

DEMONOLOGY

Lesson 1

The Origin And Nature Of Demons

There are three powers at work in the earth today: God's power, man's power, and demon power. Most people, including Christians, are only familiar with human power. We must understand all three.

Demons go by several different names in the Bible: devils, unclean spirits, and evil spirits. All of these terms refer to the same thing. We will use the terms "devils," "demons," and "the devil" interchangeably.

Definition: A demon is a disembodied spirit of malevolent (evil) power and assignment, seeking to hinder God's plans and destroy man's life. They work to make God look like a liar. There are countless demons and they know their time is short. Their captain is satan, formerly known as Lucifer.

WHERE DID DEMONS COME FROM?

Satan's Origin: Satan's origin is very clearly presented in the Bible.

- Satan is a created being.
- His original name was Lucifer, which means, "Light bearer."
- He was once the most anointed angel, the chief of angels, "the anointed cherub that covereth," beautiful, full of wisdom, perfect from his creation.
- He was Heaven's worship leader.
- He was lifted up in pride, became filled with violence, corrupted his wisdom, and defiled his sanctuaries.
- Therefore, God called him profane and cast him out of the mountain of God and promised to destroy him. God cast him to the ground and promised to bring forth a fire from the midst of Lucifer and devour him.
- Lucifer's sin began in his heart. He had five "I wills": 1) I will ascend into Heaven, 2) I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, 3) I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, 4) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, 5) I will be like the most High.
- His rebellion lasted a split-second, for he was cast out of Heaven like a bolt of lightning.
- Satan took a third of the angels with him in his rebellion.
- He is still a cunning and violent creature. He is defeated, but he is not to be contended with in the strength of man. Even Michael the archangel did not contend with him in his own strength but said "The Lord rebuke you" (**Jude 9**).

Scriptures: **Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isaiah 14:12-14; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:4**

The Origin of Demons: The origin of the lesser demons is not as clear as Lucifer's. There are three major teachings on the origin of these satanic underlings:

- **Fallen Angels-** One common teaching is that unclean spirits/demons are the fallen angels that rebelled with Lucifer in Heaven. The Bible says, “everlasting fire is prepared for the devil and his angels” (**Matthew 25:41**).
- **Disembodied Pre-Adamites-** Another common teaching is that demon spirits are the spirits of a race of beings that lived on the earth before Adam and Eve and were judged for rebelling with the fallen angels.
- **Disembodied Nephilim-** A third teaching states that demon spirits are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim. Nephilim are the offspring of fallen angels and women, as **Genesis 6** relates.

Ultimately, it doesn't matter where they came from because the born-again believer still has authority over them to cast them out, rebuke them, and resist them.

DEMON NATURE

Their sole ambition is to pervert, hinder, hurt, or destroy us. They never sleep nor slumber. They are more familiar with us than we are with them.

- **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (trickery, strategies) of the devil.** **Ephesians 6:11**
- **Lest satan should get an advantage (outwit) of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices (schemes, purposes).** **2 Corinthians 2:11**

These two verses indicate that our adversary has tricks, strategies, wiles, schemes, purposes, and devices—all designed to hurt mankind. The Bible implores us to not be ignorant of our enemy. Here is a brief description of our enemy. Know your enemy.

- Just as humans are personalities, demons have personalities, and they will make you what they are if you yield to them: Anger, Jealousy (**Numbers 5:14**), Lust, Homosexuality, Hypnotism, Unclean (**Matthew 12:43**), Confusion, etc.
- Demons lack bodies, so they seek to possess a body. Human bodies give demons their widest range of expression (**Mark 5:8, 9:25**).
- They are patient and well-planned, having strategies and intellect (**Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8**).
- Their number one strategy is to attack the Word of God (**Genesis 3:1**).
- They are organized into rank and file (**Ephesians 6:12**).
- They are hopelessly evil and cannot be redeemed. They are awaiting their ultimate destruction (**Matthew 8:29**).
- Demons are not the spirits of dead humans (**Hebrews 9:27**).
- Demons have a will and wants (**Matthew 12:43-45**).
- There are no new demons. There is not a demon factory in hell making newer model demons.
- Demons will make you what they are. They are perverters.
- Demons can transform themselves into angels of light (**2 Corinthians 11:14**).

- Demons have doctrines they seek to get into the Church (**1 Timothy 4:1**).
- Demons cannot be cast into hell, nor do they come from hell. They are bound to the earth for this season. They roam dry places when they are cast out (**Matthew 12:43**).
- Demons may depart from you, but they are very likely to return again after a season and check on the availability of your life (**Luke 4:13; Matthew 12:44**).

We do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but we do wrestle with this demon realm. But greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world. Let us charge forward with great confidence and victory!

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Lesson 2

The Order And Habitations Of Demons

The demon realm is as busy and active as the natural realm. The demon rank and file is very organized and even unified, and to some degree, even puts the Church of the Living God to shame.

- **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.** Ephesians 6:12

There is a hierarchy within the demon realm. This verse shows us the rank and file, beginning with the lowest petty officers (principality) ascending to the generals (wicked spirits in the heavenlies) in the demon army. Some devils are even more wicked than others (**Matthew 12:45**).

Satan is called “the god of this world” (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). He is captain over all demon entities. The whole earth is his domain. He obtained that dominion from Adam in the garden. The book of Job lets us know that satan roams the whole earth (**Job 1:7**). Also, when Jesus was tempted by satan, satan took Jesus and showed him all the kingdoms of the world (**Matthew 4:8-9**). These kingdoms were satan’s to show and to give. Some evil spirits have a king over them named Apollyon (**Revelation 9:11**).

THE THREE HABITATIONS OF DEMONS

The rank and file of demons affects their seat of authority and the area of their influence. Their rank determines their habitation. There are three habitations of devils:

Nations: The demons of highest rank are assigned over nations. They rule over a nation and direct the demonic activities among the cities and people of that nation. The Bible speaks of the “prince of the kingdom of Persia” and the “prince of Greece” (**Daniel 10:11-21**), the “king of Tyre” (**Ezekiel 28**), and Babylon. These are references to demons of the highest order and the nation over which they have power.

Cities: Demons of the next lower rank are assigned over cities. The Bible tells us that Satan had his seat in the city of Pergamos (**Revelation 2:12-13**). Modern cities still have devils assigned to them. San Francisco: Homosexuality; Atlanta: Avarice; Cookeville: Religious, seducing and deceiving, etc. These spirits work to affect the people and even define the focus, ambition, and culture of the region and those succumbing to their influence. Their influence is ever-present and unflagging.

People: Demons of the lowest rank are assigned to people. There are spirits of suicide, depression, murder, anger, pedophilia, etc. Devils ultimately want to possess humans.

Until they are permitted to, they simply buffet, minister, torment, harass, and hinder the person. If the devil isn't resisted, he will continue to edge his way into that person's life. Demons seek to inhabit human bodies because a body seems to bring rest to the unclean spirit (**Matthew 12:43**). Wherever you find people you will find demons. They thrive on the sins of man. Since they desire a habitation, they will move upon humans until someone yields their being over to the demon.

EXAMPLES OF DEMON INFLUENCE

Demons seek to influence man in every arena:

- Health: Jesus healed all that were oppressed of the devil.
- Doctrine: Devils have their own set of doctrine they like to promote (**1 Timothy 4:1**).
- Government: Many dictators are demonized. Communism is purely demonic. National demons seek to affect the leaders of that country: Polpot, Hitler, Amin, Chavez, Castro, Ill.
- Education: Many godless doctrines are taught to children; Hitler perfected this.
- Family: Family can be used to pull you away from God.
- Friends: Your friends can make great ambassadors for satan.
- Entertainment: the tapestry in Poland, the demon on my doorstep.
- Philosophy: Regions have different cultures and philosophies. People often change when they move to a new area or community; my friend in California, my friend in Atlanta.
- Psychology: Psychology can never deliver a Christian. Its founders were demonized, hyper-sexed, deviant humanists. To this day, the study of psychology is of great importance to occult practitioners.
- Music: satan started off as Heaven's worship leader, and all of those instruments are still in him. Music is very powerful. Be careful.

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Lesson 3

The Names And Operations Of Demons

The Bible uses many names to describe satan and his minions. These names give us insight into their many personalities, roles, operations, and strategies in the earth.

- Satan** (Job 1:6; Revelation 12:9)- Adversary, war enemy.
- Ruler of the air** (Ephesians 2:2)- Speaks of his spiritual nature.
- Prince of this world** (John 12:31, 16:11)- Speaks of the realm of his domain.
- Prince of darkness** (Ephesians 6:12)- Describes his kingdom.
- The god of this world** (2 Corinthians 4:4)- Lets us know who worships him.
- Devil** (Revelation 12:9)- “Slanderer,” he runs down God and Christians.
- Dragon** (Revelation 12:3)- A horrendous beast, devouring, breathing out death.
- Serpent** (2 Corinthians 11:3)- Silent, sneaking in with venom to destroy.
- Beelzebub** (Matthew 10:25, 12:24)- “Lord of the flies,” he is the lord over all demons.
- Belial** (2 Corinthians 6:15)- “Wicked,” everything about him is wicked.
- Adversary** (1 Peter 5:8)- He stands against the church and its mission.
- Accuser of the brethren** (Revelation 12:10)- He has always desired to bring chaos and division through accusations.
- The enemy** (Matthew 13:39)- Not to be befriended.
- The tempter** (Matthew 4:3)- He knows your weaknesses and sets traps.
- The wicked one** (Matthew 13:19)- His motives will never be true.
- The thief** (John 10:10)- He wants to steal your joy, peace, health, family, life, etc.
- Murderer** (John 8:44)- He is a killer of life and hope; hate is also murder.
- A roaring lion** (1 Peter 5:8)- Describes how he moves and his appetite.
- A liar** (John 8:44)- There is no truth in him.
- An oppressor** (Acts 10:38)- He cannot set you free, only enslave and crush you.
- Mind corrupter** (2 Corinthians 11:3)- His thoughts will confuse you and corrupt your thinking.
- Abbadon/Apollyon** (Revelation 9:11)- “Destroyer,” He cannot create, only destroy.

SPECIFIC SPIRITS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

- Spirit of infirmity** (Luke 13:11)- Produces sickness and weakness.
- Dumb and deaf spirit** (Mark 9:25)- Causes dumbness and deafness.
- Unclean spirit** (Mark 1:23)- Works to make you unclean, unholy; includes sexual deviance.
- Blind spirit** (Matthew 12:22)- Causes blindness.
- Familiar spirit** (Leviticus 20:27; 2 Kings 23:24)- Assists astrologers, palmreaders.
- Lying spirit** (1 Kings 22:22-23; 2 Chronicles 18:21-22)- Will cause you to believe a lie.
- Spirit of lunacy (insanity)** (Matthew 17:15)- All insanity is demonic activity.
- Seducing spirit** (1 Timothy 4:1)- Entices people to leave their known assignment.
- Binding spirit** (Matthew 18:18)- Binds people up, mentally and physically.
- Foul spirit** (Mark 9:25; Rev. 18:2)- Same as an unclean spirit; morally impure.

Jealous spirit (Numbers 5:14, 30)- Provokes people to fits of jealousy and insecurity.
Fearful spirit (2 Timothy 1:7)- Grips people with fear and insecurity even to the point of paralysis.

Others spirits not mentioned in this list: Confusion, Homosexuality, Hunger, Lust, Rage, Greed, Avarice, Murder, Religious, Occult, etc.

DEMONIC POSSESSION

Demons seek to possess a body. They will settle for animals (**Mark 5**) but want a human body for their widest expression. Jesus Christ and his early disciples encountered many demon-possessed people and cast the devil out of them all.

- Jesus encountered demonized multitudes numerous times. (**Matthew 4:24, 8:16; Mark 1:32-34, 39; 3:11-12, 6:13; Luke 4:40-41, 6:17-19**).
- Jesus had a ministry of casting out devils.
- The early apostles and disciples cast out devils. (**Matthew 10:1-8; Acts 5:15-16, 8:7, 16:16-18, 19:11-12**).
- There are varying degrees of demonic possession. The Gadarene demoniac was always in torments and crying out (**Mark 5**), while the lunatic son was often throwing himself in the fire and water (**Mark 9**), yet the woman with the spirit of divination was able to walk about and operate as a seemingly normal human being (**Acts 16**).
- Demon possession affects people differently based upon the demon personality. It can bring supernatural power (palm reading, hypnotism, psychics, martial arts, fire walking, dagger swallowing), or it can bring destructive behavior (suicide, cutting, depression, bulimia, anorexia).
- Demons gain entrance to lives by deception and sin. Live free from sin and deception and you'll not have to worry about demonic possession.

Glory to God!! We have been given all power and all authority over demon power and we are commanded to cast out devils anywhere we might encounter them.

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Lesson 4

The Christian's Authority Over Devils

Man was originally created to be the steward and caretaker of planet earth. God set him so and gave him dominion over the earth.

- **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 28... Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it.** **Genesis 1:26, 28b**

Dominion: To rule, to tread down, to subjugate (to bring under control by conquest).

Subdue: To force, to keep under, to bring into bondage.

When Adam should have ruled over satan, he instead turned his authority over to satan. Adam fell. Satan gained power to rule over man and bring them into bondage. Jesus redeemed man from bondage to the devil. Jesus purchased **US** back. He also purchased back our authority for us.

- **And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power (*authority*) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19Go ye therefore,...** **Mathew 28:18-19a**
- **And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature . . . 17And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;** **Mark 16:15, 17**

We are not to fear the devil or demon spirits; rather, we are to confront them when they manifest and deal with them. We are authorized to cast them out.

- **Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.** **Luke 9:1**
- **And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.** **Luke 10:17**

Subject: To submit to someone's control. This is a military term and you are the superior officer.

THE EARLY CHURCH CAST OUT DEVILS

The Book of Acts records that the early Church also engaged in casting out devils.

- The power of God was so strong on Peter, the proximity to his shadow caused demons to come out of people (**Acts 5:15-16**).
- Philip held a revival meeting in the town of Samaria and cast many unclean spirits out of the possessed (**Acts 8:5-8**).
- Paul cursed a sorcerer with blindness because he tried to use sorcery to prevent a government official from being born-again (**Acts 13:6-12**).
- Paul cast the devil out of a fortuneteller (**Acts 16:16-18**).
- Non-believers attempted to cast devils out, but without faith in the name of Jesus, they failed miserably (**Acts 19:13-20**).

THE DEVIL IS STILL ACTIVE

Times have not changed. Devils are still on assignment to provoke, harass, buffet, torment, hinder, sicken, and possess mankind today. The Bible teaches us how we are to handle them:

In Our Personal Life

- **Resist him-** (**James 4:7**) teaches us to submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee. He will actually run from us. To resist means to “set one’s self against.” We must be against every thing that is evil and demonic.
- **Resist steadfast-** (**1 Peter 5:9**) adds the word “steadfast” to our resistance. That means we will have to hold our own against him. He will flee but be prepared for a return visit.
- **Stand against-** (**Ephesians 6:11**) teaches us to “stand against” the wiles or strategies of the devil. This means to “sustain the authority.” Verse 13 adds the word “withstand.” This is the same word “resist” from the previous two points.
- **Quenching thoughts-** (**Ephesians 6:16**) tells us that “above all” we are to use the shield of faith to quench the enemy’s fiery darts. These are the thoughts that attack our mind that don’t line up with the Bible. We are to extinguish these thoughts as soon as they come to us.
- **Forgiveness-** (**2 Corinthians 2:10-11**) lets us know that walking in forgiveness is a must to keep satan from getting an advantage over us and outwitting us. Verse 11 lets us know that unforgiveness is one of his devices (dispositions).
- **Tithing-** (**Malachi 3:10-11**) says that honoring God with His holy tithe allows God to rebuke the devourer for our sakes and causes us to prosper in the natural.

In The Lives Of Others

- **Cast out-** “To drive out with the notion of violence,” When someone wants free, you can cast the devil out of them (**Mark 16:17**). Satan is used to being cast out. He knows how to go away.

- **Bind them-** “To fasten with chains,” Some people don’t want free from demon power, so all you can do is bind the spirit that is operating in or through them (**Matthew 12:28-29, 16:19, 18:18**).
- **Loose them-** “To loose something bound,” (**Matthew 16:19, 18:18**).
- **Pray for them-** Pray for those oppressed by devils and in sin. “And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (**Ephesians 6:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:4**).

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Lesson 5

The Devil's Open Door

When studying demonology, it must be kept in mind that the devil's ultimate goal in a person's life is bondage. The devil's activities work toward one common purpose in every human's life—to enslave and bind. When we give the devil an open door into our life, he will move in only to bind us. This is contrasted to the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's work in our life brings us liberty (**2 Corinthians 3:17**).

The devil is ever watchful, looking for a door into our lives.

- **Be sober (*watchful*), be vigilant (*stay awake*); because your adversary as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (*gulp entire*):
"Whom resist steadfast (*phalanx*) in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.**
1 Peter 5:8-9
- **And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.**
Job 2:3

Satan is the enemy of our entire existence. The Bible teaches us he is ever on the move, looking for entrance into our lives. This lesson will look at the major ways in which we might open the door to the devil in our lives.

- **Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? "No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants (*partner, comrade, companion, fellowship*) with demons.**
1 Cor. 10:19-20 NIV

According to this verse, it is very possible for Christians to be partners, comrades, participants, and participants with demons; or simply just fellowship with them.

THE BIG THREE

It seems as though there is no quicker way to open the door to satan than by participating in what can be called the Big Three: Illicit Sex, Drugs, and Demon Worship. Of these three, demon worship is the quickest path to full demon possession.

1. Demon Worship

Worship is good, but it belongs only to God Almighty. The devil seeks to hijack man's worship. Demon worship has many forms varying from the occult to pagan religions to pure Satanism. Satan lusts for man's attention and these various

avenues grant him the selfish attention he craves. These kinds of worship and supernaturalism only produce bondage.

- Occult- *the belief and study into supernatural, mystical, magical, or other paranormal activities and phenomena.*
The occult includes:
 - Ouija boards
 - Tarot cards
 - Psychics
 - Astrology/Horoscopes
 - Hypnotism
 - Séances
 - Necromancy
 - Psychography- phantom writing
 - Jewelry/trinkets
 - Fetishes/totems/idols
- Pagan Religions- Other religions worship false deities and idols, also known as devils. These religions developed when demons appeared to their founders. To participate in their services is to expose oneself to doctrines of devils. Many of their worship styles have made their way to common American and even Church culture. These religions and religious practices include:
 - Islam
 - Buddhism
 - Acupuncture
 - Transcendental Meditation
 - Hinduism (complete and total worship of demons)
 - Yoga- a school of Hindu philosophy that involves a series of postures and breathing exercises practiced to achieve tranquility.
 - Meditation
 - Mormonism
 - Gaia (Earth Worship/Extreme Environmentalism)
 - Wicca/Neo-paganism
 - Animism
- Satanism- Pure Satanism, or Satanic worship, is active and alive. Their worship of satan incorporates a satanic bible and includes both human and animal sacrifices. All Satanism includes the use of illicit drugs and perverse sexual activity.

2. Illicit Drugs

Medicine can be very good. It can be used to help treat sickness and cure disease. However, drugs can also be abused. Recreational drug use is demonic and dangerous. Addiction to drugs is demonic and dangerous. The words pharmacy and pharmaceutical have their origins in the Greek word ***pharmakeia***.

Pharmakeia- *the use or administering of drugs; poisoning; sorcery, magical arts, (often in connection with idolatry and bolstered by it).*

Pharmakeus- *one who prepares or uses magical remedies; a sorcerer.*

The New Testament translates these words as sorcery and witchcraft. We use these words (**pharmakeia**) to describe the chemical side of modern medicine. The truth found here is that drugs not only affect your body, but they also affect your soul. The side effects are often worse than the relief provided. Unfortunately, addiction is a common side effect. Illicit drug use includes:

- Cocaine
- Marijuana
- Meth
- Prescription drugs
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Bath Salts
- Molly
- Etc.

Drugs affect not only your body, but also your soul. Illicit drug users seem to also be open and active in illicit sex.

3. Illicit Sex

Illicit means *forbidden*. Sex is good, when kept in the confines of marriage. Illicit sex is forbidden for our good. Any sexual activity outside of holy matrimony is illicit sex. Fornication is sex outside of marriage. Sex is a powerful force and the Bible describes sexual sin in a way no other sin is described—sin against your own body (**1 Corinthians 6:18**). Illicit sex includes:

- Fornication
- Adultery
- Pornography
- Homosexuality
- Bisexuality
- Bestiality
- Swinging/Spouse Swapping
- Phone sex/sexting
- One-night-stands
- **Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that commiteth fornication sinneth against his own body.**

1 Corinthians 6:18

EXTREME EMOTIONS

Emotions are not bad. Every emotion we have was first found in God. Emotions are neutral. How we use them or allow them to use us will determine whether we are in sin or whether we are glorifying Jesus Christ. Emotions are how we react to the world around us. We must, however, use the Word of God to teach us what to do with these emotions. Without the Word as our guide, emotions can quickly open up the demon realm.

Extreme emotions can include:

- Unforgiveness: Perhaps the greatest door opener (**2 Corinthians 2:10-11**).
- Anger: Be angry and sin not (**Ephesian 4:26**).
- Obsession (extreme love): This can quickly become idolatry. What are you consumed with? Inordinate affection (**Colossians 3:5**).
- Jealousy: Specifically called a spirit in **Numbers 5:14, 30**.
- Sorrow: The loss of a loved one. Post-partum depression. Any depression.
- Fear: God has not given us this spirit.
- Greed (avarice, extreme desire for money): The love of money is the root of all evil.

Extreme emotions will cause your heart to burn, but not for God. When these emotions consume you, they give way to demonic influences. Be mindful to keep all of your emotions moderated. Emotions give you expression; they are not to define you. A healthy person has a full range of emotions. Unhealthy people are either defined by only one or two strong emotions, e.g. fear, jealousy, or anger. Some people have no emotional expression at all. This is an indication of oppression.

OTHER ODDITIES

- **Martial Arts**- Martial arts are a very slippery slope to play upon. Some martial arts can safely be studied and practiced as a sport similar to boxing or wrestling. Some martial arts can serve the purpose of self-defense. But some martial arts will quickly open the practitioner up to devils. There are demonized people in every field of martial arts. Be careful!
- **Imaginary Friends**- Jesus is the friend that sticks closer than a brother (**Proverbs 18:24**). Never allow your children to have imaginary friends. These are demons that reveal themselves to children, often in times of adversity.
- **Eating Disorders**- Flesh must be kept under but not obsessed over. Disorders like anorexia, bulimia, and orthorexia are all obsession-based disorders. This is dangerous ground.
- **RPGs**- Role playing games. Any kind of game that requires you to take on another persona is dangerous. Most RPGs involve sorcery and magic. It is absolute foolishness for any Christian to be involved in these dangerous realms.
- **Books, Movies, Music, Video Games**- These are all creative medium that permit ideas, images, and messages to be communicated. Be very careful here.

There are many doors to destruction, but only one that leads to Jesus Christ. This should not discourage us. Rather it should encourage us. There is only one right answer: Jesus. Stay close to Him and you can avoid all the other pitfalls.