

# The Authority of Christ

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2/9/07

## Mark 1:21-28 NIV

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. [22] The people were amazed at his teaching, because **he taught them as one who had authority**, not as the teachers of the law. [23] Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil (unclean) spirit cried out, [24] "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!"

[25] **"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!"** [26] The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

[27] The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? **A new teaching--and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.**" [28] **News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.**

Jesus teaching was different than the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees... Jesus didn't just teach with words, but with authority. The authority of his teaching was proven by his actions. In this case a demon obeyed Jesus' command, and left a man.

## Jesus Speaks With Authority

Jesus words are always joined with action. When He speaks, things happen.

**Question: Do evil spirits still possess people today???**

Yes... just look at the murders, evil acts of violence, and sexual perversion in our world. Evil spirits definitely possess, and use people today.

**Question: Can a Christian be demon possessed???**

Give time for answers, and discussion...

Vs. 23 this demon-possessed man was in the synagogue...

He'd probably been a faithful attendee at the synagogue for a long time, but his teachers lacked authority... and he remained possessed, and I doubt if he even knew it, until he got around the presence of Jesus. **When demons get around the power of Jesus they always get uncomfortable!!!**

**Q: Can someone who goes to church, and calls themselves a "Christian" be demon possessed???** Yes...

**Q: Can someone who is a true Christian, with Christ living in their heart be demon possessed???**

Absolutely NOT!!! When we give our life to Christ, our body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not share His temple with evil spirits.

**1 Cor. 6:19-20 NIV**

Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?** You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

## **True Christians Can NOT Be Demon Possessed**

Possession = Ownership

When Jesus OWNS you, an evil spirit can't take ownership of you. When the Holy Spirit of God possesses you, you can't be possessed by anything else.

### **When Jesus has authority over your life, no evil thing can take authority over your life.**

One of Jesus primary roles while He was on this earth was to deliver the captives. Jesus still delivers people, and sets them free today. He delivers people of evil spirits, of sickness, and of addictions.

Perhaps you have an addiction in your life. It could be drugs, or pornography, overeating, TV, or video games. If there is anything in your life which you recognize as an addiction... then you need to be delivered of it.

### **You may ask, "Pastor Jonathan, how do I know if it's an addiction?"**

If you've tried to stop and you can't, it's an addiction.

Very few people can overcome addiction on their own, but the authority of Christ can indeed set you free.

**Altar Call:** If other things run your life... than tonight is a night of change. If you are getting high, trying to find fulfillment, you'll never find it in drugs. There is NO high like the MOST HIGH GOD!!! Tonight is a night of deliverance for

you. If you are battling with an ongoing addiction, and you want freedom, but always seems a little out of reach, NO MORE!!! Tonight is your night of freedom. Jesus authority is at work in this place tonight, and you are going to be set free!!!