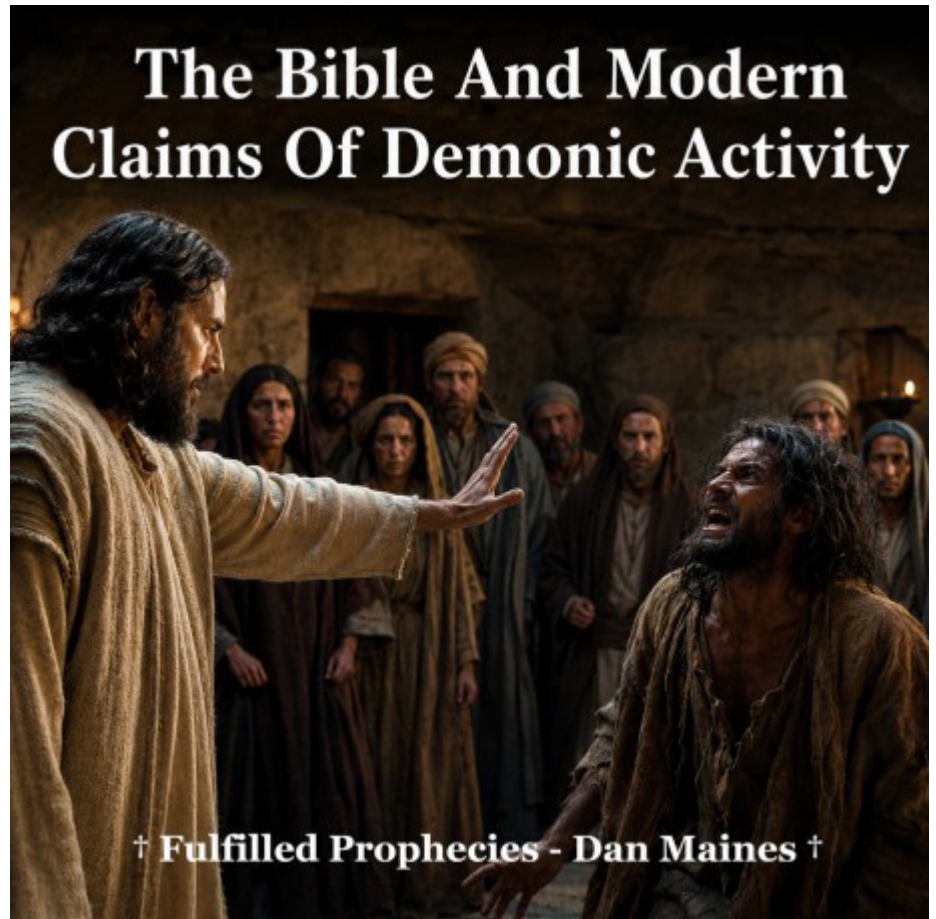


# Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#) > [B](#) > [Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

## The Bible And Modern Claims Of Demonic Activity Part 2 of 2



By Dan Maines

## The Bible And Modern Claims Of Demonic Activity Part 2 of 2

[Part 1 of 2](#)

[Part 2 of 2](#)

### Introduction

† Part one established that Scripture identifies the human heart as the primary source of sinful behavior and that Christ demonstrated His authority over demons during His earthly ministry. Part two examines how believers should evaluate

modern claims of demonic activity without allowing fear, superstition, or sensational stories to replace the authority of Scripture.

† We live in a culture fascinated by ghosts, haunted houses, paranormal investigations, deliverance ministries, Ouija boards, séances, and supernatural experiences. Television, movies, social media, and countless websites have fueled an obsession with the unseen world. Yet the Bible repeatedly directs our attention away from fear and toward Christ. (Colossians 3:1-3)

† Scripture does not deny the existence of spiritual evil, but it commands believers to test every claim carefully. Extraordinary stories do not establish biblical truth. God's Word remains the final authority. (Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

## **Test Everything**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**

but examine everything; hold firmly to that which is good, abstain from every form of evil.

† Paul did not tell believers to accept every testimony about the supernatural. He instructed them to examine everything carefully before accepting it as true. (Acts 17:11)

† This principle applies to modern reports of possessions, hauntings, visions, miracles, and deliverance ministries just as much as it applied to the early church.

† Faith is built upon God's Word, not upon dramatic experiences or emotional stories. (Romans 10:17)

## **Search The Scriptures Daily**

### **Acts 17:11**

Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

† Even the Apostle Paul's teaching was tested against Scripture.

† If Paul welcomed biblical examination, then every modern teacher, pastor, priest, prophet, deliverance minister, or

paranormal investigator should expect the same scrutiny.

† Scripture is always the standard by which every spiritual claim must be judged. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

## **God Forbids Occult Practices**

### **Deuteronomy 18:10-12**

There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, a soothsayer, one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who consults the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God is going to drive them out before you.

† God never instructed His people to explore the occult in order to understand it.

† Instead, He commanded His people to stay completely separated from practices that sought supernatural knowledge apart from Him.

† Modern forms of spiritism, séances, Ouija boards, psychic readings, mediumship, and attempts to communicate with the dead fall within the same principle because they seek answers outside of God's revealed Word. (Isaiah 8:19-20)

## **Occult Practices Were Abandoned**

### **Acts 19:18-20**

Also many of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they added up the prices of the books and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing and prevailing mightily.

† The new believers did not keep their occult materials as curiosities.

† They destroyed them completely because their allegiance now belonged to Christ.

† The gospel replaces darkness with truth. Believers are never instructed to experiment with occult practices but to leave them

behind completely. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

## **Disease Was Not Always Demon Possession**

### **Matthew 4:24**

And the news about Him spread throughout Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and severe pain, demon-possessed, people with epilepsy, and people who were paralyzed; and He healed them.

† Matthew deliberately distinguishes diseases, epilepsy, paralysis, and demon possession as separate conditions.

† This passage reminds us that Scripture does not attribute every illness or unusual behavior to demons.

† Christians should exercise biblical discernment before assuming a medical, neurological, or psychological condition is caused by spiritual possession. (Mark 7:20-23)

## **Put On The Whole Armor Of God**

### **Ephesians 6:10-18**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints,

† Paul's solution was not fear but preparation.

† The believer's defense is truth, righteousness, the gospel of

peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer.

† There is no instruction here to search for hidden demons, identify territorial spirits, or become preoccupied with the unseen world. The emphasis is on standing firm in Christ. (James 4:7)

† This passage reminds us that victory comes through remaining faithful to Christ rather than becoming fascinated with darkness.

## **Submit To God And Resist The Devil**

### **James 4:7**

Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

† James does not tell believers to speak to demons, identify evil spirits, or perform rituals. He simply commands us to submit to God and resist the devil.

† The greatest defense against spiritual deception is a life surrendered to Christ and grounded in His Word. (Psalm 119:11; John 17:17)

† Satan has no promise that believers must cast him out. The promise is that when we submit ourselves to God and resist him, he will flee.

## **Be Watchful And Stand Firm**

### **1 Peter 5:8-9**

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world.

† Peter calls believers to remain spiritually alert rather than spiritually frightened.

† The devil is resisted by remaining steadfast in the faith, not by becoming consumed with fear or an obsession over demonic activity.

† Christians overcome spiritual opposition through faithfulness to Christ, trusting that He has already secured the victory. (John

16:33)

## **Greater Is He That Is In You**

### **1 John 4:4**

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

† Believers do not live in fear that evil spirits are stronger than Christ.

† God's presence within His people is greater than every opposing spiritual power.

† Our confidence rests in Christ's finished work, not in our own ability to confront spiritual evil. (Colossians 2:14-15)

## **Christ's Victory Over Spiritual Powers**

### **Colossians 2:15**

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

† Christ openly triumphed over every spiritual authority opposed to God's redemptive plan.

† The believer's confidence rests in Christ's finished victory rather than fear of unseen powers.

† The cross demonstrated Christ's complete authority over every enemy. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

## **Nothing Can Separate Us From Christ**

### **Romans 8:38-39**

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† Paul gives one of the greatest assurances found anywhere in Scripture.

† No spiritual power can separate those who belong to Christ from His love.

† The believer's confidence rests in Christ's victory rather than

in fear of unseen enemies.

## **God Has Not Given Us A Spirit Of Fear**

### **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

† Modern fascination with demons often produces fear rather than faith.

† God calls His people to live in confidence because Christ has already secured the victory.

† Our attention should remain fixed upon Christ instead of becoming consumed with fear of spiritual darkness. (John 16:33)

## **Historical References**

† During the first and second centuries, Christians were known for turning people away from pagan temples, magic, and occult practices toward faith in Christ.

† Justin Martyr wrote that many who had once practiced magic abandoned those practices after believing the gospel.

† The early church emphasized repentance, holy living, and faith in Christ far more than sensational accounts of supernatural encounters.

† Throughout church history, reports of supernatural encounters have often become mixed with folklore, superstition, and local traditions. Scripture never allows personal experiences or historical accounts to replace God's Word as the believer's final authority. (Acts 17:11)

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Christians should avoid both extremes, denying all spiritual realities or attributing every problem to demons.

† Many struggles today are the result of sin, addiction, trauma, mental illness, neurological disorders, or the influence of a fallen world. Wisdom requires discernment rather than quick conclusions.

† Scripture never instructs believers to seek haunted places,

investigate paranormal claims, or become fascinated with spirits. Instead, we are told to pursue Christ, walk in holiness, and remain grounded in His Word. (Colossians 3:1-3)

† We should show compassion toward those suffering from mental illness while encouraging proper medical care, biblical counsel, and the hope found in Jesus Christ.

† Our focus should never be on glorifying darkness but on proclaiming the light of Christ, who has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Should Christians believe every report of demonic activity?

**A:** No. Scripture commands believers to test everything and examine every claim according to God's Word. (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Acts 17:11)

**Q:** Does the Bible encourage Christians to investigate haunted houses or paranormal activity?

**A:** No. Believers are instructed to avoid occult practices and to keep their focus on Christ. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Colossians 3:1-3)

**Q:** Can every unusual behavior be explained as demon possession?

**A:** No. Scripture distinguishes between disease, physical illness, and demon possession. Wisdom and discernment are required. (Matthew 4:24)

**Q:** How should Christians respond to spiritual opposition?

**A:** Submit to God, resist the devil, stand firm in the faith, put on the whole armor of God, and trust in Christ's victory. (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-9)

**Q:** Why should believers not live in fear of demons?

**A:** Because Christ has overcome the powers of darkness, and nothing can separate His people from the love of God. (1 John 4:4; Romans 8:38-39; Colossians 2:14-15)

**Q:** Can a Christian be demon possessed?

**A:** The New Testament never records a believer being demon possessed. Instead, believers are described as God's temple, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and instructed to submit to God, resist

the devil, and walk by the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 3:16; James 4:7; Galatians 5:16)

**Q:** How does someone cast out demons?

**A:** In the New Testament, Jesus and His apostles cast out demons by the authority given to them by God during the first-century ministry of Christ and the apostles. These miraculous signs confirmed the gospel and authenticated those sent by God. (Luke 10:17-20; Hebrews 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12)

Today, Scripture never instructs believers to develop a ministry of casting out demons. Instead, Christians are told to submit to God, resist the devil, put on the whole armor of God, preach the gospel, and stand firm in the faith. (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-9)

## **† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

### **Source Index**

† 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, Acts 17:11, Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Acts 19:18-20, Matthew 4:24, Ephesians 6:10-18, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-9, 1 John 4:4, Colossians 2:15, Romans 8:38-39, 2 Timothy 1:7

† Justin Martyr, Irenaeus

[Share on Facebook](#)

### **Links**

[Facebook Link](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/2065390287682435/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

---

**You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.**