (Jesus), ye that work iniquity. In the Greek text, this is in the present tense which conveys continuous or habitual action. They had never had a change of heart that would move them in a new direction.
13. Read Matthew 7:23. What phrase in Matthew 7:23 indicates they had no personal relationship with Jesus?
I (Jesus) never knew you.

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10065 Sun Ridge Circle, Rogers, Arkansas 72756 U.S.A.
www.delessons.org