

DEMON POSSESSION

WEEK 2 | A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MENTAL HEALTH

The difference between “possession” and “being demonized”

- If we define “possession” as ownership, then NO, Those who are in Christ cannot be owned by any one other than God.
 - “obtained with his own blood” (Acts 20:28)
 - “delivered . . . from the domain of darkness and transferred . . . to the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Col. 1:13).
 - We are God’s inheritance (Eph. 1:18).
- Greek term used translated “possessed by a demon” is *daimonizomai* does NOT mean ownership
 - “demonized” – harassed or oppressed by a demon
 - This CAN happen to a believer, as the New Testament warns about such things
- **Demon oppression in the life of a believer**
 - Demons can influence theological teaching
 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1*
- Paul mentions opponents of his that he apparently thought were influenced by evil spirits
 - *and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:26*
- Christians are told in Scripture to “give [no] place to the devil”
 - *“Neither give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:27*
- Habitual sin and temptation are linked to the devil
 - *1 John 3:8; James 1:14–15; Romans 7:18–24; 1 Thessalonians 3:50*

Key Point: Powers of darkness CAN have influence over but not possession of those who are in Christ.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:10-12

