



Resist the Enemy Robert Morris

Focus Demons can influence and attack Christians. Fear, depression, fatigue, sickness, immorality, insecurity, and repeatedly rehearsing a speech toward someone can indicate the enemy is trying to influence you. But the good news is, if you submit yourself to God and resist the enemy, he will flee from you.

Fun Do you have a favorite food or drink you like to enjoy in the fall?

Review Key Scriptures: Revelation 2:18–29; James 4:7

1. Can Christians be influenced by demonic spirits?

If you drank a large amount of alcohol, you would be under its influence whether or not you were a Christian. In the same way, if you open the door to the enemy, you can be under the influence of demons. In both the Old and New Testaments, the Bible talks about demons. Jesus frequently cast out demons, Acts tells stories of Paul casting out demons, and other books warn us to be careful about demons in the latter days. Demons are real, and they can influence people. Pastor Jack Hayford says, “You can’t cast out the flesh and you can’t disciple a demon!” In other words, both deliverance and discipleship are important.

2. What are some signs that I’m being attacked?

The Christians at Thyatira were being influenced by a Jezebel spirit. Some signs you are being attacked by demonic spirits are fear, depression, unusual fatigue, sickness—especially unusual and frequent sickness—immorality, insecurity, and repeatedly rehearsing a speech in your mind. Elijah experienced these attacks right after he experienced a victory. If you find these things coming against you, it could be a sign of a demonic attack.

3. What do I do if I'm under attack?

James 4:7 tells us to “submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” When we humble ourselves, we can repent or change our minds about the area where we're under attack. In the letter to Thyatira, God's grace is evident. He gave time for Jezebel to repent (but she didn't), and He gave those who participated in her wickedness time to repent. God always gives us an opportunity to repent because He is full of grace. Mark 5 tells the story of a man possessed by thousands of demons. But when the man saw Jesus, he ran to Him, fell at His feet, and worshipped. Even though demons can influence people, no demon can keep a person from running to Jesus and finding freedom.

Group Dynamics Idea This week is Serve Week at all Gateway Church campuses. Visit gatewaypeople.com/serveweek to find all the available service opportunities in your community, and sign up to do something together as a group.

Discuss

1. Why is it important for believers to understand how demons can influence people?
2. What are some ways people can open the door to demonic influence in their lives?
3. What is the difference between opening a door to demonic influence and having closed doors but coming under a demonic attack?
4. What are some common ways the enemy brings attacks? Are there areas of your life where you have experienced demonic attacks?
5. Why is it important to submit yourself to God before resisting the enemy? What can happen if you don't humble yourself and submit to God first?
6. How does asking other believers to pray help us fight off the enemy's attacks? Have you experienced the power of others helping you fight off a demonic attack?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Demons can influence and attack people—even Christians.

- Demonic attacks can include fear, depression, fatigue, sickness, immorality, insecurity, and repeatedly rehearsing your speech.
- If you're under attack, submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us victory over the enemy. Please show us areas of our lives where we have either opened a door to the enemy or we are being attacked. We choose to completely submit our lives to You. Give us the grace to resist the enemy and repent so he will flee. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Always be on the lookout for ways you can give words of encouragement to others. Life can bring many challenges, and people can be bombarded by discouragement in the world. When you speak words of encouragement, you may never know what a lasting impact your words can make. Proverbs tells us life and death are in the power of the tongue. As a leader, always use your position of influence to speak life, encouragement, and hope into others.