

**HCSC Summer Bible Series 2019**  
*“Angels & Demons”*

**Demons Detailed (part 3)**

**What are the three levels of demonic activity?**

Temptation, which we all experience, oppression, which many experience from time to time, and possession which is rare. In temptation demons suggest sinful practices to us. Oppression can be mental, emotional or spiritual and is sometimes termed obsession. Oppression can, more rarely be physical, involving physical blows that often leave marks. Demons can sometimes also physically trash a room or break objects and make noise

**Can demons cause physical illnesses?**

Physical illnesses nearly always have natural causes. Only if God permits can a demon cause physical illnesses. We know from the Scriptures that God permitted the devil to afflict Job. Further, the demon Asmodeus was permitted to take the lives of Sarah’s seven husbands one by one until The Archangel Raphael cast it out permitting Tobias to marry her. But these are very rare exceptions, and only when God permits it for a greater reason.

**How can we protect ourselves from demonic attacks?**

We must avoid sin and things, which tempt, be regular with confession, Holy Communion, prayer, the reading of Scripture, and maintaining holy and helpful friendships. If we do this, we can be well protected from demonic incursions or attacks. Clearly we must never seek out the dark side through things such as tarot cards, palm reading, divination, necromancy etc. Further, the use of holy water, and other sacramentals such as medals, scapulars and the like can help.

**How is oppression different from possession?**

When one is in the possessed state their personality is submerged and another personality steps forward who usually knows other languages and facts that the possessed person does not. The demon uses the body of the person but manifests its own personality. Sometimes possessed people manifest unusual strength and are powerfully afflicted by Holy water and other things such the priest’s stole, his hand, relics and so forth. In oppression, the person does not give way to another personality. They may suffer emotional, psychic or even physical pain but they remain conscious and active in such moments.

**Why would demons want to possess a human body?**

Reason # 1 with demons is that they hate us and know that possession bothers us and incites fear. But another clear reason is that they love to mock and mimic divine actions. Since the Word became flesh, demons imitate in a mock way a similar action. Also, since the Holy Spirit indwells us, demons like to mock that as well.

**Can demons possess our souls?**

No, only the body can be possessed.

## **What are some of the characteristics of a possessed person?**

1. Repugnance or horror at sacred objects or persons. In the most extreme cases there are outbursts of fury and blasphemy or insults directed at what is holy.
2. There is a demonstrable change of personality during the crisis moments. The personality that emerges has an evil and hateful quality and most often manifests knowledge of things and languages that the human person does not know. There is sometimes manifest unusual physical strength as well. The eyes also reveal a lot.
3. In strong cases there is little or no memory of the episodes.
4. When the person returns to normal they are largely themselves. However many also experience a tendency to seek dark shadows, and are tormented from time to time by unpleasant or frightful thoughts.

## **How can we determine if a person is possessed?**

Exorcists meet with the person, and conduct an interview. Mental health issues must be ruled out. The interview seeks to determine possible sources of possession and also the frequency of episodes as well as the severity. If Possession is suspected, a series of diagnostic prayers are used which have the purpose of forcing the demons to manifest, or step forward. The exorcist looks for certain signs as noted above in addition to lesser signs such as twitching, eyes rolling back, pain, a change in voice etc. in response to the prayers.

## **Can demons hide their presence in a person they possess?**

Yes, they often do hide as much as they can. But sooner or later the force of the prayers causes them to manifest. The prayers inflict pain and cause deep anger in the demons and this eventually comes forth. Since they are very narcissistic and prideful they hate some mere human “mud doll” shining the light of truth on the ugliness they have become. The combination of all this forces them to manifest sooner or later.

## **How long do exorcism sessions last?**

Depending on the strength of the person, and others on the team they last about an hour, sometimes two. In rare cases they may go on for many hours at a time. It is almost never the case that one session drives them out. For lower ranking demons several sessions may do. For higher ranking demons who may involve hundreds of other demons in their action, the exorcism may go on for months. In rare cases, years of regular sessions are required.

## **What do exorcism prayers say?**

I'll read some samples in class.