

**Q)** *Can a Christian be “possessed” by a demon? I know we can be attacked. I know Satan can use us against each other. But is this possession? Is there a difference between “using us,” which most Christians seem to widely accept, and possession? Is it just vocabulary? Does Ephesians 4:30 mean that Satan cannot inhabit us? Can you provide me scripture?*

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**A)** Ephesians 4:30 is referring to assurance of our salvation. It does not state or infer that a demon cannot have a place or influence in a person’s life.

The word “possession” gives the connotation in our understanding of complete ownership and control. From that definition I would say no, a Christian cannot be possessed. Because the Holy Spirit abides in our spirit, then the devil cannot.

Here is a definition from Strong’s Concordance on **possessed**:

**daimonizomai:**

1) to be under the power of a demon. In the NT, these are persons, afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, etc.) whose bodies in the opinion of the Jews demons had entered, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves; accordingly the possessed were wont to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon.

Another word that deals with demonic activity is **oppressed**:

Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were **oppressed** by the devil, for God was with Him."

The definition of **oppressed** is:

**katadunasteuo** {kat-ad-oo-nas-tyoo'-o}

- 1) to exercise harsh control over one, to use one's power against one
- 2) to oppress one

In the context of dealing with anger Paul said,

Ephesians 4:27 nor give place to the devil.

The word “place” in Greek is topos, which we get the word topography, any geographic place or location. This scripture makes it clear that by operating in the sin of anger without dealing with it can open the door to demonic influence, a place in your life. The degree of influence can be determined by our obedience.

Doors to the demonic infiltration can be opened through:

- Committed and habitual sin
- Traumatic events
- Physical or sexual abuse
- Generational sins
- Word curses
- Soul ties
- Involvement in witchcraft, occult or cult activities

In my many years of experience in the ministry I have seen Christians under the control of evil spirits and opened the door to sins, behavior and crimes that would cause us to cringe. The devil will take as

much space as you give him. This, at times, can *look* like possession because the oppression is so strong, but that does not mean they are possessed.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Do I believe they are saved? In many cases, yes.

Do I believe they are in bondage to evil spirits? Yes.

I heard someone once speak these wise words,

***You can't cast out the flesh and you can't discipline a demon.***

If a person has sought victory in an area of his or her life through repentance, renouncement, scripture, counseling, books, tapes, etc. -- in other words -- has tried everything they know through personal discipline and are continually falling, they may need special prayer from and with others in one or more area of personal deliverance.





Personally I don't debate this issue with people. I don't get hung up on terminology as to whether a demon is *in* someone, *on* someone, or *around* someone. My focus is to see the person set free.

One-third of Jesus' ministry was spent casting out devils and dealing with the demonic. A very small percentage of churches today are dealing with it.

I don't like focusing on the devil too much as he likes to be the center of attention. In the past I have seen people act like weirdos about this subject and it has caused me to shy away from it. But scripture also says we are not to be "[ignorant of his devices](#)" (2 Corinthians 2:11). This topic needs to be taught on and dealt with. The "ostrich head in the sand" approach will not set the captives free. I believe approaching this subject with scripture and common sense is needed.

We have incorporated a Bible-based teaching called [Cleansing Streams](#), which has been a tremendous blessing to many in receiving freedom and *continuing* to walk in it – spirit, soul and body. We offer this twice each year: in the fall and spring. This 12-week course, including a two-day retreat for personal ministry, provides a thorough and balanced discipleship approach to the topic of deliverance. We also minister to individuals in one-on-one intense times of prayer when needed. Christians *must* know what the Word of God says about this subject, know their authority over the enemy, and learn the tools necessary to obtain and walk in victory over the oppression of the enemy in every area of life.

Scriptures I meditate on that equip me for daily battle are:

-  Matthew 18:18-19
-  Luke 10:17-19
-  Ephesians 6:10-20
-  James 4:7-8