

## Demons and Curses

### Introduction

Although I acknowledge the fact that the Bible teaches that our fight is against *“spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:12),* I question the way in which some are doing it. Instead of emphasising the message of the complete work of redemption of Jesus on the cross, some people concentrate on the work of demons in an unbalanced way. According to them, demons can enter your house through cursed objects and to identify and remove these things, persons with “special anointing” have to be called in.

If everything that can be associated with demons have to be removed from your house it would mean that you would have to start with the calendar behind your door, because every day of the week is named after a false god. Next you would have to clean your fridge and pantry, because the labels of most foods today display the Halaal sign. The worst is that according to the Bible the atmosphere around us, is polluted with demons. I wonder how it is going to be cleansed?

The truth of the matter is, inanimate objects, inherently, have no power. Jesus drove demons out of people, but nowhere do we read that He drove them out of objects. Demons can inflict mental illness, can cause people to lie and cause physical infirmities like blindness and muteness. See **Mark. 5:1-18, Mark 5:4-5, Matt. 9:33, Luke 13:16, Matt.12:22, Acts 8:9-11.**

Demons, because they are spiritual beings, need bodies to manifest through, not objects.

### What does the Old Testament say about idols ?

See **Jeremiah 10:1-5:**

*“Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, for the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut trees...and a craftsman shapes (them) with a chisel... Like a scarecrow...their idols cannot speak... Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.”*

Paul has the following to say about demons:

*“Am I suggesting that an offering made to idols means anything, or that an idol itself means anything? Hardly! What they offer, **they offer to demons** and not to God, and I do not want you to become partners with demons (1Cor. 10:19-33, my emphasis).*

From this passage it becomes clear that someone who worships and sacrifices something to an idol, worships a demon. The sin lies **in the act of worshipping** something. The lifeless object as such, has no power. Money is a good example. Although it is lifeless, it can become an idol as result of a wrong attitude towards it – you do not get dishonest money, you only get dishonest people working with it. Therefore, if a person is dishonest he will have dishonest money. An object is harmless. It is a persons attitude towards it, that is sinful.

Although we understand that lifeless things have no power, **Christians should not be in possession of objects that can be associated with the occult or with false religions, because it can damage their testimony and lead others astray.**

Although demons are everywhere, they cannot make you sin. You sin because you desire to do so. **James 1:14** tells us that we are tempted when we are drawn away from God by our own lusts. Unfortunately, through habitual sin or dabbling with the occult, people do open themselves up to be influenced by evil forces. They neglect the warning:

*“Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Be firm in your faith and resist him...” (1 Pet. 5:8-9).*

### **Does Exodus 20:4-6 refer to demons and curses?**

*“Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. **Do not bow down to any idol or worship it...** because I am the LORD your God and I tolerate no rivals. **I bring punishment** on those who hate me and on their descendants down to the third and fourth generation” (My emphasis).*

**Exodus 20:5-6** cannot be used to explain that generational curses have to be broken, because in this passage no mention is made of demons or curses; it is God that declares that He will punish the sins of the fathers and what God “curses” cannot be broken.

Some who place the emphasis in the wrong place, interpret this passage to mean that no images or objects are to be made. This interpretation would imply that all works of art would be wrong. The problem does not lie in the making of an object, it lies in worshipping it. There is, for example nothing wrong with hanging a picture of your wife or daughter on the wall, but the Catholic who genuflects every time he passes a picture of Mother Mary or bows in front of a figurine of one of their saints, is guilty of what is being warned against in **Exodus 24:4-6**.

### **What does the New Testament teach about demons?**

In the teaching of the apostles in the New Testament not a word is said about curses that have to be broken in the lives of redeemed believers who have been washed in the blood of Jesus. Paul assures those who are in Christ that

*“...neither death, nor life, **nor angels, nor rulers, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature** will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord (**Rom. 8:38-39**, my emphasis).*

### **The importance of the confessing of sin and of being born again**

*“Many who became believers kept coming to confess ...Moreover, many people who had practiced occult arts gathered their books and burned them in front of everybody...” (**Acts 19:18-19**).*

It is interesting to note that although these Ephesians had been involved in occult practices, nothing is said about curses that had to be broken in their lives. They had to confess their sin and renounce the occult. Paul who was guilty of the serious sin of murdering Christians, also makes no mention of curses that had to be broken in his life. At his conversion, the power of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross was enough to set him free and he could say:

*“...if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!**” (2 Cor. 5:17, my emphasis).*

**Neither Satan, nor demons can curse those who are in Christ.** Balaam was right when he said:

*“How can I curse what God has not cursed, Or speak of doom when the LORD has not?” (Num. 23:8).*

Our focus should be on proclaiming the freedom that is obtainable by believing in the victory over demons obtained by Christ’s redemptive work on the cross (**Col. 2:15**).

**People distort what God has proclaimed to be good.**

Some people attach evil symbolism to certain birds and animals like owls, crows, frogs and goats. When God created all the animals, He declared that *“...it was good ”* (**Gen. 1:25**). How can what has been pronounced “good” by the God, be evil? There is nothing evil about animals and birds; the evil exists in the minds of those who abuse them for their own evil purposes.

## **Conclusion**

People who have come under demonic influence, need to do what the Ephesians did in **Acts 19** – they need to repent, turn away from sin, renounce any occult involvement and trust in the redemptive power of Jesus Christ to set them free:

*“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!” (Joh. 8:36).*

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