

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

DEMONIAC POSSESSION

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David.

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

And if Satan cast out Satan he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

— *Matthew 12:22-30*

Those engaged in the work of curing and healing — the medical doctors as well as the mental and spiritual healers — are becoming more and more aware of the reality of "possession." They are realizing that a discarnate entity can partially or wholly take possession of the body of someone living on the Earth plane. The medical profession has various names for such a condition: neurotic, psychotic, schizophrenic, etc, and uses various types of treatments to effect a cure. In some cases, the partially obsessing entity may be dislodged by physical means, but the spiritual healer has the real key to the difficulty.

Christ Jesus, master Exponent of Divine Love, of course had the power to

remove the "demons," "devils," etc., from their victims, as is recorded many times in the Gospels. His name may be used even today to command these wayward beings by those qualified to do so. Such cases should serve as impressive warnings to those "who have ears to hear" — warnings against the negative living that makes one susceptible to partial or complete obsession. There is no loss more terrible than that of one's physical body to another entity, and it can come about only by serious transgression of God's laws.

In the incident related above, we again find the reactionary Pharisees, those wily opponents of the new regime of Christ, seeking some reason for accusing the new Teacher of trespassing upon the priestly law, so that they might have Him removed from the people. Among themselves, they devised the accusation that He used the power of "Beelzebub, prince of the devils," to effect His results.

But Christ Jesus *knew their thoughts*, which must have amazed his accusers in this and many other similar instances, and began to use His superb logic to answer their accusation. (We may note in passing that this power of the Master to read thoughts was an indication of a faculty that will eventually be possessed by all people. We observe a growing realization of this power in our modern world, even among material scientists.) He advanced the indisputable doctrine that, "If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (*Mark 3:25*) We often hear this statement made to indicate the necessity for unity on the material plane, but its most vital significance is of a spiritual nature. "He that is not with me is against me," means that there must be a complete dedication to spiritual living if real progress is to be made on the Path. ★