

1. Definitions of Demon possession and dominance, Luke 4:31-34.

- 1) Everyone who is not a believer is under demonic dominating power, **1st John 5:19**.
 - ✓ Demon possession is a very specific and relatively rare form of dominance in which the unbeliever is controlled and cannot stop it.
 - 2) Possession is a fluid thing; demons come and go at will, **1st Samuel 16:23**.
 - 3) God is in control, not Satan and not demons, **1st Samuel 16:23**. As hard as it might be for us to wrap our minds around this, God has allowed evil in the world; there has to be a consequence for our decisions.
 - 4) Demon's goal is to keep people out of the kingdom of God, to keep that which they possess.
 - ✓ This may be through overt control as in what we classically understand as demon possession, or it may be just through deception, **2nd Corinthians 4:3-4**. Teachings, deceptions, and blindness are the primary ploy and not overt control.
 - ✓ Satan and demons would much rather operate through people who have influence over large numbers of people (heads of state, government officials, and teachers).
 - ✓ Look at the creators of false religion throughout the world; these guys almost without exception claimed to have received their revelations from angels (demons). We should expect the majority of demon possession to be literate, articulate, convincing, religious, with seemingly sound and well thought out arguments.
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2. Can demon possession happen to Christians/believers? Short answer: No.

- ✓ **Acts 26:17-18**; To come to Christ is to leave the dominion of Satan and come to the dominion of God.
- ✓ **2nd Corinthians 6:15-16** There are many definitions for what it means to be a Christian; maybe the simplest is "**a person in which God lives in permanently.**"
- ✓ **Matthew 12:43-45**; Think of a physical body as a house, the controlling occupant 1. the spirit of a human 2. spirit of a demon, 3. Spirit of God. Humans have no power to stop the other two, but once God is there, no spirit of a demon would dare enter.
- ✓ Christians **can** be demonically influenced: all Christians are demonically influenced. They are lying to us all the time, trying to influence our thoughts, tempting us at our weakest points.
- ✓ To be certain, Satan and his demons have nothing in us, **1st John 4:4**.

Where does Jesus dwell today? "upon this rock I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."
