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THE INFLUENCE OF DEMONS
ON CHRISTIANS

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ABSTRACT

The primary purpose of this Essay is to establish the existence of demons and their influences on Christians. The writer intends to refer to the non-existent view of demons but will continue to establish the existence of demons in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

Chapter One is the introduction. The chapter gives the background to the study, the significance and delimitation of the study and defines some key terms. Chapter Two examines the existence of demons. Reference is made to the non-existent view and the reality of demons is established in the Bible and through personal encounters.

Chapter Three focuses on demonic influences on Christians. It discusses how demons enter Christians and manifestations of demonic attacks. Chapter Four contains various means of overcoming the influence of demons.

Chapter Five is the conclusion. A few challenges and suggestions for Christians and churches are presented in the chapter.

CONCLUSION

The thesis of this essay is that demons exist and they can influence Christians. Of course, Christians can overcome demonic influence. Demonic manipulation and operation can easily be carried out on weak Christians than on strong Christians. Demonic hindrances, obstacles and attacks which negatively affect our education, home, health, business, belief, present needs, future career and a host of others are manifestations of demonic influence.

What we identify as little sin or things that we do that do not give God the glory may be demonic influence. Peter thought he was arguing in favour of Jesus when he told Jesus that He was not going to die. The sons of thunder, James and John, thought they were at the side of Jesus when they wanted to call fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans. Although they did not know that they were influenced by demons, yet they were under demonic influence as far as their belief and behaviour were wrong. Peter, James and John could have argued, but Jesus established that demons existed and they were influenced by demons. Some Christians may deny the existence of demons and demonic influence, but that

denial is demonic influence. It could be possible that such people need deliverance from demonic influence.

One of the universal problems that makes many Christians to refuse and deny demons' existence including their influences is simply because the Bible is no longer their ultimate authority. They argue from secular perspective as opposed to sound theology. God will never say anything that will contradict His holy Scripture. The Bible presents Jesus as a mighty exorcist and Jesus gives us the power over all unclean spirits.

Another vital reason why it is easy for these Christians to deny the existence of demons and their influences is simply because they do not have the power gifts. Such Christians need the Holy Ghost power so that they can cast the demons out by themselves. They need to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They need power gifts so that they may be able to command and cast out demons. The power gifts are: faith, healing, miracles as opposed to teaching, administration or prophecy which some of them have but cannot cast out demons. They need the gift of 'discerning of spirit' that can alert their spiritual consciousness to the Spirit of God and the spirit of demons. Discerning of spirit could be defined as:

The special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or satanic.

⁸Wagner, p. 261.

Discerning of spirit will help Christians know whether a certain spirit is divine or demonic. We need to fast and pray and get these gifts. This power gift, and other gifts missing in many members of local churches in the whole world will settle the controversy. We will be filled of the gifts of God instead of being empty.

Finally, some Christians deny the existence of demons and their influence because they have not got the practical experience. In the past, the writer was one of those who believed that evangelism is our priority and not healing, miracles, casting out demons, etc. Although evangelism is our priority, saving of souls through the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are to use all the gifts of the Spirit to meet the spiritual needs of the people.

Philip went to Samaria to preach the gospel and cast out demons to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people. Many Christians lack practical experience of casting out demons because the gifts are not there. Therefore, they are arguing seriously and honestly. However, such arguments are tenable because the power gifts are not there to make them experience what our Lord Jesus Christ has commanded us to do. We are commanded to cast out demons (cf. Matt. 10:7-8). Many deny the existence of God, but God exists. Demons exist.

We need the gifts of the Spirit that will unveil this truth because denial of the existence of demons does not stop demonic manipulations, operations and influence in the lives of Christians. Demons and their influence are real. Let us stop being empty! Let us thirst for the power gifts including the gift of exorcism.