

CHAPTER SEVEN

Demons

We cannot obtain an understanding of the spiritual processes unfolding today unless we come to recognition of the mechanisms by which the Devil will prosecute his terror.

He will do it by operating through the human mind.

He will persuade, and control, human mind to do his bidding.

In order to properly understand these mechanism I shall use the next few chapters to discuss the elements which enter into this power. However, to properly do so, I must resort to other Revelations. I must use the most efficient means at my disposal to show the nature of these transactions.

I shall examine biblical teachings on demons and their entry into the human mind. I shall also examine passages from *The Urantia Papers* which help our understanding of these crucially important spiritual matters.

We must carefully distinguish between the two levels of brain and mind.

Human brain is not human mind. The brain is an organism, a material vehicle which permits the operation of the mind. The brain comes with birth; it is genetic. The mind is a gift from God imposed upon the brain, and using the brain as the vehicle of its expression.

(In following discussions page numbers refer to *The Urantia Papers*, unless other wise indicated.)

P.564 - Mind is the bestowal of the Infinite Spirit and functions quite the same in diverse environments.

P.670 - The physiologic equipment and the anatomic structure of all new orders of life are in response to the action of physical law, but the subsequent endowment of mind is a bestowal of the adjutant mind-spirits in accordance with innate brain capacity. Mind, while not a physical evolution, is wholly dependent on the brain capacity afforded by purely physical and evolutionary developments.

When the demons of old possessed human beings they did so through the brain, through the physical organism.

P.863 - This was accomplished in much the same way as the loyal midway creatures function when they serve as efficient contact guardians of the human minds of the Urantia reserve corps of destiny at

those times when the Adjuster is, in effect, detached from the personality during a season of contact with superhuman intelligences.

However, we should understand that when demoniacal spirits possessed human brain they also controlled the mind, since the mind is resident in the brain. But their entry into the brain was not via the mind.

P.863 - On no world can evil spirits possess any mortal mind subsequent to the life of a Paradise bestowal Son. But before the days of Christ Michael on Urantia — before the universal coming of the Thought Adjusters and the pouring out of the Master's spirit upon all flesh — these rebel midwayers were actually able to influence the minds of certain inferior mortals and somewhat to control their actions.

When the Devil enters today he enters the mind, at the mind level, and not through the brain.

Thus there is a crucial difference between demonic possession, and Spirit entry into mind. The first was by involuntary control of the brain; the second is by voluntary invitation of the Spirit into the mind by conscious free-will decision.

The first was eliminated when Jesus imprisoned all the rebel demons at the time of Pentecost. The second still operates through God's permission.

P.864 - The entire group of rebel midwayers is at present held prisoner by order of the Most Highs of Edentia. No more do they roam this world on mischief bent. Regardless of the presence of the Thought Adjusters, the pouring out of the Spirit of Truth upon all flesh forever made it impossible for disloyal spirits of any sort or description ever again to invade even the most feeble of human minds. Since the day of Pentecost there never again can be such a thing as demoniacal possession.

But this removal of demoniacal possession did not alter the dangers of diabolical possession. The Devil still functions, and can come into human mind if invited to do so.

P.863 - It is no mere figure of speech when the record states: "And they brought to Him all sorts of sick people, those who were possessed by devils and those who were lunatics." Jesus knew and recognized the difference between insanity and demoniacal possession, although these states were greatly confused in the minds of those who lived in his day and generation.

The biblical reference is to Matt 8:16.

P.863 - Even prior to Pentecost no rebel spirit could dominate a normal human mind, and since that day even the weak minds of inferior mortals are free from such possibilities. The supposed casting out of devils since the arrival of the Spirit of Truth has been a matter of confounding a belief in demoniacal possession with hysteria, insanity, and feeble-mindedness. But just because Michael's bestowal has forever liberated all human minds on Urantia from the possibility of demoniacal possession, do not imagine that such was not a reality in former ages.

To better understand the processes of spirit entry into human mind we should heed the fact that higher Spirit entities can directly enter human mind. Whether they do so or not depends upon our spiritual status and relationship with God, and their function in universe affairs.

I shall first illustrate with the Spirit of the Father.

THE SPIRIT OF THE FATHER

Consider statements by the New Testament writers.

Rom 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

The one who raised Jesus from the dead was the Father. His Spirit dwells in us. Is this the Holy Spirit, recognized as a separate personality, a person of the Trinity, whom the Father sends? Or is this a spirit unique to the Father, his Spirit? Few Christians have made this distinction because spirit entities and beings are lumped together indistinguishably.

1 Cor 3:16 - Do you not know that you are God's sanctuary and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Paul's remark shows that God, the Father, has a distinct Spirit which actually dwells within us. It is not a "force" that imposes a spirit attitude or feeling upon us, nor merely a "spiritual" influence. It is a spirit entity, a gift portion from the Father. He comes to live with us, and be with us. He actually dwells within us.

1 Cor 6:19 - Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own.

This verse illustrates the confusion in our historic record. Here we could believe that the Holy Spirit, with personality distinct from the Father, but ultimately originating within the Father, comes to dwell within us.

I do not wish to engage in debate of this possible difference, something we can never ultimately prove or disprove. Here I wish to develop thoughts which can lead us into better understanding of the actual entry of spirit entities into human brain and mind.

If the Spirit of the Father actually dwells within us does he dwell in our kidneys, liver, stomach or physical heart? 1 Cor 6:19 states that he dwells within our bodies. Paul did not intend that the Spirit dwells within the physical mechanism. He meant that God's Spirit dwells within our minds. He lives where we have cognitive ability. This is really where the "heart" is, but "heart" means purpose and will according to God's purpose and will. It means a desire to know more of what God wants of us. It means a love for God. God's gift provides for us to become devout men and women centered around that Spirit which dwells within us.

Did God ask our permission to come into us? Would he ask an immature and primitive creature? His Spirit is a free gift, bestowed upon us for the mere fact that we exist, that he created us. That is his way of drawing near to the lowly material beings of time and space.

The Father is not a respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34-35 - Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons but in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted by him."

Would God deny us his spirit merely because we are less intelligent than another person? Or that we were born into one family and not another? Or that we are of a different race?

Therefore, we can conclude that he invaded us; he did not ask our permission. He came in without us knowing it. He did not invade to take advantage of us, but that he might help in our earthly struggles. If he speaks to us, and we obey, we draw closer to him and to his purpose. He does not violate our will, nor our thoughts. He is resident quiescently, fully compliant to our choices. His gift of life includes the privilege to do our own choosing. He respects our choices because his Spirit is a gift. And then, when we become more fully attuned to his presence, as we learn to adjust our thoughts to his thoughts, we begin to develop a closer relationship with God.

P.24 - Those who know God have experienced the fact of his presence; such God-knowing mortals hold in their personal experience the only positive proof of the existence of the living God which one human being can offer to another. The existence of God is utterly beyond all possibility of demonstration except for the contact between the God-consciousness of the human mind and the God-presence of the Thought Adjuster that indwells the mortal intellect and is bestowed upon man as the free gift of the Universal Father.

P.1193 - The Mystery Monitors are undoubtedly the bestowal of the Universal Father, the reflection of the image of God abroad in the universe. A great teacher once admonished men that they should be renewed in the spirit of their minds; that they become new men who, like God, are created in righteousness and in the completion of truth. The Adjuster is the mark of divinity, the presence of God. The "image of God" does not refer to physical likeness nor to the circumscribed limitations of material creature endowment but rather to the gift of the spirit presence of the Universal Father in the supernal bestowal of the Thought Adjusters upon the humble creatures of the universes.

The great teacher, of course, was Paul and his statement is in Ephesians 4:23.

1 Jn 3:24 - All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

When we keep God's commandments we bring our hearts and our minds in line with his will and his purpose. We want to do what God wants. It is our will to do his will. If we have this purpose he works with us to bring our thinking around to his thinking. We can oppose or we can attune. That is our choice.

Eph 3:14-17 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love . . .

Here Paul distinguishes between the Spirit of the Father who dwells within us, and that spirit of Jesus, one mind and one purpose with him, through an attitude of faith in our hearts, which gives us love for him and for our fellows.

The difference between the Spirit of the Father, and the Spirit of Jesus is indicated elsewhere.

P.1103 - Jesus was the perfectly unified human personality. And today, as in Galilee, he continues to unify mortal experience and to co-ordinate human endeavors. He unifies life, ennobles character, and simplifies experience. He enters the human mind to elevate, transform, and transfigure it. It is literally true: "If any man has Christ Jesus within him, he is a new creature; old things are passing away; behold, all things are becoming new."

The biblical reference is to 2 Cor 5:17.

The evidence from the Bible and from Revelation demonstrates that the Spirit of the Father invades the human mind, a Spirit entity of high holy origin, the highest possible in existence. The evidence shows that Jesus also enters our minds to unify mortal experience, and to uplift us.

But neither the Father nor Jesus take possession of us, nor do they violate our free-will decisions. They created us as true Sons of God, that we might grow to be more mature creatures. Their Spirits work with us to accomplish that superb goal.

THE SPIRIT OF DEMONS

Demon possession has a specific mechanism. The New Testament record testifies to that phenomenon.

- Demons recognized Jesus as a divine Son of God, Luke 4:33-35. In one case he rebuked them; he did not want them to reveal who he was, Luke 4:41. He did not broadcast to the world what they understood: his status as Creator. He forbid them to do so. And they obeyed. They respected him as their Creator. They acknowledged his power and authority, James 2:19.
- They knew he could judge them, and asked why he was here now, ahead of "the time," i.e., ahead of the judgment, Matt 8:29.
- They did not want Jesus to send them "out of the country," meaning to celestial internment, Mark 5:10.
- Jesus had the power to order them about, Matt 8:16, 9:32, Mark 1:27.
- The New Testament writers believed they had degrees of wickedness, Matt 12:45.
- Demons could control all mechanisms of the human body, via the mind, including hearing and vision, Matt 12:22. In another case, after the demon had been cast out, a person who was held dumb could speak, Matt 9:32-33. Sometimes they were fierce in their possession, Matt 8:28, Mark 5:2-10.
- An explicit remark shows that demons possessed the human mind, Mark 5:15, but we should understand that they did so through the brain. The human mortals who were subject to them expressed the mind and thought of the demon, Luke 8:28. The demon took over the brain of the human.

From this evidence we can deduce several important characteristics of the rebel spirits:

- They had personality, cognitive thought, purpose, objectives, and ability to exercise their power, even if evil.
- They seized control of human mortals; they used methods which permitted them to usurp the personal volition of their human victims.
- The New Testament reports show the demons actually took up residence within the brains, to influence the minds of their human victims.

- Their possession of human beings was sordid. They violated human integrity and will. They did not respect human kind. They fell prey to a depraved temptation to subvert the minds and bodies of those persons.
(This behavior can be brought into better grasp by imagining human power to enter into animals, and to control their behavior. If we had such power, what human mortal would engage in such activities, except the most debased?)
- The demons were limited in the type of human mortals they could possess. Since they were not inhibited in behavior they would have randomly entered all persons if everyone had been subject to their entry.
- They entered only mortals who had weak minds. This weakness was not physical; it was mental. Either the persons were mentally retarded, or had weak wills. The persons were not strong enough to keep control of their own minds.
- If demonic control was strictly over the physical body they could have controlled all humans, since that control would have bypassed human mind. This shows they entered human mortals through the brain. They possessed the body by control of mental currents.
- They could not possess normal persons because those persons were strong enough in their personal will and volition to inhibit the demons from taking control of the mental currents.

Thus the biblical evidence suggests the demons possessed human mortals through entry into the brain. They controlled the mind through the brain to engage in their sordid activities.

An important question before us is the functional status of these rebel demon spirits. What role did they serve in creation?

- The evidence shows that they did not travel to and fro between the celestial realms and this world, as do the angels. One of those rebels specifically asked Jesus not to be taken “out of this country.” They were bound to this planet.
(The word translated as “country” is from Greek *chora* with the idea of empty expanse or large open region. The word is a feminine derivative of Greek *chasma*, from whence English *chasm*. *Chasma* in Greek meant a vacancy, gulf, or impassable interval, hence space in modern terminology. The Greeks used *chora* to denote the world, or the planet. This word is contrasted with Greek *topos* which we know in English *topography*.)
- If the demons did not travel to and fro between heaven and earth, and if they did not wish to be taken out of this “earth,” at “the time,” i.e. the Judgment, the implication is that they were permanent residents of this world. If so, they had origin on this world. They did not have origin in the celestial realms. But the transactions giving birth to the demon personalities are lost to our planetary record. We have hints of such transactions when the Sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, Gen 6:1-4, but the significance of those transactions is now viewed only in mythological terms.

- They were not confused with angels by the ancients; those olden people recognized them as different. Neither did the ancients describe those episodes as angelic possession.
- If the demons were from this world, not the celestial realms, and if the ancients recognized them as less than angels, we could say they were designed by God for service in creation somewhere between human mortals and angels. We might designate them as “midway” creatures.

P.286 - The Ministering Spirits of the Local Universes embrace the seraphim and their assistants, the cherubim. With these offspring of a Universe Mother Spirit mortal ascenders have initial contact. The midway creatures, of nativity on the inhabited worlds, are not really of the angelic orders proper, though often functionally grouped with the ministering spirits.

P.415 - In the early days of most inhabited worlds, certain superhuman but materialized beings are of assignment, but they usually retire upon the arrival of the Planetary Adams. The transactions of such beings and the efforts of the Material Sons to improve the evolutionary races often result in the appearance of a limited number of creatures who are difficult to classify. These unique beings are often midway between the Material Sons and the evolutionary creatures; hence their designation, midway creatures. In a comparative sense these midwayers are the permanent citizens of the evolutionary worlds. From the early days of the arrival of a Planetary Prince to the far-distant time of the settling of the planet in light and life, they are the only group of intelligent beings to remain continuously on the sphere. On Urantia the midway ministers are in reality the actual custodians of the planet; they are, practically speaking, the citizens of Urantia. Mortals are indeed the physical and material inhabitants of an evolutionary world, but you are all so short-lived; you tarry on your nativity planet such a short time. You are born, live, die, and pass on to other worlds of evolutionary progression. Even the superhuman beings who serve on the planets as celestial ministers are of transient assignment; few of them are long attached to a given sphere. The midway creatures, however, provide continuity of planetary administration in the face of ever-changing celestial ministries and constantly shifting mortal inhabitants. Throughout all of this never-ceasing changing and shifting, the midway creatures remain on the planet uninterruptedly carrying on their work.

We should remember that at one time they were respected beings; before the rebellion they were assigned responsible tasks on this world.

These revelations have several crucial components.

- Demons no longer are on our world. Activities of fallen spirits is now limited to the Devil — our fallen Prince. He is still free on our world to prosecute his nefarious designs.
- Disloyal spirits could and did invade human mind by taking over the brains of some mortals prior to the pouring out of the Spirit of Truth upon all flesh at the time of Pentecost.
- The pouring out of the Spirit of Truth upon all flesh made it forever impossible for disloyal spirits to invade even the most feeble of human minds.
- This is the definition of demoniacal possession: invasion of human mind through the brain without permission of the human host. No longer can any fallen spirit take involuntary possession of human mind. All spirit entry into human mind can now be done only through invitation and permission of the human mortal. If all “demons” have been interred, and only the fallen Prince remains, his entry into human mind is now only through conscious invitation, not through involuntary possession.
- The life of Jesus upon this world altered the conditions of spirit operation. When he poured out his Spirit of Truth he made it impossible for a true faith son or daughter to ever again be invaded involuntarily by rebel spirit beings.

The instructions we have received from Revelation are greatly helpful to understand that rebel demons no longer are a threat to us, nor have they been since the days of Pentecost.

From page 863- 864:

The majority of the primary midwayers went into sin at the time of the Lucifer rebellion. When the devastation of the planetary rebellion was reckoned up, among other losses it was discovered that of the original 50,000, 40,119 had joined the Caligastia secession.

The original number of secondary midwayers was 1,984, and of these 873 failed to align themselves with the rule of Michael and were duly interned in connection with the planetary adjudication of Urantia on the day of Pentecost. No one can forecast the future of these fallen creatures.

Both groups of rebel midwayers are now held in custody awaiting the final adjudication of the affairs of the system rebellion. But they did many strange things on earth prior to the inauguration of the present planetary dispensation.

These disloyal midwayers were able to reveal themselves to mortal eyes under certain circumstances, and especially was this true of the associates of Beelzebub, the leader of the apostate secondary midwayers. But these unique creatures must not be confused with certain of the rebel cherubim and seraphim who also were on earth up to the time of Christ's

death and resurrection. Some of the older writers designated these rebellious midway creatures as evil spirits and demons, and the apostate seraphim as evil angels.

I have now offered discussion on two types of spirit beings or entities: the Spirit of the Father, and midwayers, known in our historic record as demons. The Spirit of the Father is the highest form of spirit entity in creation. The midwayers are the lowest, since they are next to human mortals in status. Both could invade the human mind. Therefore, it seems natural to infer that all other intervening orders of spirit beings or entities could also invade the human mind. This was illustrated by the revelation which stated that Jesus enters our mind.

Remember that Jesus is God, and can enter our minds without altering our will and our choices. But no loyal spirit being less than our Creator comes into our minds, whether invited to do so or not. Only debased rebel spirits would invade the sanctity of human mind.