

# HCSC Summer Bible Series 2019

## *“Angels & Demons”*

### **Demons Detailed**

#### **What is a demon? –**

- A demon is a fallen angel.
- Demons are pure spirit. As such they cannot manifest sins of the flesh (though they can tempt others to them).
- They have been condemned to live apart from God due to their rejection of him and rebellion against his kingdom.
- Read Revelation 12.
- Since their decision is final, their condemnation is also final and eternal.
- Their rejection of God has hardened to a hatred of God and all he represents.

#### **Are all demons the same?**

- No, as with angels, they are unique persons.
- They also fell from all nine Choirs or ranks of the angels.
- Thus they vary in their power over creation, and us and also in their power hierarchically among each other.
- As for their personalities, they vary. Some are talkative, others silent. Some are intelligent (though without wisdom), others are dumb as rocks. Some manifest anger and rage, others mockery and pride. Some are even childish and vain. They are all narcissistic and crave attention.

#### **Are Demons Pure Evil?**

- No, nothing can be purely or totally evil or it would not exist at all. This is because evil is a privation, a lack of something that should be there.
- Demons exist and they think, which are good things.
- However they cannot do supernaturally good things since this requires grace.

#### **Should we hate demons?**

- No we should not hate a creature, especially persons
- Neither should we ridicule or vituperate them.
- This is a trap since they want us to become like them. If we do, they win.
- However we should surely avoid their company and keep our distance
- We should retain a sober understanding that they do hate us!

### **What are their powers over us?**

- They have power to tempt us, and in some cases to oppress us (mentally, emotionally, spiritually and even physically).
- In rare cases they can possess a person by taking control over their body and manifest their presence in this way.
- While we ought not exaggerate their power, or assign every form of evil and temptation to them, neither should we be dismissive of their influence.

### **What are the limits to those Powers?**

- It is not unlimited.
- God limits their power.
- God is more powerful
- Angels are more powerful.

### **Are demons all-knowing like God?**

- No, they are intelligent and intuitive, but they are not omniscient.

### **Do demons know the future?**

- No. They are good at observing our conduct and drawing accurate conclusions, but they cannot read our minds.
- God can also limit their ability to see and overhear everything we say, especially in confession and privileged conversations.

### **Should we be afraid of demons?**

- Not in an excessive way.
- We should trust God and the power of sacraments, sacramentals, prayer, and the assistance of the angels and saints.
- But we should be soberly aware of the activities of demons in our world, in others and in our very selves.

### **Why does Holy Water disturb demons?**

- It is blessed
- It reminds demons of the power of baptism to take us from their kingdom
- It is an image of purity and cleanness.

### **What other things disturb them?**

- Crucifix
- Relics
- Religious images
- The touch of a priest's stole and his hands.