

# Repossessed

## Possessing Single-Minded Trust

July 3, 2022

Today we're talking about what to do when you hit a brick wall in life.

But first: **Do you trust Jesus' power and authority?** Do you? Be honest with yourself, we're family.



And by the way, I want to say how happy I am with the Supreme Court's ruling on the praying football coach from Bremerton! And how deeply grateful I am over the decision to return abortion laws to the states. *But in times like these*, I'm reminded how we tend to only *really* trust the Lord's *power* and *authority* with-all-our-heart, in *times like these*. But *that* isn't *faith*. It's the *frosting* that every so often a *few* are blessed to *taste*.



[Jesus] said [to his disciples] ... "Many *prophets* and *kings* and *righteous men* wanted to see, *longed to see*, what you see but did *not* see it, and to *hear what you hear* but did *not* hear it." – Mt 13:17; Lk 10:23-24 NIV



If you know the Lord, you *know His ways are often not our ways*. You know how we say it's *my way* or the *highway*? Turns out, ***His way is the high way!*** And the way I *think* He should act is so *often* so *beneath* Him.



"For *My* thoughts are not *your* thoughts, nor are *your* ways *My* ways ... for as the *heavens* are *higher* than the *earth*, so are *My* ways *higher* than *your* ways, and *My* thoughts than *your* thoughts." – Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJ



To trust His power and authority, *His* thoughts must become *our* thoughts – which is why we've been given "the mind of Christ". (1 Cor 2:16) Remember when Jesus first taught in Capernaum?



They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, for His Word was with authority. Now ... there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. ... But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And ... it came out of him and ... they were all amazed ... saying, "What new doctrine is this?" "What a Word this is! For with authority and power He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him, and [baby-o-baby] they come out." – Mk 1:22-27; Lk 4:32-36 NKJ



[Cuz] Even the *demons* believe ["that God is One" (2:18)]—and *shudder!* – James 2:19 ESV

Know why? ***Demons ain't atheists!*** They know His power and authority. Know how? ***They know His Word!*** Satan *tested* Jesus by ever-so-slyly distorting God's *Word*. Remember how:

[The Gadarene] cried out and fell on his knees at His feet in front of Him, shouting ... "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I *beg* You, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out – Mk 5:6-8; Lk 8:28-29 NIV



It might surprise you to learn those demons are *quite* the *theologians!*

The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, – 1 Timothy 4:1-2 NKJ

[Paul warns the Corinthians about this double-minded demonic spirit] I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, from the Old Testament or if you receive a different [unholy] spirit from the [Holy] One you received, or if you accept [even] a [little] different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. [Readily enough? For *what?* For “your thoughts to be led *astray* from a *sincere* and *pure* devotion”] – 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 ESV

[Cuz] We *all* went *astray* like sheep; we *all* have *turned* to our *own way* – Isaiah 53:6 CSB

Therefore *submit* to God. *Resist* the *devil* and he will *flee* from you. [Like Legion into pigs!] Draw near to God and ... purify your hearts, you double-minded. – James 4:7-10 NKJ

[Because] *Self-seeking* [wisdom] in your *hearts* ... [is] *demonic*. – James 3:13-15 NKJ

[Whereas] [If] you seek the *Lord* your *God*, you will find *Him* [that is] if you look for Him with all your heart and with all your soul. – Deuteronomy 4:29 NIV

“My sheep hear My voice, and I *know* them, and they follow Me.” – John 10:27-28 NKJ



And that’s how you know when you’re *His*. Because **following means seeking to learn to discern His voice** among a raging sea of competing voices in this world. However, it’s not about *achieving answers*, but *digging* for treasure! Cuz He *created* an adventure to *share* with us.



Which is why He compares His *kingdom* to hidden treasure, (Mt 13:44) and acquiring *wisdom* as *searching* for hidden treasure. (Prov 1:23; 2:1-4) And **finding treasure readily fuels more seeking**. Literally. He *wired* our *brains* to release *dopamine*! So what *riles* Him, is the *hypocrisy* of praying for answers without lifting a finger to find ‘em.



See this brick wall? See that little rock in the center? *It’s not a rock*. Once you see it, you can’t *un-see* it. You have eyes to see, but they don’t perceive. Figure it out yet? Yes? Well, you sin a cigar! Cuz it’s the ash end of a cigar. Know what this *world* and God’s *Word* have in common? **Brick walls ... that aren’t what they seem**. Cuz each one contains the most incredible surprises for those who seek to see through walls.



Wouldn’t it be awful if, five minutes into a great action movie, the *feds* show up and *arrest* the bad guys without *violence*? What a *rip off!* *Why?* Cuz **we pay good money for a taste of the rapture that comes from persevering the testing**. Same way we’ll feel about *life* down here ... up there. Cuz **we’re called to be over-comers not under-getters**.

You know that the *testing* of your *faith* produces *perseverance*. [So] Let perseverance finish its *work* so that you may be *mature* and *complete* ... [And] If any of you lacks *wisdom*, [in the *midst of the test*] you should ask God, who gives [*wisdom*] *generously* to all without finding fault, [cuz you're being *tested* and *stretched* and *strengthened*, so He gets if you're *distressed* or *depressed* or on *edge*] and it [*wisdom*] will be *given* to you. [Usually *from the test*] But [only if you *trust*; so] when you *ask*, you *must believe* [you'll receive if you *persevere*. Hebrews 11:6 says you must believe He rewards those who *diligently seek Him*"] and *not doubt*, [the *power* and *authority* and *superiority of His wisdom*] because the one who doubts [especially *during the test*] is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. [Cuz] Such a person is double-minded – James 1:3-8 NIV



Our struggles drive our faith to depths possible no other way ... *if* we trust the **invincible power**, and **unrivaled authority**, and **eternal perspective**, and **infinite love**, in a pure, sincere, non-wishy-washy, single-minded sort of way. *His way*. The *high way*. James also tells us that:

[The tongue] is a fire, [in fact] a world of evil ... and is itself set on fire by hell. [Which explains the “evil” “fire” “world”] ... It is a *restless evil*, full of *deadly poison*. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings ... made in God's likeness. – James 3:6-9 NIV

James (3:15; 4:8) calls this **“double-minded” “demonic” “wisdom”**. So why do we do it? Or, a better question is: *When?* Cuz we do it *when* we refuse to trust Jesus' *power* and *authority*. But, **how does hell set our tongue on fire? By hiding in the unpurified, insincere, dark parts of our hearts.**

“For out of the abundance of the *heart* the mouth *speaks*. ... For out of the *heart* proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: [and] these are [just seven of] the things which defile” – Matthew 12:34; 15:19-20 NKJ

I wonder if these are the “seven demons” He cast out of “Mary Magdalene”. (Mk 16:9)

[Cuz, you see] [An] idol is [ultimately] a worthless doctrine. – Jeremiah 10:8 NKJ

[And] [Everyone] who sets up his idols [his “worthless doctrines”] in his heart ... are all estranged from Me by their idols – Ezekiel 14:4-5 NKJ

[Because] Their idols [“worthless doctrines”] are [just] empty wind! – Isaiah 41:29 NAB

[But] [He who has] a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an [empty, windy, untrustworthy] idol ... shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation ... [all] those who seek Him, who seek Your face. – Psalm 24:4-6 NKJ

[For God] made *His* light shine in *our* hearts [through *His Word*] to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. – 2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV

[So] We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every [“empty”] wind of [“worthless”] doctrine [“like a wave ... driven and tossed” (Jas 1:6)] ... but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into [Christ] – Ephesians 4:14-15 NKJ

Here's another brick wall, to *test* just how much you *actually trust* Jesus' *power* and *authority*.



[The Gadarene] fell on his knees ... [shouting] "What do you want with me ... I beg You, don't torture me!" ... For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out ... Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" *Many times* it had seized him ... [and] *many demons* had gone into him. And [Legion] begged Jesus *repeatedly* not to *order* them to go *out of the area* into the Abyss. – Mk 5:6-10; Lk 8:28-31 NIV

Do you see it? It's hiding in the flashback. If "Jesus had *commanded* the evil spirit to *come out*", how's it hanging around? Doesn't Jesus have enough *power* and *authority*?

And "What do you *want with me*"?! "Um, to go *out*, like I kind'a *commanded*." And *why's* it begging Him "*not to order* them to go *out*"? This "cigar" is obvious if we just *actually trust* His *power* and *authority*. By which I mean, when "Jesus had *commanded* the evil spirit to *come out*" baby-o-baby, it came *out*! This is told as a *flashback* – so the *proper* question is: *How far back*? How many *days*? How "*many times* had it seized him"? Cuz *this* isn't Jesus' first rodeo with this double-minded demonic Gadarene! Earlier that very same day, Jesus had set the stage, saying:

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, [being cast out by God's Spirit] it ... says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house *unoccupied*, *swept clean* and *put in order*. [We know who cleaned and tidied up; but *why's* the guy *unoccupied*? Seems his "*devotion*" wasn't "*sincere* and *pure*" (2 Cor 11:3)] Then it goes and takes with it *seven other spirits* more wicked than itself, [seven, eh?] and *they* go in and live there. And the *final* condition of that man is *worse* than the *first*." [Cuz it only takes three more times before there's a legion of 4,000+ in there] – Matthew 12:43-45 NIV



And that very night Jesus calms the waves being driven and tossed by the wind. And *then* He **tracks down the man being driven and tossed like a wave**, with double-minded relapsing and backsliding, till he was *finally, utterly*, conquered by the *devil*; but certainly not *abandoned* by the *Lord*. Hence the title: *Repossessed*.

[O Lord] I have gone *astray* like a *lost sheep*; seek Your servant – Psalm 119:176 NKJ

[Ever feel that way?] "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" – Mark 9:24 NKJ

[Well He *will!* But *you* must] *Trust* in the *Lord* with *all your heart* – Proverbs 3:5 NIV

[And, as He says] Lay hold of *My Words* with *all your heart* – Proverbs 4:4 NIV

For with *authority* and *power* He *commands* *even* the *unclean spirits*, and *they* obey Him, and [baby-o-baby] *they* come out." – Mk 1:27; Lk 4:36 NKJ

So what do you do when you hit one of life's brick walls?

Look to win a cigar!

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Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.