

## Mark 1:21-28 — How To Make A Demon Scream

**October 21, 2018**

Sometimes it is hard to know the truth. One of the problems with the Internet is it allows everybody to share their opinions. After a while, it is hard to find the truth on the Internet. Has anybody had that problem? Have you tried finding good products on Amazon based on their star rating system and customer feedback? I recently learned advertisers can buy stars to artificially raise their product rating. They also create fake accounts to leave positive feedback on their products and negative feedback about their competitors' products. It is hard to know the truth.

We experience the same thing with the evening news. Fair and balanced reporting seems to be a thing of the past. Every news organization shapes its news for its particular agenda in order to shape the way we think. Once again we are left wondering, who is telling the truth? Who is the authority I can trust?

This morning, we are going to meet the authority you can trust. This authority tells the truth without lies and deception. His name is Jesus.

As many of you know, we are studying our way through the Gospel of Mark. The purpose of the first half of the Gospel of Mark is to show us that Jesus is the rightful king of our lives. He is the Son of God. For the last few weeks, Mark introduced us to Jesus as our king. He showed us John the Baptist as King Jesus' forerunner to announce his coming. Mark showed us Jesus' coronation ceremony at his baptism, where he was crowned king. We also saw King Jesus' vindication as king through successfully facing Satan's temptations in the wilderness.

This morning, we see King Jesus beginning his ministry. The purpose of this portion of Mark is to show us the incredibly far-reaching authority of Jesus, our king. Today, we will see the power of Jesus' words and their authority over demons. Next week, we will see Jesus' authority over disease. In future weeks, we will see Jesus' authority over the Sabbath. We will see Jesus' authority to forgive sins. We will see Jesus' authority over nature to calm storms. We will see Jesus' authority over laws. We will see Jesus' authority over the temple. Those are just a few of the things over which we will see Jesus' authority. All of this leads us to the conclusion that Jesus is our king. He is the very Son of God who possesses all authority in this world and our lives.

**Read Mark 1:21-28**

Our text divides into two pieces. The first is Jesus demonstrating his authority over earthly teachers. The second is Jesus demonstrating his authority over demonic powers.

**Jesus has more authority than the wisest teachers.**

**And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. Mark 1:21–22 (ESV)**

Who are the “they” in this verse? They are Jesus' disciples. We met them last week. At this point we know they are Simon, Andrew, James and John. Last week, I didn't have a chance to do as much studying as I should so I caught up a bit this week. We know Simon and Andrew were brothers, so were James and John. Did you know they all worked for the same fishing business on the Lake of Galilee? It was the Sons of Zebedee fishing company.

For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon... Luke 5:9–10 (ESV)

Now let's return to our text. Jesus and his disciples headed into the city of Capernaum. The name Capernaum is simply a combination of two Hebrew words — Kaphar and Nahum. Kaphor is the Hebrew word for village. Nahum is the name Nahum. Capernaum literally mean the village of the prophet Nahum. When a small town has somebody famous that comes from it, that is its claim to fame. Just as Sheldon, IA, reminds you it is the hometown of wrestling legend Tom Brands, Capernaum reminded people it was the hometown of Nahum, who was so famous that he has a book in the Bible.

At the time of Jesus, Capernaum's industry was fishing, since it was located on the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum eventually became the largest town on the Sea of Galilee because of its location.

It was at the crossroads of trade routes with roads heading north, south, east and west out of the city. One of these roads was a major Roman highway called the Via Maris.

Since there was so much traffic and commerce through the town, the Romans stationed a Roman Garrison in the city to ensure peace. Thankfully, there was a great relationship between the Romans and the Jews in this city. Luke 7:1-10 tells us about a Roman centurion in the city who built a synagogue for the Jews as a gift. The Jews loved him.



This city was also the hometown of Simon, Andrew, James and John. Another reason this city was popular with fisherman is that it had a paved walkway on the edge of the water. It was 8 feet wide and was half a mile long. It was similar to the walkway we have in Arnolds Park along the water. On this walkway they had numerous piers that jutted several hundred feet into the lake. This was a perfect place to tie up your fishing boat and head into the city. You could bring your fish in from the lake, salt them for transport, then have them moving down the Roman highway to the city where you planned to market them. That was Capernaum.

As soon as Jesus came to town, he immediately went into the synagogue and began teaching. Why did he do this? Luke 4:16 tells us teaching in the synagogue is what Jesus always did when he went to a town. Before we get into his teaching, let me explain synagogues and why he taught at them.

In the Old Testament, we do not see synagogues. Where did they come from? In the Old Testament the only building for worship was the temple. You did have priests that were scattered throughout Israel that did teaching, counseling and helped people, but the temple was the only house of worship in the Old Testament. Things changed when Israel was taken captive by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The Babylonians destroyed Solomon's temple. In Babylon, God's people had no place to worship, and there was no temple. What did they do? The Jews began gathering in small home groups to encourage one another. You could call this the Old Testament beginnings of the home church. The word

synagogue simply means to come together. Synagogues, at that time, were small home-group gatherings of God's people.

After 70 years of captivity, under Nehemiah, God returned his people to Israel, and they began the process of rebuilding the temple. They didn't let the concept of small gatherings, called synagogues, go away. They kept synagogue gatherings and eventually established separate buildings for synagogues. Even after the temple was rebuilt, synagogues still dotted the landscape. The Talmud says the Jews erected 500 synagogues in Jerusalem. Think of synagogues like local churches but they functioned a little differently. Rather than having a hired pastor to do the teaching, the synagogue had a ruler. His job was essentially to be a librarian and maintain the scrolls. He was also a worship leader and a custodian. During the weekend, the synagogues had public readings and exposition of the Scriptures. During the week, synagogues served as schools and civil courts where cases were decided by scribes and elders who studied in God's Word. Josephus said the area of Galilee had 240 small towns and villages at the time of Jesus. Most likely each one had its own little synagogue. It only took 10 Jewish men older than 13 to create one.

The primary purpose of the synagogue was the public reading and teaching of God's Word. This was not done by the synagogue ruler. He functioned like an executive pastor to keep the operation running. Scribes and elders who were studied in God's Word typically read and taught God's Word to the people. This public reading and teaching of the Bible was very important because most people were illiterate. It was only through this public reading and

teaching of the Old Testament that people could hear and understand God's Word. So many synagogues with illiterate people led to a shortage of scribes and elders.

To handle this shortage of qualified teachers, the Jews developed a policy called "freedom of the synagogue." This allowed any qualified man to do the public reading and exposition of the Scripture. This policy also allowed any visiting teacher or rabbi to deliver the Sabbath reading and exposition of Scripture. Both Jesus and Paul took advantage of this ready-made opportunity to teach the people at the synagogue whenever they came to a village. This is what Jesus was doing in this passage. He was considered a visiting rabbi. People expected him to teach. It was a packed house when Jesus took a scroll to read and preach. Nobody skipped church.

Interestingly, Mark doesn't tell us the content of what Jesus preaching. The reason he didn't tell what Jesus said is because the content of Jesus' preaching is not what he wanted us to notice. If you want to see what Jesus' preaching looked like, turn to Matthew 5 to 7 and read the Sermon on the Mount. That is a good sample.

What Mark wanted us to see is people's reaction to Jesus' preaching and teaching. Mark said people were astonished! There is a problem here. In English, there is not a strong enough word to convey the Greek word that describes people's reaction to Jesus' teaching. The word astonished just doesn't capture it. In Greek, the word means to literally knock someone out of their senses. It means to be left speechless and completely blown away. This past week I was

surfing a little Youtube and was watching boxing's greatest knockout punches. Those knockout punches hit people so hard that they fell to the ground unable to get up. That is what Jesus was doing, but it was with his words and not his fists. Jesus was not using mean words. He was just speaking with amazing clarity and authority. Nobody could take their eyes off of him.

Mark also told us why Jesus' authoritative words were so captivating. He spoke with authority, not like the scribes. Jesus spoke in a very different way from the scribes that typically read and explained their Sabbath teaching.

Who were the scribes? The scribes were the top educated men in the first century. They traced their roots to Ezra in the Old Testament, in particular Ezra 7 and Nehemiah 8. When the law was read, their job was to explain it and help people apply it. The scribes' job was to study the scrolls then to know how to apply God's Word to the people. Most of the scribes were also called rabbis. Rabbi simply means honored one. It was a term of respect used for revered teachers. The problem was that over time, the scribes had lost touch with their simple job of helping people understand and apply the Word of God. Like most academics, over time they became educated beyond usefulness. They would tell you what other scribes taught on a passage. They gave multiple speculations and opinions. They did very little to help people apply the passage. They lost touch with reality and the people.

Jesus was different. He wasn't a list of footnotes. He didn't care what other scribes taught. He just told you what God's Word said and taught you how it applied to your life with authority, clarity and conviction. Jesus didn't need to

quote anyone else for authority. As the one who inspired the prophet, he is the ultimate author of the Scriptures. He knew how they were to apply it.

What made the difference is Jesus taught with authority, not with opinions. He didn't give speculation. He gave truth. That is why everyone who heard him teach was shocked.

### **Application**

For the moment, I want us to zero in on Jesus' words, and by extension God's words, as absolute authoritative truth. Other people's words are like Amazon star ratings and customer feedback. Other people's words are opinions we don't know if we can trust them. We know Jesus' words are the authoritative truth that is always right. Because Jesus' words are the truth, we don't just need to hear them. We need to give them the place of prominence in our lives that they deserve.

For example, when it comes to marriage, you can go to Amazon and look for marriage books that are written from many different perspectives all telling you their opinion of what makes a good marriage. The only place we know we find the truth about the way marriage works is from God and his Word. That is truth, not speculation and opinion.

The Bible also tells us the truth of our problems is the world. The original problem in the world is not that there is a Democrat or a Republican in the White House. The problem is sin. We are selfish, arrogant and prideful. Almost all relationship breakdowns are rooted in sin issues.

**The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)**

Jesus also told us that the only way to be changed, brought back into a right relationship with God, and deal with the problem of sin is through repentance and faith in him.

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.** John 3:35–36 (ESV)

That may not be something we want to believe but Jesus said it is what we need to hear. He said it with authority. Remember that Jesus's words possess more authority and truth than even the most learned men of our day.

These are big claims of authority for the words of Jesus. How do we know Jesus' words hold this kind of authority? Let's keep reading and we will see Jesus' words possess such authority and truth that his mere words vanquish the most sinister demonic powers.

### **Jesus has authority over the demonic world.**

**And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out... Mark 1:23 (ESV)**

This raises a lot of questions we need to answer.

#### **What was a demon-possessed man doing in the synagogue?**

When we think of demon-possessed people, we think of Charles Manson. We think of hair that looks like bedhead with tattoos on the face and promises to kill you and dismember your body. Some possessed people are that way. We will meet one later in Mark 5 known as the Gerasene demoniac. The thing is, not all possessed people look that way. Apparently this demon-possessed guy looked rather normal. He fit in at the synagogue. This is important to for us to notice. If every demonically-possessed person or every demonically-influenced person

looked like a nutcase, demons would have a hard time influencing the world because most of them would be behind bars. Many times demons and their influences on people stay hidden. They work in people's lives undercover so they won't be noticed. Paul said it this way:

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14 (ESV)

Satan and his demons try to disguise themselves as the good guys. If you go to a Muslim mosque, they sound good and religious, but it is all the teachings of demons. If you go to the Mormon church, it is all the teachings of demons disguising themselves to look like the good guys when they are really the bad guys. How do we know this? They are leading you away from Jesus. Jesus is the only way to God. Demons work hard to make you think you are religious and that you found another way to know God other than through Jesus.

The Bible tells us that the way demons work is they introduce lies. If they can get people to believe a lie, especially a lie that takes them away from Jesus, the demons win.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons... 1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)

Notice what Paul said to Timothy. "There will be some people in the church that will be led astray to follow the teachings of demons." How is a demon going to lead people in the church out of the church? The demons work with people in the church that look rather normal, and they gain favor with others in the church. Then they introduce their destructive heresies in the church to lead people away

from Jesus and out of the church. This happens by demons working undercover to lead people away from Jesus.

Think of how this has happened in some of our mainline denominations. Academics in those denominations gained positions of power and influence in their seminaries and colleges. Then, they teach young people that they can't trust the Bible. They tell young people Jesus isn't the only way and lead them away from Jesus. It seems to me that the academics doing this in some of those mainline schools are following deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, just as Paul warned us!

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 (ESV)

Remember that the native tongue of the devil is lies. When you hear lies instead of truth, you know whose territory you are in.

In this case in Mark, we have a demon-possessed man in the synagogue at Capernaum disguising himself as a good guy, secretly using his position to introduce lies for the purpose of leading people in the synagogue away from the truth. Nothing has changed. In churches today there are demonically-possessed or demonically-influenced people who try to gain influence to deceive people and lead them away from the truth. They sow discord and division in the church. That is how you recognize them.

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. Jude 17–19 (ESV)

I don't point this out because I want us looking around every corner for a demonically-possessed person trying to split a church. I simply want you to realize the subtle ways Satan works in the church to lead people away from Jesus.

Let me give you some more modern examples of this. In some of the charismatic churches, you hear of people being slain in the spirit. A minister lays hands on them and they collapse, supposedly overcome with the Holy Spirit's power. Is this truly evidence of the Holy Spirit's power? Sometimes people try to use the Bible to justify this practice. In the Bible, people fall down in response to a huge event, like the transfiguration of Christ<sup>1</sup>, not every weekend at a church service by another person's touch. In addition, the Bible tells us people fall down on their face in worship, not on their back in half-consciousness. In the Bible, this falling down rarely happens, not every weekend to all kinds of people. I don't see a biblical precedent for this in any of the New Testament letters. I begin to wonder, if there is an energy force involved, perhaps it is demonic in origin. Is it a demon masquerading as an angel of light in the church? The way you can tell is the Holy Spirit makes his presence known by the character changes he makes in our lives. Galatians 5:22-23 says the Holy Spirit gives, love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness and self-control. The Bible doesn't say that the Holy Spirit makes himself known by knocking you out when somebody touches you on the forehead.<sup>2</sup> The Bible warns us about this.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 17:1-8; Daniel 10:9; 1 Corinthians 14:25

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-slain.html>

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24 (ESV)

Another thing you see in some of the fringe pentecostal or charismatic churches are people claiming to have the gift of personal prophecy. You go to a prophet and they give you a personal prophecy. In all honesty, this is nothing more than a psychic with a Christian label. It is unbiblical. Prophecy was more common when the Bible was being formed but the Bible tells us in 2 Peter 1:3 that everything we need for life and godliness is in the Word of God. We are not to seek a personal prophet. This is not to say God could never speak through a prophet again but that would be a rare occurrence, not a common occurrence. I struggle to see how people involved in this are sourcing their prophecies from the Holy Spirit. I tend to think they are sourcing their prophecies from a demonic spirit that is masquerading as an angle of light. Why do I think this? I do not know how this leads people to Jesus. Often people involved in this area not known for producing more fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.<sup>3</sup>

I am not saying every charismatic and pentecostal church is this way, but some clearly are. While the more supernatural gifts are God's gifts to give as he sees fit, I don't see them as normative for this time. The Bible tells us many times to be careful about Satan and demons using counterfeit spiritual gifts to lead people astray.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1 (ESV)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/personal-prophecy.html>

## Why is there so much demonic activity associated with Jesus?

You will notice that demonic possession and influence does not run evenly through the Bible. While it is there, you don't find much of it in the Old Testament. It is there, but it is more undercover. In the same way, after the apostles, you do not find much of it in the later New Testament letters. We find lots of demonic possession and influence in the time of Jesus and the apostles. Why does so much demonic activity appear to be localized around Jesus?

I believe there are two reasons.

First, I think Satan and his demons were working especially hard at the time of Jesus against Jesus and the earth church. They were determined to defeat him so you see more of it in that era.

Second, I think the presence of Jesus and his apostles surfaced the demonic powers that were normally hidden. When this demon was confronted by the presence of Jesus and heard the authoritative words of Jesus, this demon blew his cover. He couldn't handle it. It says he cried out. That Greek word literally means to scream with the pain of agony and suffering. I picture Jesus teaching and suddenly this guy suddenly stood up screaming in agony. This was not physical agony but the demon inside of him was in agony because of Jesus' presence and the authority of Jesus' words.

Now let's see what happened when the demon took control of this man's mouth and spoke to Jesus.

["What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."](#) Mark 1:24 (ESV)

This is one freaky church service. This demon said a few important things. First, he said, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?” In Hebrew this means, “What are you doing here? You don’t belong here. Mind your own business and leave.”

This demon was clearly upset that Jesus blew his cover that Sabbath in the Capernaum synagogue. He was set up to spread lies and deception.

Then he said, “Have you come to destroy us?” Clearly this demon knew Jesus and knew his future with Jesus. He knew he will one day be destroyed by Jesus, long before Jesus talked about the Lake of Fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels in Matthew 25, long before the apostle John wrote about the Lake of Fire as the final resting place for the devil and his angels in Revelation 20, this demon knew all about it. This demon clearly knew his future. He knew Jesus controls his future and will send him to the Lake of Fire. The only thing in question is when will Jesus send him there?

I like the way James talked about demons.

**You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! James 2:19 (ESV)**

There are no demons that are atheists. Every demon believes in God, and they shake in fear and terror at his name. That is what this demon did. He was terrified by Jesus. He knew Jesus’ words were so authoritative that all Jesus needs to do is speak the word and the demon will be consigned for all eternity to the Lake of Fire. That was enough to make him shake in fear.

Then the demon said, “I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” Here is a little interesting fact in Mark’s Gospel. It is not until Mark 8:29, halfway

through the book, that Peter finally understood that Jesus is the Son of God. But in this first half of Mark, in every encounter Jesus has with a demon, all of them immediately recognized Jesus as the Son of God and fell down before him. The demons do a better job of recognizing Jesus than people. Look at these examples.

And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." Mark 3:11 (ESV)

And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit... And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." Mark 5:2+7 (ESV)

The reason they were terrified is because they knew Jesus came to destroy them.

...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8 (ESV)

The demon manifested himself in Jesus' presence. He was terrified in Jesus' presence. Then Jesus dealt with him. The simplicity of how he took care of this demon is the point.

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. Mark 1:25–26 (ESV)

The way Jesus said this in the Greek is intriguing. He didn't use nice language. He essentially said, "Shut up! Get out of here. Scram!" Jesus tossed this demon out like he was kicking out a pesky, ankle-biting poodle. He sent the demon whimpering and running. There was no extended dialogue. There was no argument. There was no negotiation. There was no rattling of beads. He simply told the demon to shut up and scam. The demon ran at the authority of his word.

The people recognized the authority of Jesus' words. He had greater authority than even their best earthly teachers, and he demonstrated the authority of his words by sending a demon running with a simple command to scam.

Contrast that with the Jewish exorcisms of the day. There were people who went around trying to do exorcisms in the ancient world, but quite honestly, they didn't work and had no lasting influences. Jesus' exorcisms were different. Jesus showed up, and at his mere word, demons ran screaming in horror. There is a story in Acts 19 that shows us how this works. It is the story of the seven sons of Sceva.

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. Acts 19:13–16 (ESV)

Jesus and Paul had authority to command demons to flee. The seven sons of Sceva didn't have that authority. Instead, they were beat up!

Why did Paul have that authority? Jesus gave it to him.

Luke 9:1 tells us Jesus delegated this authority over demons to his apostles.

And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases... Luke 9:1 (ESV)

This is why we see Jesus and his apostles having authority over demons and disease. The point is we do not have the power to cast out demons and disease by our merely word. Our mere words are not that authoritative. Only Jesus and the apostles had that authority. We do not engage in an exorcisms. That is not biblical. We engage in evangelism. When Jesus takes up residence in

a person's heart, the demonic influences in his or her life scream and are forced to flee. We don't make demons scream. Jesus makes demons scream.

And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. Mark 1:27–28 (ESV)

The people were amazed. Jesus taught with authority and truth. He backed up the authority of his words by showing the authority of his words over the fallen demonic world, which is an authority that none of us have. At this point, everybody was talking about Jesus.

How does this apply to us? I have two practical applications for you today.

### Application

**Turn to the Word of God Word for truth instead of Google.** Google is filled with opinions. There is some truth, and there is some error. The words of Jesus are absolute truth. They are the authority for life. That is the first thing the people in Capernaum noticed.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17 (ESV)

...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:32 (ESV)

I challenge you this week, before you look up a question about life on Google, which will just give you a bunch of worldly opinions, go to God's Word, where you will find authority and truth, not speculation and opinion.

When you have a question about marriage, go to the Bible. When you have a question about anger, go to the Bible. When you have a question about raising your children, start in the Word of God, not the opinion of a secular psychologist on Google.

To help you find what God's Word says on a subject, there is a website called [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org). The author has written almost half of a million answers to common life questions. For all of his answers he shows you what the Bible says about that topic so you know you are looking at biblical truth, not speculative opinion.

**Jesus is the only way to make a demon scream and break the footholds Satan gained in my life through sin.** The Bible says many of our earthly struggles are rooted in a spiritual struggle.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:11–12 (ESV)

When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. Romans 6:10 (NLT)

Some of us struggle with alcohol. There are dark spiritual forces that want to drag you back into that trap. Some of us struggle with pornography. Others struggle with anger and resentment. Once we sin in a particular area, it seems the devil gains a foothold in that area of our lives and goes out of his way to tempt us in that particular area, especially when we are weak. I don't know what footholds dark spiritual forces may have gained or would like to gain in your life, but I do know the only way to send a demon away screaming in fear is Jesus, not your strength or my strength, not your word or my word. It is the words of Jesus that have authority to make a demon scream and run.

The way to break demonic footholds in our lives is to memorize God's Word so Jesus can bring Scriptures to mind when we are tempted. It is to read

God's Words. It is to pray and to walk with God. The closer we are to Jesus, the more demons that would desire to attack you can't stand his presence.

The words of Jesus are the authority that tell us the truth, and they are authoritative enough to make a demon scream, send the demon running and set God's people free.



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