DELIVERANCE
Prayer Study #353
First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA

Handout # 6: *"Can a Christian have a demon?"*

No where in the Bible does it explicitly say that a Christian can have a demon, but it does give examples of both Old and New Testament believers having demons or being demonically oppressed. Also, every expert in the field of deliverance will tell you that Christians not only can, but frequently do have demonic oppression. Finally, our own experiences, although very limited, have shown that Christians can certainly be demonized. This all goes back to the triune nature of *born-again* man. He is spirit, soul, and body. Demons cannot possess a Christian because they cannot invade the spirit of a true born-again believer, but they certainly can demonize or oppress a Christian by invading soul and body and need to be cast out.

SCRIPTURES
Mark 8:33: Jesus rebuked a spirit in Simon Peter.
Mark 1: Jesus casts out devils in the synagogue.
Mark 9:17-29: Jesus casts a demon out of a believer's son.
Luke 4:38-39: Jesus casts out a spirit of fever from Peter's mother-in-law.
Luke 13: A daughter of Abraham is freed from a spirit of infirmity of 18 years.
Luke 22:3: Satan enters Judas, one of Jesus' closest followers.
Acts 5:3-4: Ananias and Sapphira, believers of the early church, were demonized.
1st Corinthians 5:1-5: Corinth believer delivered up to Satan.
2nd Corinthians 12:7-8: Paul has messenger of Satan to buffet him.
Galatians 3:1: Paul talks of bewitched Galatian believers.
Ephesians 4:26-27: Paul warns Ephesian believers not to give place to devil.
1st Timothy 1:19-20: Believers Hymenaeus & Alexander delivered to Satan.
1st Timothy 4:1: Paul speaks of those believers with deceiving spirits.

James tells us in chapter 4, verse 7 of James to submit to God and resist Satan. The result of these actions is Satan flees. The implication is that believers, who do not submit to God (i.e., those walking in rebellion and disobedience and who thus do not resist Satan) can be demonized. This same theme is repeated in 1st Peter 5:8-9: *"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."* Clearly, the Bible gives evidence that believers can be demonized by demons and spirits under Satan's control. The Word is all the evidence that Christians should need.