

Christian Doctrine

Angels (Part 4)

What Exactly Do Demons Do?

Various Activities Demons Perform

Scripture reveals a number of activities demons are involved in and various activities they carrying out. These include:

- Used on occasion by God to carry out His purposes: The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him ([I Sam. 16:14](#)); an evil spirit was used to keep Paul humble ([II Cor. 12:7](#)); etc.
- Serve Satan by carrying out his purposes and plans: Their allegiance is to their leader (Satan) and they do what he wants done ([Matt. 25:41](#); [Eph. 6:12](#); [Rev. 12:7-12](#)).
- Oppose good angels in their work: A demon tried to keep a good angel from delivering a message to Daniel ([Dan 10:10-14](#)).
- Promote idolatry and false teachings: Idolatry ([Lev. 17:7](#); [Deut. 32:17](#); [Ps. 106:36-38](#); [I Cor. 10:20](#)). False teachings ([I John 4:1-4](#); [I Tim. 3:16-4:3](#); [II Thess. 2:2](#)).
- Afflict people: They can cause physical and mental disorders ([Matt. 9:33](#); [12:22](#); [17:15-18](#); [Mark 5:1-20](#)). Note, not all mental disorders are caused by demons. Mental illnesses and demonic activities are sometimes described as two different things ([Matt. 4:24](#); [Mark 1:32, 34](#); [Luke 7:21](#); [9:1](#)).
- Oppose true Christians in their spiritual growth: Demons desire believers to fall into sin ([Eph. 6:12](#)).
- Possess people: They can enter and control a person from within ([Mark 5:8-14](#); [Luke 8:2](#); [Acts 8:7](#); [16:16](#)). Note, it does not appear that believers (who have become the Temple of the Holy Spirit) can be possessed by demons ([I Cor. 6:19](#)).

Demons are devoted to carrying out the plans of Satan, who is their leader. Demons do not have the freedom to do whatever they want, though. They can only do what God allows them to do. For this reason, believers have no reason to fear demons ([I John 4:4](#)). However, it is good to be aware of their activities so that we can recognize what they are doing around us and be on guard for the cause of Christ.