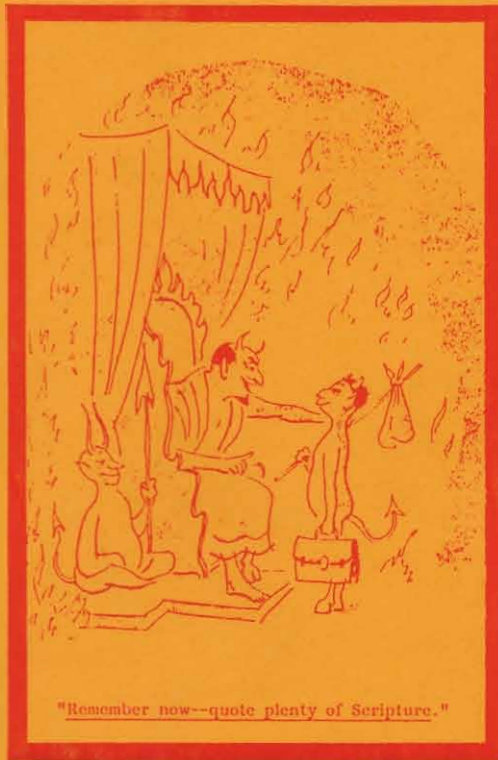


THE FAKIRS



MILES J. STANFORD

THE FAKIRS

FAKIR: "A Moslem or Hindu mendicant [beggar] monk commonly considered a wonder worker."



Not to be outdone by the Moslems and Hindus, the evangelical/fundamental church has her "wonder workers." She is being influenced from the outside by the Pentecostal/Charismatic element. This is especially exemplified by the "Signs & Wonders" movement of Peter Wagner and John Wimber.

Closely connected with the tongues/healing/demonism faction are the many influencing the Church from the inside. In the heart of the academic system are faculty members teaching standard classes on demonism, specializing on how to cast demons out of Christians. To exacerbate the problem, most of these professors are publishing books on the same subject.

All of the "wonder-working" fakirs, whether Moslem, Hindu, or Christian, are fakers--every bit as much as the professional TV "rasslers." It is a matter of fake tongues, fake healings, and fake demons. The few evangelical faculty members mentioned below are typical of the entire range of "deliverance" fakers throughout Christendom today.

A HERETICAL TEACHING: CHRISTIANS CAN BE INDWELT BY DEMONS

Dr. John W. Lawrence -- Multnomah School of the Bible faculty member. In a position paper titled "Spiritual Warfare," submitted to and accepted by the Multnomah faculty on December 3, 1990, pp. 30,31, Dr. Lawrence wrote:

The cardinal doctrine of this deliverance work is that you only work with believers. What good would it do to cast a demon from an unbeliever? If you did, seven more would come who would be more wicked than the first one and inhabit this person. Therefore you would not be doing him a favor.

When you work in this area of demonism you soon learn that there are some sure signs of the presence of demons. One is "suicide." This is always demonic. Another sure sign of demon activity is "compulsion." I have never seen any compulsion that was not demonically energized.

There is a category of demons that are "mind blockers." These demons may keep a believer from concentrating upon the Word, from praying, memorizing Scripture, etc. In the parable of the sower, the birds of the air came and snatched up the seed of the Word lest it take root.

I see this happening all the time in my Bible classes right here at Multnomah. I have given out the simple truth, and one-half of the class could not give it back to me if their lives depended upon it.

More below concerning the demon-practices of Dr. Lawrence.

Dr. C. Fred Dickason -- Professor of theology and chairman of the theological department of Moody Bible Institute. A Dallas grad.

I estimate that from 1975 to 1987 I have encountered at least 400 genuine believers who were inhabited by demons (Demon Possession and the Christian, p. 187, Moody Press, 1987, 335 pages).

In the deliverance work we are not dealing with the Christian's problems with the flesh and with the world system, but with the Christian's relationship to demonization, generally called possession (Ibid., p. 15).

Demonization is always presented as a spirit's inhabiting a human. It seems quite clear that we may define demonization as demon-caused passivity or control due to a demon residing within a person, which manifests its effects in various physical and mental disorders and in varying degrees (Ibid., p. 40).

NO SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR DEMONIZATION OF CHRISTIANS

While all of those in a "deliverance ministry" insist that Christians can be indwelt by demons, at the same time they admit that there is no scriptural basis for their claim.

Dr. Merrill F. Unger -- Professor of OT studies at Dallas for 20 years. Scripture nowhere expressly declares that a believer may be invaded by demons. On the other hand, God's Word intimates that the powers of darkness may invade the believer under certain circumstances (What Demons Can Do To Saints, p. 88, Moody Press, 1977).

Dr. Fred C. Dickason -- Can a Christian be demonized? A rather thorough examination of the biblical evidence leads us to conclude that it neither clearly affirms nor denies the reality of demonization of Christians. There is some weight of evidence leading toward the affirmative. But to be fair, we must say that with biblical evidence alone, we are unable to reach a definite or dogmatic conclusion (Ibid., p. 340).

The three leading "demon authorities" concurred:

Question: Can Christians be demonized?

Dr. Kurt Koch -- American theologians say "no," but those of us who have had experience with the demonized say, "yes."

Question: Is it possible for a Christian to be demonized?

Mrs. Jessie Penn-Lewis -- Without hesitation, yes. For if you have proved it in your own experience, you have no other answer to give. The fact of the possible possession of the believer is scripturally reasonable. I can tell you of the wreckage of those who have known "the baptism of the Spirit," and have been deceived through the deception of wicked spirits (*War on the Saints*, p. 69).

Question: Does it say in the Bible that demons can enter a Christian?

Evan Roberts -- [Emotionally ill leader of the 1906 Welsh Revival] -- The Scripture does not say so, but the principle is there; and you understand the principle by experience (*The Overcomer*, 1912).

Question to you: Would you put your trust in a ministry that admittedly lacks scriptural basis?

FALSIFICATION FORTE OF FAKIR FAKERS

This demonization-of-the-Christian travesty is a two-sided counterfeit coin: there are the fakers, and the fakees. The whole demon deliverance fiction would fold up if it were not for the ignorance and gullibility of Christians in general. Think of the millions of Peretti demon books avidly read, believed, and shared by Christians--and those books are fictional!

In 1990 Regal Books published the 365-page book titled *Wrestling With Dark Angels*. The editors are Peter Wagner, of Fuller, and F. Douglas Penoyer, of Seattle Pacific University. Some of the better-known contributors are:

John Wimber (Vineyard Ministries); Peter H. Davids (Canadian Theological Seminary); J. Dudley Woodberry (Fuller); Donald Hohensee (Western Evangelical Seminary of Portland); Ed Murphy (Overseas Crusades); Timothy M. Warner (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School); and Neil T. Anderson (Biola University/Talbot Theological Seminary).

Since all of the "demon deliverance" leaders confess that they have no Scripture upon which to base their claims of casting demons out of Christians, they resort to "testimonies," and "stories," in an effort to back up their claims. This *Wrestling With Dark Angels* book is a compilation of such contrivances.

Dr. Timothy M. Warner shares one of his stories in this book, on p. 111:

A Christian man was experiencing a deep spiritual depression from which he could find no relief. A counselor asked him if anything else significant happened in his life about the time of the onset of the depression.

That man replied that, in fact, it was about the time someone prayed for him, and his congenitally shortened leg was made whole for the first time in his life. The counselor then suggested that it was possible that the healing was by demon power and that the price of the

healing was depression. The man immediately said that if the healing was not of God he renounced it. Whereupon his leg shriveled up again, but he lost his spiritual depression.

Now I am depressed, and ashamed. How about you?

Dr. John W. Lawrence, in his above-mentioned position paper to the faculty of Multnomah, included the following explanation of his "demon deliverance" method:

I ask the Lord [he actually instructs Him] to build a box so that any demons I am dealing with must be in the box and isolated from all other demons. Moreover, he must be a naked demon so that he cannot bring anything into the box--no robes, armor, weapons, etc.

I do this because there have been times I have spent 45 minutes to an hour with just one demon. I do not have that kind of time to waste. I find the Lord knows this [!], and the demons have to get into the box, do it and hate it. Once they are in the box and isolated in individual compartments, they have admitted defeat, and everything moves along quickly from that point. I take no guff from them.

If someone should ask, "Where in Scripture do you find a box?" my answer is nowhere. But the Lord also said if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And it is not the Lord's will that these demons continue to harass the child of God. We are to fight against them and clear the ground (p. 32).

What is one to think of the Multnomah faculty and its acceptance of this position paper? Or the Multnomah administration that would hire and maintain such teaching to their young students?

Dr. Neil T. Anderson is an associate professor of practical theology at Talbot School of Theology, and president of Freedom In Christ Ministries. He has recently produced another book (1991), this one published by Here's Life Publishers, titled *Released From Bondage*. The material is mainly composed of testimonies and stories from his counseling clients--over 200 pages of them. As the book states:

True stories [!] of freedom from obsessive thoughts, guilt and hurtful memories, compulsive behavior, satanic ritual abuse, childhood abuse, female and male sexual abuse [they are all on the abuse bandwagon, these days], cultic and occultic bondage, eating disorders, and false teachers.

False teachers? The author himself is a false teacher!

In his book *Victory Over the Darkness* (Regal Books, 1990, 245 pages), Dr. Anderson tells the following story:

I was prepared to speak in chapel [Biola] on the topic of deliverance and evangelism, in which I would expose some of the strategies of Satan in these areas. Early that morning I rose and showered before my wife and children were awake.

I went down to eat breakfast alone, and as I was sitting in the kitchen, suddenly I felt a slight pain on my hand that made me flinch. I looked down and saw what appeared to be two little bite marks on my hand.

"Is that your best shot?" I said aloud to the powers of darkness attacking me [some satanic attack!]. "Do you think a little bite is going to keep me from giving my message in chapel today? Get out of here." The nuisance left, and my message in chapel went off without a hitch (p. 86).

This childish falsification is bad enough, but the really tragic thing about it is that the Biola faculty and student body sat there that morning and accepted the story and message "without a hitch." From the faked there were probably some amens, and possibly even a "like, wow!" or two.

Simple, responsible discernment, thou art a lost jewel of the Bible!

Would you place your trust in a ministry based upon stories, especially such as these?

We will close this critique of accumulated sickness with a statement that came in a letter today:

The truth of God is the only standard--the one grand authority. By that, all must be measured; to that all must, sooner or later, bow down. No man has any right to lay down his own or any other experience as a rule for his fellows; and if no man has a right, neither has any number of men.

In other words, it is not the voice of man, but the voice of God which must govern us all. It is not experience which shall judge now, nor at the last day, but the rightly-divided Word of God. --C.H. Mackintosh

"...which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [wrestle], as they do also the other Scriptures.... Ye therefore, beloved, seeing that ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:16-18).

JUST THE SCRIPTURAL FACTS, PLEASE

A close examination of Acts and the Epistles, by Rev. Robert Unger, will reveal that there is not one example of demon possession of a member of the Body of Christ. There is not a single word of warning concerning the subject.

There is not a word of instruction about casting demons out of a Christian. Teaching is clearly given, however, as to dealing with sin and its source--the indwelling Adamic life of flesh. Instructions are given to the Christian, without demons ever being mentioned.

Neither in ACTS nor the EPISTLES is there any indication that a believer can be demon possessed.

The Greek word, *ekballo*, "to cast out," is never mentioned in the Epistles.

ACTS

- 5:1-5 - Ananias. No casting out of demons.
- 5:4 - "In thine own power." Ananias responsible. No demon of lying.
- 5:5 - He died. No casting out of demons.
- 5:9 - Why did you agree to tempt God? Own self-will and choice.
- 5:16 - Afflicted with unclean spirits; all healed. None Christians.
- 8:6,7 - None of these Christians.
- 8:21-24 - Simon--not a Christian.
- 10:38 - Healed all. No casting out of demons. None Christians.
- 13:8-12 - Magician. Not a Christian. No demon cast out.
- 15:20 - Already involved in these things. Told to abstain, not to cast out.
- 16:16-18 - Slave girl. Not a member of the Body of Christ.
- 19:11,12 - No indication of salvation.
- 19:13 - Jewish exorcists -- not Christians.
- 19:18 - Neither casting out of demons, nor mention of it.

ROMANS

- Chs. 6-8 - Neither demons nor devil mentioned except 8:38.
- 6:1 - Continue in sin? No. Paul's answer (vss. 3-13): Deal with the flesh, not with demons or devil.
- 6:11-13 - Instruction: reckoning; yielding.
- 7:20-25 - No demon mentioned. Sin principle dwells within, brings sin--not demons.
- 8:7,8 - Flesh is at enmity against God. No demons mentioned.
- 8:15 - Have not received spirit of bondage. No indication of demons.

1 CORINTHIANS

- 5:1,2 - Gross immorality being practiced.
- 5:5 - Instruction: "Deliver such an one unto Satan." Satan used, not indwelling. (2 Corinthians 2:5-11: Assumed repentance of the offender, with instruction to "forgive and comfort him" (vs. 7). No casting out--no word of demons.)
- 6:13-15 - Gross immorality warned against.
- 6:18 - Instruction: Command to flee. No demon mentioned.
- 6:19,20 - Instruction: Individual believers (singular). Body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Sanctuary.

- 8:1-13 - Idol is not anything. No fear of demon possession.
- 10:14-33 - No need to fear eating. Key: flesh (vs. 14).
- 10:28 - Not to eat because of fear of being demonized, but because of other's conscience.
- 14:32 - Self-control, in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, is expected of the believer.
- 15:34 - Cease from sinning. No demons mentioned. No casting out.

2 CORINTHIANS

- 7:1 - Clear instruction. Command: Cleanse ourselves of the works of the flesh. No demons mentioned. Would have to read into it.
- 10:1-5 - Context: Paul defending his apostleship and ministry. Not speaking of casting out demons.
- 11:3 - Context: False teachers - can deceive. No warning of demon possession.
- 11:4 - Different spirit? No instruction re demon possession or casting out.
- 11:13-15 - Never go by appearances. Looks like angel of light--looks good. Can look like demon possession--can look like demons. Cf. Matthew 24:24: wonders can deceive. (Right here is the total error of those who promote demons.)
- 12:7ff. - Messenger of Satan, not demon possession. Physical affliction, and that for Paul's good (Rom. 8:28,29). Satan is servant of God.
- 12:21 - Paul mourns about those who do not repent of practicing sin (immorality, impurity, etc.). No demons, only repent from their own sin.

Following Epistles: Note positive statements on how to deal with sin.

GALATIANS

- 5:16-26 - Commands. Walk in the Spirit. Answer to gross sins. Not casting out demons.
- 5:25 - Clear instruction on what to do: walk in the Spirit. No demons mentioned. Cf. Mark 7:20-23: Serious sins. No demons mentioned. Old man, flesh, is source of defilement.

EPHESIANS

- Chs. 1-3 - Doctrine. Chapters 4-6 - Practice.
- 1:21; 2:6 - Position in Christ far above the devil and his demons.
- 4:22-24 - Former manner of life. No word of them being demonized in past and therefore needing deliverance. No demons in them. No instruction.
- 4:25-32 - Since put off and put on; commands to refrain from sinning. No demons mentioned. No casting out. (vs. 27) - If danger here of demon possession, Paul would have warned and given instruction. Instead he goes on with commands (vss. 28-32): "Give" - "stop giving place" (forbids continuance of action already going on). "Place" used here in sense of opportunity, power, occasion for action.

- 6:10-18 - Stand firm against Satan's wiles, not his power. No word about demon possession, no warning, that if you don't put your armor on, then you will be routed--possessed. No instruction as to what to do if possessed. God stresses our strength in the Lord Jesus Christ--positional truth. All darts extinguished. No stress on demon power nor warning about possession.

PHILIPPIANS

- 2:3,4 - No demons of pride mentioned. Instead exhortation to manifest the Lord Jesus' attitude--to be humble.

COLOSSIANS

- 1:13 - We have been delivered from the authority of darkness whether we reckon upon the fact or not. No demons mentioned.
- 2:8 - Taken captive? If this is demon possession, then why no word as to what to do? Paul gives "how to": clear truth.
- 2:9,10 - We are in the Lord Jesus Christ in glory.
- 2:15 - Accomplished total defeat of devil and demons at Calvary.
- 3:1-4 - Cure: practically--positional truth.
- 3:5-17 - Deeds of the flesh. What to do: put off (vss. 8,9) and put on (vss. 12-17). No demons involved.

1 THESSALONIANS

- 3:5 - Tempter tempts.
- 4:3,4 - Abstain from sex sins, and you know how (from what? Scripture) to possess your own vessel. No warning, but command. No demons mentioned.
- 5:21,22 - Abstain from evil.

2 THESSALONIANS

- 2:9 - Future activity of Satan in Tribulation--signs, wonders, deception. No demon possession mentioned.
- 2:15 - Clear instruction. Stand firm. Hold to Scripture. No casting out of demons.
- 3:3 - Our Father is faithful to protect from Satan and his demons.

1 TIMOTHY

Guard true doctrine. Pastor not given instruction concerning demons. No instruction on casting them out. How would any pastor know without clear in-text instructions?

- 4:1 - Doctrines of demons. Many being possessed? Paul's answer to Timothy is vs. 6: doctrine. No casting out mentioned. Context: demon's doctrines. If anywhere instruction needed, it should be when this subject is broached.

2 TIMOTHY

- 1:13,14 - Key: Retain the standard of sound words of Scripture.

- 2:25 - Non-believers - context. "Those in opposition." Answer: repentance leading to the truth.
- 2:26 - Escape from snare. How? Not by casting out demons, but by coming to the knowledge of the truth.
- 3:13,14 - Problem: Evil men, deceiving. Answer: Instruction - continue in the Word of God. No instruction about casting out demons, nor warning about demon possession.

TITUS

To a pastor. But no word on demon possession nor casting out.

PHILEMON

Nothing mentioned concerning demons.

HEBREWS

- 2:14 - The Lord Jesus Christ rendered Satan powerless via the Cross.
- 2:18 - He is able to come to our aid. Sovereign! No word re casting out demons, but persevering faith and no shrinking back.
- 10:26 - Sinning willfully. No demon possession mentioned. Answer is in chapter 11: faith and the Word.
- 12:1-5 - Clear instruction: lay aside sin, fix the eyes upon the glorified Lord Jesus Christ. Not to deal with demons. We are to place stress upon what our Father stresses.
- 12:15 - Command. No demons.

JAMES

- 1:14 - Carried away and enticed by own lust. No demons. Flesh is the problem.
- 1:21 - Put aside all filthiness of the flesh, in humility. No demons. But the Word (vss. 22-25), obedient faith.
- Ch. 3 - Context: Teacher.
- 3:14,15 - Wisdom from earth - demonic. Is this demon possession? It does not say so. No word of casting out. Rather, command: do not be arrogant.
- 4:1 - Source of conflicts: pleasures wage wars in members--lust of the flesh.
- 4:7 - Resist the devil; as in Ephsians, hold the ground of the Cross. No word of casting out.
- 4:8 - Told solution: clear instruction -- Draw near, cleanse hands, purify the heart (1 John 1:9). No word of demons or casting out, though James gives many specific instructions. Why omit instructions about demon possession if so crucial?

1 PETER

- 1:13 - Instruction: Gird mind, keep sober, fix hope on the Father's grace. No demons mentioned. No casting out.
- 2:1 - Instruction: Put aside all malice. There is enablement via the Holy Spirit to put aside all. No word about demon possession nor casting out; but that the Christian can obey and put all sin aside. No word of hindering demons.

- 2:11 - Abstain from fleshly lusts. War (Gal. 5:17). No demons mentioned.
- 4:1,2 - Arm yourselves to suffer in the flesh. No demon possession.
- 5:8,9 - Devil. Instructions to resist firm in faith, on the basis of his total defeat at the Cross. No word about demon possession or casting out. In case a person did not resist as he should, no instruction about demon possession nor casting out.

2 PETER

- Ch. 1 - Context of Book: Positional facts.
- Ch. 2 - Warning about false teachers.
- 2:18,19 - Speaks of false teachers, unbelievers, fleshly desires, etc. No demons mentioned. Enslaved by sin (John 8:34).

1 JOHN

- 1:9 - Confession of sin instructed. No casting out. No demons mentioned.
- 2:14 - Evil one.
- 2:15-17 - World, flesh. No devil nor demons mentioned. No casting out. Just commands.
- 3:8 - Who practices sin is of the devil--unbelievers.
- 4:4 - Holy Spirit over the devil.
- 5:18,19 - Promise that the evil one does not touch ("to fasten oneself to something, someone") the Christian, even though the whole world lies in the God-delegated power of the devil. No warning of demon possession. No instruction re casting out.

2 JOHN

- 1:8 - Hold to the truth. Watch out. No demons mentioned.

3 JOHN

- vs. 11 - Do not imitate evil, but good. No demons mentioned.

JUDE

- vss. 3,5 - Key: Faith delivered once for all. Not to add anything.
- vs. 17 - Remember: Word.
- vss. 20,21 - Instruction: build yourselves, keep yourselves. No demons mentioned.
- vs. 24 - Promise. He is able to keep you from stumbling. No demon possession or casting out.

WHY THIS CLARIFICATION?

1 Peter 5:1-3: Elders to shepherd the flock and to correct wrong doctrine being taught. Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 4:16.

What does Scripture say concerning what we should do? Romans 10:17; 14:23. To instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrine, 1 Timothy 1:3; 4:6.

A good servant will not just ignore error but correct wrong teaching as commanded by God.

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