

Who is afraid of the enemy?

Matthew 8:28-32 says, “**And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the TOMBS, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, what have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time**”? And there was a good way off from them a herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought him, saying, if thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. Many of the faithful believe that there is a war going on in the earth between God and Satan, a sort of battle of the super spirits, representing good versus evil. Many Christian clergy and laity will be huffing and puffing this week, in and out of church, attempting to cast out demons with degrading words and angry threatenings thinking that we have to work up a holy sweat in order to fight the powers of darkness. We have been influenced by movies like *The Exorcist* where some weak, half drunk, priest walks into a room and is promptly beaten into a whimpering pulp while holding a cross and whispering some ineffective Latin babbling. He screams at the top of his lungs, “the power of Christ compels you”, while trembling hand dangles a cross that does more to aggravate the demon than frighten it. The demonic power laughs or ridicules him with some hidden secret from his past or his equally ineffective present.

The devil, in these instances, is always bolder, more powerful and frankly has the best sense of comic timing in the room. I always walked away from those movies feeling sorry for the family that had to rely on that priest for help because he always left the house totally defeated while guzzling coffee and chain smoking. When you examine the scriptures above you will find that not only is our Lord Jesus Christ in complete control of the atmosphere *but* the demons know it. They may have pushed these poor ignorant men around but they were begging fools in the presence of the Son of God. There was no power struggle or back talk. Jesus commanded them and they obeyed. We suffer so needlessly because we do not understand that this power of demonic command is not operated by human skill or ability but by a believer’s sincere faith in the authority that is in given to us as fruit of Christ resurrection. 1 John 4 says, “**Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is IN THE WORLD**”.

Friends, it is high time that we made our mark in the earth for Christ but we first must know who we are, whose we are and under what authority do we speak and act. We are commanders in God’s army and are above every power and principality that the dark kingdom will try to throw at us. The enemy knows that hell is a place of torment and torture for him and by the text; we can tell that even a legion of devils must ask the permission of Jesus to move and exist. Even these evil creatures had to reverence the Son of God and acknowledge his power and position of royal judgment and headship in the Kingdom.

You are more powerful than you think and it is time that you and I stop fighting the devil and start imitating Christ by telling every force that comes against us to simply “go”. James 4:7 says, “submit yourselves therefore to God. RESIST THE DEVIL and he will flee from you.