

Varieties of Faith

Part 3: Demonic (Dead) Faith James 2:19

"People who say they 'believe in' God but show no evidence of saving faith in their lives have the kind of faith demons have: dead faith."

What is demonic/dead faith?

James 2:17-20—
“dead faith” –
nekra/argos faith

- .17 “Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. (*nekra*)
- .18 “But someone may say, ‘You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.’ (Paul is countering the first argument: that true, saving, living faith can exist without manifestations of “loving/merciful works.)
- .19 “You believe that God is one (addressing the “faith without works” person again). You do well. The demons also believe, and shudder (tremble with fear).”
- .20 “But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is dead/(useless/barren)?” (*argos*)

What is demonic/dead faith?

Characteristics of demonic/dead/barren faith –

- This kind of “faith” is dead
- *Nekra*—corpse-like; lacking/destitute of life
- *Argos*—“barren”—useless; unable to produce new life

What is demonic/dead faith?

- It is intellectual/knowledge only-based “faith”/belief that has no spiritually saving power—i.e., it is knowledge about God and His ways, not “of” God in terms of relationship – *gnosis/ epignosis*
- It is “faith” that can cause emotional responses in persons
- It is “faith” that lacks the vital elements of “saving faith” –
 1. personal acceptance of Jesus and His work of redemption
 2. manifested in a transformed life of “love and good deeds”

What is demonic/dead faith?

- It is not “new life-producing faith” --it has no power to produce zoe (spiritual/divine) life in persons that will always result in what James calls mercy-filled “good works.”
- It is not “justifying faith” -- Justification by faith -- Romans 3:28—Paul— “So we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law.” Eph.2:8—“For by grace you have been saved through faith...”

What do demons know?

1. **Demons know *about* Jesus and certain humans--** Sons of Sceva Acts 19:13-15—"I know about Jesus and Paul, but who are you?" "I know about Dave Appleby"
2. **Demons know scripture—**Wilderness temptation Matt. 4:1-11—Satan quotes scripture to Jesus from Psalm 91
3. **Can demons read human minds?** No. They know by observation of humans and world events through thousands of years
4. **Demons know about Jesus, His identity and work toward them, and their ultimate destiny**

What do demons know?

- **Demons Go To Church** Demons at a synagogue in Capernaum where Jesus spoke— Luke 4:33-34 “Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the **Holy One of God!**”
- **Demons in the Gadarene Demoniac** Matt. 8:28-29—6,000 evil spirits; 2,000 pigs –Matt. 8:29 – “They began screaming at Him, “Why are you interfering with us, **Son of God?** (Mark 5:1-7— “**Son of the Most High God.**” (Note: in Mark: singular/plural demonic speakers)

What do demons know?

- They know who Jesus is—the Son of God; the Holy One of God; their divine Judge
- They know Jesus has absolute authority and power over them
- They know that they are appointed for eternal torment; Matt. 25:41—“everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” – abyss--where some demons are confined now; lake of fire—ultimate destination
- Jesus casting 6,000 demons into pigs was a “kingdom breakthrough”—the future coming into the present—demons cast in the “abyss” of the sea

Defeating 2 Common Demonic Strategies – Be “Not Ignorant”

- *The enemy employs organized attacks against Christians -- Eph. 6:11—Schemes – carefully thought-out plans – “methodeia” —a predictable method used in organized evil-doing*
- *We can “know” those enemy attacks -- “We are ignorant of the **plans** of the devil”— 2 Co. 2:11-- schemes/devices/designs – “noemata” – “thoughts, purposes, plans”*

Strategies

Strategies of Hindrance and Retaliation Against Christians

Hindrance—to stop the events or people from going to it

- 1 Thess. 2:18 – “But Satan hindered us.”

Retaliation

- John 10:10—“The thief comes only to steal...”

Tactics of demons to hinder and retaliate

Unless forbidden, demons have authority to launch various attacks in body, in soul (mind, emotions, will) relationships, & circumstances--

Sudden exhaustion; sudden bodily pain or weakness/sickness; strong thoughts of other things to do, lack of desire for church stuff (I really don't want to go), inability to "rally" (sudden intense laziness/sleepiness), a blanket of depression, sadness, fear, hatred/resentment/offense; arguments with family members; troubling phone calls from relatives; dead battery in car; doggie diarrhea in living room, dog sick, dog dies, flat tire on way to church; near-accident (road rage in you), accident, rainstorm, snowstorm; whatever works on you

Our Counter Strategy

Pre-Emptive Prayer—Through prayer in Jesus name: binding demonic authority; loosing God's will/Ps.91 protection

- **Matt. 18:18** "What you bind on earth shall have been already bound in the heavenlies; what you loose..."
- **Pre-emptive prayer works only if actually done! Not automatic.**