

DEMON EXPERIENCES

in Many Lands

by

Various Contributors

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CHAPTER THREE

A SURVEY OF THE SITUATION: INDIA

Here is a symposium on demonology. We are speaking from Madras, India. The symposiasts are H. Enoch, professor of Zoology at the University of Madras; N. Daniel, of the Laymen's Evangelical Fellowship; and Paul Gupta, president of the Hindustani Bible Institute.

The purpose of our getting together is to collect our views on the topic of demonology.

We think the New Testament clearly teaches that there are evil spirits which are emissaries of Satan.

We also understand that these demons have power to afflict mankind with various diseases, as well as with mental derangement.

However, some people say that our Lord and His disciples, when they referred to demons, spoke only in accommodation to the general belief of the Jews. Yet, on going through the various incidents in the New Testament, it is clear that there are actual spiritual beings that recognize the Lord as the Son of God and acknowledge the power of His Name.

We wish to know whether these things are still true today, and are asking persons who have had personal experiences dealing with demons in India. I will therefore, put some leading questions to my colleagues to bring out various aspects of demonology.

Mr. Daniel, who is the oldest and most experienced, will speak first, followed by Mr. Gupta.

Q. Have you ever seen a person possessed with demons?

A. Yes, hundreds of them. In countries where there are idol worship and spirit worship, it is not difficult to find people who are possessed with demons. China and India are among the worst places for this.

Q. How do you recognize a demon-possessed person?

A. In India more women are possessed than men. Those who bring them tell us that they are demon-possessed people. In our meetings of revival types, those with demons come out as in the times of Jesus. Either they shout, cry or weep aloud, or fall down. Sometimes they are violently shaken and move their heads back and forth. These and other signs tell us that they are demon possessed.

Q. What do you do about it?

A. We rebuke the demons in the name of Christ. I have a number of assistants who attend to this work of casting out demons. When the assistants are not available, I attend to them.

Q. Do the demons come out promptly?

A. In most cases they come out promptly. But the one who uses the name of Christ must be strong in faith, clean in heart, with a pure conscience. One ought to be very careful about his own personal faith and character. Some do not come out promptly.

There are different types. If there are many demons, they won't come out quickly. Sometimes they are legion. They give much trouble. I remember casting out forty devils from one girl. When we don't have sufficient time and the relatives hide facts, the demons do not come out. But there are very few cases where this happens.

Q. Do the demons tear the person or hurt him in any way?

A. Some fall down and go through violent contortions. They kick, strike their heads against the floor, or sometimes attack the person who is driving them out. But one must be cautious. Some will run away and fall into a pit or water. Then we send people to follow them to prevent danger to life.

Q. Does this ever happen to Christians?

A. To nominal Christians.

Many nominal Christians attend Hindu festivals and go to Hindu temples and the devils possess them. Some eat food given to idols. Some get it while they are under a tree worshiped by Hindus. Some attend the heathen sacrifice and they get it there. Some get it near the burial ground. Sometimes it takes the form of terrible fits, sometimes the form of a sickness.

These evil spirits have power over those who are only nominal Christians, that is, Christians in name only.

Q. Do these persons who are delivered become Christians afterwards?

A. Yes. Some become Christians. Hindus and nominal Christians often change their lives. We won two men to Christ who were doing black magic, using it to kill people.

Q. Please tell of several other experiences you have had with demon-possessed persons.

A. Once a pastor asked me in Madras to pray over his daughter, who had suddenly developed fits. I asked if she was afflicted by fits from her childhood. But he said no, that it started only recently.

Then I asked him if the child ever went into Hindu temples. He protested, saying his daughter would never do such a thing. I questioned her. She said that every day she went to her school through a Hindu temple. The father was surprised. I anointed her and rebuked in Jesus' name the evil spirit, and she had no more fits.

Many people suffering from fits have been healed in this way. One Christian officer told me about his little boy, who suddenly lost his power of speech and was showing strange signs of fits. I asked if there was a temple nearby or any tree where Hindus worshiped spirits. It turned out that the boy had been playing under such a tree, and I rebuked that evil spirit in the name of our Lord Jesus. Soon he was well.

Some people who occupy houses, where evil spirits have worshiped for many years, are afflicted by those evil spirits. Sickness, heart trouble, stomach pain, fever and all sorts of things will come upon them. Then somebody must rebuke those evil spirits.

Sometimes there are idols. Behind these idols are evil spirits. Sometimes a portion of the wall is marked out for pictures to be worshiped. Those pictures must be scraped off, the wall must be whitewashed and a man of God must pray. When God takes us to such homes they are permanently relieved of all those troubles.

One teacher, well educated, went into a Hindu temple and in fun took the holy ashes of the temple and used them to clean his teeth. He became insane. He was brought to me and we prayed over him. He recovered, but he did not come to the Lord. So the whole trouble started again.

One woman, out of mere enthusiasm and loyalty to the Christian religion, broke an idol.

Immediately an evil spirit possessed her. She was brought to me. The evil spirit said, "She broke my idol. That is why I possessed her." I drove away the devil. But her home is not established in the faith. Evidently there is hidden sin in some hearts. I have heard that the devil sometimes returns.

Once, nearly eighteen years ago, an Anglo-Indian girl was brought to me. She was possessed with a demon and was yelling and shouting. She was brought and placed before me. But she was very violent. I asked her to be silent, and told the evil spirit to leave.

The woman said, "Give me a good blow on my face, I will go away." But I said, "The name of my Lord is enough." She did not eat or drink for three days, and there was no limit to her violence. I anointed her and rebuked this spirit. She shouted and fell down as though dead, and when she awoke, she was well.

Q. Is it dangerous to send out spirits from a person when there are children in the room?

A. The principle is this: Demons do not want to leave the world where they can enjoy more sin by living in people who love sin. If there are weak Christians or innocent children, they fall upon them. It is not good to cast out demons in one's own house, because there may be children there whose faith is not strong to resist the Devil. It is not good to have a devil-possessed person in the house.

When that person dies, the devil gets into another person in the house who is not strong in faith. We who are in Christ are passed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light, the kingdom of Jesus Christ. If we are strong in faith and obey His Word and believe in the cross, we are quite safe. But the demons are very vengeful. They want to afflict the man who casts them out. If possible they want to possess him, if they find any weakness in him. I had to cast out darkness from our own evangelists, who tried to cast out very powerful demons, nine of them in one person. I traveled three hundred miles to pray over that person. That person is all right now.

Q. Why is this?

A. It is because we are only safe under the blood of Christ. That is why the Bible says we have to teach our children the Word of God — sitting, standing, walking and lying down. Children who fear God and obey His Word are much safer. Where the knowledge of Christ is, and the Gospel is preached, the demons do not come. In places where there is deep faith in the Word of God and the cross of Jesus, celebrating the Lord's Table service frequently, the demons cannot come near at all.

Q. Do evil spirits always leave when commanded by any Christian?

A. No. All Christians cannot do this. In a way it is a gift, or the fruit of the Spirit, or the power of faith. Those who are in the will of God are always a great power. But when a group of Christians with normal faith fast and pray, the demons will go.

Q. Have you ever known a person who was possessed by more than one demon?

A. Yes, in many, many cases. One devil brings in another. When we cast out one devil, the other devil will be quiet to make us think all have gone. But if you don't drive out that devil, the first one will return. When there are many devils, different techniques must be used.

Q. Tell us another of your experiences.

A. Once a strong Hindu was brought to us. Those who brought her said she was suffering from heart trouble, and that no doctor could help her. We brought her into our revival meeting. When she sat there, while I was preaching, she began to shake and move her head backward and forward. Immediately we knew she was devil possessed. Later on, we cast out that devil in the name of Jesus and her heart trouble stopped.

Q. How did you cast him out?

A. I took her out of the meeting and placed my hand on her head and asked the devil to leave. Immediately she fell down.

Q. Did the demon come out promptly?

A. No. This demon did not come out promptly, not for some time, but I did not grow tired, so it was a very great struggle. It took three days for the demon to finally leave. Every day it left when I commanded but it returned; finally on the third day that demon left for good.

Q. Did the demon scare the person or hurt her in any way?

A. In this case the girl was not hurt at all; but there are cases where people fall down violently and run into water; some beat their heads against the wall or against the floor, or tear their hair and sometimes even attack me, and attack others. But in all cases, in the name of Jesus Christ we are able to control them.

Q. Was this person a Christian.

A. No! But once there was a Christian teacher who came to our revival meeting, the Holy Spirit descended and all the crowd fell down confessing their sins. But this woman got up to strike at others with her fists.

When she was brought to me, immediately the demon within her began to plead, "Padre, will you drive me away? I have been here nine years. Please don't send me away."

Then the crowd gathered and young boys were mocking her actions and words. So I had her brought into the missionary bungalow and began to question her.

The demon pleaded that it did not want to go. But before I left Madras, God had told me I would have to deal with a difficult case of demons. He gave me Matthew 10:1, so someone read that verse and in the name of Jesus Christ I commanded the devils to come out. As they came out, the woman fell down helpless. She was given some water to drink. Then she recovered, and began to tell a sad story how during the last nine years she had fallen often into water and into fire, and how she had come to the meeting to get some help from men of God.

Q. When you used the word Christian, did you mean that she was a believer?

A. I don't think she was a believer, but she was the wife of a Christian teacher and had served as a Christian working in a Christian institution and for an American missionary.

Q. But after this experience did she become a Christian?

A. I do not know what happened afterwards.

Q. Have you ever known of a Christian who seemed to be possessed with a demon? I mean, a person who is a believer?

A. No, a believer is never possessed with a demon. There are cases of Christians possessed with “strange spirits,” but that is a different subject.

Q. Please tell us of other experiences of persons possessed by devils.

A. Once in a certain place the communists were attacking us and saying that there is no God. A woman possessed with a demon for twelve years was brought before me. The communists were wondering what would happen.

When I placed my hand on her head, and asked the demons to leave, she shouted violently and said, “I will not go. I have been here twelve years. I will not go.”

I said, “You must go. My Lord Jesus orders you. It is not I. You have no business to be in this woman.”

Then the demon went away; the woman fell down like dead. The communists saw and they were very quiet. They knew that there was some great Power, unseen by them. They did not trouble us again.

Q. Do you know of any cases where people who were unclean tried to cast out and were in turn possessed by the evil one?

A. Many cases. They suffer terribly when they try to do such things. They must be very careful when they deal with demons because demons seem to know human hearts, just as the Holy Spirit does. We must not deal with them carelessly, but with much prayer.

In one case my own evangelist, who was a woman, and who had cast out many demons before, tried to cast out nine demons from a man. Immediately there was a terrible reaction; she became very ill and was suffering. I heard about it and traveled three hundred miles to her home. She was a very faithful woman, doing mighty things in the name of the Lord. I anointed her and drove out the darkness in her. Immediately she recovered and is now quite all right and a mighty witness to the Lord.

Q. Do you believe that the evil spirit got into her because she was not right with the Lord?

A. No, she was right with the Lord, but she had not the strength to deal with nine demons at one time. Demons are very revengeful. They will always try to attack a person who wants to drive them out. They do not want to leave. When we send them out they become terribly afraid, because they know their future that they will have to go to a place where they will have to burn. Sometimes when we place our hands on demon-possessed persons they shout, “I am burning, I am burning, I am in Hell.” So true are the words of the Bible. So everyone must be careful about his or her spiritual strength in dealing with demons.

If there is only one demon, it is easy to cast out.

But in many cases there are legions and they do not leave easily. Once I had to cast out forty demons in one girl, and it took a long time. But a college lecturer had tried to do the same thing before I arrived, and she got the reaction and was suffering. So I had to pray over her too, and she was released; and then I prayed over this girl and she was released. She is a bright, happy girl now, converted.

Q. When you cast these demons out, are they likely to return?

A. Yes. They will return if the person who is delivered is not converted and is not careful. They must confess their sin, and get right with God. Otherwise, the demons still have power over them; and so we do not cast out demons, generally, until the people who come to us stay for three days to listen to the Gospel. After they listen to the Gospel, and know something about conversion, then we cast them out. But sometimes the devils cause them to go to sleep in the meetings, or make them so they cannot hear. In such cases, we anoint them before the meeting so they may be able to listen.

Q. Tell us more about people possessed with more than one devil.

A. One devil will bring another, and so they strengthen themselves. But if we cast out only one devil when there are many, that devil will return. We must recognize that there are more devils and cast them all out. Until you finish your work, you must not send the person away.

Q. Do the devils ever tell anything about themselves and their situation? How they got that way, and what their future holds?

A. They are generally very stubborn and refuse to speak; but we that are in the Lord may command them to open their mouths. I often ask them who is the Lord of Heaven. They tell me it is the Lord Jesus Christ and acknowledge that there is a Heaven and a Hell, and tell many things about these places.

We have complete control over these demons by the wonderful name of Jesus Christ.

Q. Mr. Daniel, what is the attitude of these demons to the Scriptures?

A. They believe the Scriptures, and when we read the Scriptures in their presence they tremble, and when we read Luke 10:18, 19 they are terribly afraid.

Q. Do they recognize Jesus Christ as Lord of all?

A. They always recognize that. They won't tell any lies about Him. They're terribly afraid when you even mention the name of Christ, and they would like to close their ears from hearing His name.

Q. Now please tell us one other experience that you have had with a demon-possessed person.

A. I was casting out devils in a place where there was a girl whose father was practicing witchcraft. She had three devils, but I did not know this at first.

I cast out one devil, but it returned into her again afterwards. Her sister was there also, possessed with only one devil. So I cast out that devil from the sister. But as that devil was going away from the younger sister, she gave me three names of the devils that possessed her older sister. So I got the clue and cast out all three. But even then it was difficult because the parents of these girls had some charms in their house, some books with incantations written in them in their vaults. These were being read by the younger sister, so I sent her husband to bring those things and burn them, and after they were burned the devils went out.

In some cases, I have forgotten to ask people about these charms. You struggle hard but the devil doesn't go. If you forget the charms, then your case is hopeless and you will fail. But if you search them and remove the charms, immediately the evil spirits leave.

In another especially hard case, we suffered a whole day when a woman came to a Christian teacher, one of our workers, and told her that she was being afflicted by these evil spirits. In fact, some wicked men tried to get her into their possession but they could not, and so they wanted to kill her.

They contacted a man who knew her and got a promise that he would kill her with witchcraft. While they were practicing their witchcraft against her, she came to a Christian who prayed over her and she was instantly relieved; yet the evil spirit didn't leave right then. I happened to go there with many other preachers, and while we were praying over her she fell down, completely choked, and many times, was about to die; but we kept on commanding in the name of Christ that the evil spirit should go. She became unconscious, and while she was in that state she kept saying, "Two men are practicing witchcraft against me, seated on water. They are talking to each other. They must kill me today."

"But," we said to the woman, "you cannot be hurt because you are in the power of the Holy Spirit, and you are under the blood of Jesus Christ."

Then, we learned later, the evil spirit went to those two men and said, "We cannot go to that place. We are afraid. What is this? There seems to be a greater Power there than ourselves. We have never met a case like this. What shall we do?"

Then these two men practiced their magic until the evening; we were praying continuously, and finally they said, "We cannot do it. We cannot kill this woman. There is a greater Power than ourselves."

And the woman was relieved and is today a very good Christian. Her husband also became a Christian and they are faithful to the Lord.

Q. Mr. Daniel, have you any experience of demon possession among animals?

A. Yes, demons fall upon animals too, and the animals begin to act very strangely and sometimes a milk cow will fail to give milk. Sometimes animals become very ill as a result and may die.

Q. Thank you! Mr. Gupta, will you tell us some of your experiences?

A. I have known the devils to speak in different languages. When I was conducting evangelistic meetings at a certain place I saw an illiterate woman possessed with a devil.

The pastor's wife invited me to come and cast out the devil. I found her sitting very quietly and not willing to talk. I then spoke to her in my native language and asked, "Who are you?", and she replied in beautiful English, through the devil, saying, "Don't you know? My name is Camelia, and I am a school teacher."

I was surprised to hear such a woman, an illiterate, speak to me in English. I also asked her many other questions, and then I asked the evil spirit to leave her in the name of the Lord. The devil answered, "Where shall I go?" and so I said, "Your place is in Hell. Go there."

Immediately the woman became very restless and fell down, but after a few minutes she got up and was free from the possession of the devil, and could no longer speak in English.

Q. Would you advise missionaries and others who go to preach in the wild places of India to be versed in demonology?

A. They must know fully about demonology. I have evangelists with me and each one is able to cast out devils. An evangelist in India can do very little in religion without this power. First of all, before we preach we have to bind the powers of darkness.

In the parable of the sower, the Master Sower Jesus Christ said, Bind the powers of darkness or the evil one will come and take away the Word of God. Unless you bind the powers of darkness through prayer and through the strengthening of the blood of Jesus, you cannot preach the Gospel with as good results.

In India I have seen many conversions take place when demons were cast out. Hindus are very much afflicted by these demons. I know a woman who was dying after being bedridden nine years. She spent 25,000 rupees, and when she was dying she was brought to us to hear our preaching.

We asked if she believed in Jesus Christ who could loose her. She said that she did. We prayed over her for two days until at last she got up and walked. Nine years in bed, 25,000 rupees' expense and nothing happened, until Christ came in.

It was demon possession and she was about to die. She and her husband were very rich people. They were both baptized and lived for the glory of God.

Behind every idol there is a devil. So everywhere we go, we meet these devils. And India is in the grip of this power of darkness. All the world is black, but India, being an idolatrous country, is more under the grip of the powers of darkness. These powers of darkness deprive men of their understanding of the truth of Jesus Christ; but if you go believing in the blood of Jesus, and if you pray in the name of Jesus, you will be able to bind the powers of darkness and the Gospel will be very effective.

Q. Now, I will ask Mr. Daniel one more question. You say that an understanding of demonology is very necessary for preachers, especially in countries like India. But if that is so, what must a person do to have the power to cast out demons?

A. Fasting and prayer are a great help. These two ways are hard, but they can bring us closer to the Lord Jesus Christ so that we become deeply conscious that we have a power; and we go with that power and exalt Jesus Christ. Fasting and prayer are very essential to bind the powers of darkness, and to cast out devils.

Q. Do you know of cases where demon possession produced physical illness?

A. Very often. That is why the men who practice witchcraft can make people sick, and even die. But it is very difficult to know whether the sickness is devil possession.

N. Daniel, H. Enoch, P. Gupta
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