

Title: New Content for “Dealing with Demonic During the Session”

December 16, 2003

Greetings all,

Just a quick note to let you know that we have added a new section to our essay “Dealing with Demonic During the Session” (on the ministry aids page of our web site, www.kclehman.com). A copy of the new section is attached below. I pulled out the footnotes and put them at the bottom so that I could just send this little piece, instead of the whole 24 page document as an attachment. See the web site version for the complete version with the footnotes inserted at the appropriate places.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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VIII. Is it even necessary and/or wise to deal with demonic spirits directly?: Leanne Payne raises valid concerns about “practicing the presence of demons,” and points out that some Christians interact with demonic spirits in a way that actually increases the problem, and that can be dangerous. Many who are familiar with her material are concerned that dealing directly with demonic oppression and interference during ministry sessions is un-Biblical, unwise, and possibly even unsafe. On the other hand, Dr. Smith teaches that “the war is over,” – that demonic forces have been completely and thoroughly defeated through Jesus’ death and resurrection, and that we don’t need to *fight* demonic spirits in any way. Some understand his teaching to imply that it is not *necessary* to deal with demonic spirits directly – that we can and should simply ignore them. Our perception is that both scripture and experience indicate that it is sometimes appropriate (and necessary) to deal directly with demonic spirits in the context of Christian prayer for emotional healing.

Wayne Grudem M.Div., Ph.D., former Chairman of the Department of Biblical and Systematic Theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, presents a brief and clear discussion of Biblical references supporting the practice of Christians confronting demonic spirits directly in *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. In addition to his discussion of Biblical references, he also offers simple pastoral insights that are so helpful we are including them here:

We may ask, however, why does God want Christians to speak directly to the demon who is troubling someone rather than just praying and asking God to drive away the demon for them? In a way, this is similar to asking why Christians should share the

gospel with another person rather than simply praying and asking God to reveal the gospel with another person directly. Or why should we speak words of encouragement to a Christian who is discouraged rather than just praying and asking God himself to encourage that person directly? Why should we speak a word of rebuke or gentle admonition to a Christian whom we see involved in some kind of sin, rather than just praying and asking God to take care of the sin in that person's life? The answer to all these questions is that in the world that God has created, he has given us a very *active* role in carrying out his plans, especially his plans for the advancement of the kingdom and the building up of the church. In all of these cases, our *direct involvement* and *activity* is important in addition to our prayers. And so it seems to be in our dealing with demonic forces as well. Like a wise father who does not settle all of his children's disputes for them, but sometimes sends them back out to the playground to settle a dispute themselves, so our heavenly Father encourages us to enter directly into conflict with demonic forces in the name of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Thereby he enables us to gain the joy of participating in eternally significant ministry and the joy of triumphing over the destructive power of Satan and his demons in people's lives. It is not that God could not deal with demonic attacks every time we prayed and asked him to do so, for he certainly could and he no doubt sometimes does. But the New Testament pattern seems to be that God ordinarily expects Christians themselves to speak directly to the unclean spirits.

Spiritual *representation* and *enforcement* as opposed to spiritual *warfare*: Note that we agree with Dr. Ed Smith's teaching that "the war is over" with respect to spiritual "warfare" – we agree that demonic forces have already been defeated through Jesus' death and resurrection. However, our understanding is that the Lord asks Christians (His *representatives*) to *enforce* His victory, and our experience is that we encounter opposition as we carry out this enforcement task. For additional discussion of Christians' responsibility as *enforcers* and *representatives* of the Lord's victory, see Dutch Sheets, *Intercessory Prayer*. (Regal Books: Ventura CA) 1996, especially pages 57-58.

As discussed above, we have noticed a steady decrease in the amount of observable demonic phenomena in our ministry sessions, we have been encouraged by the way in which demonic spirits lose power when the person receiving ministry reverses the choices that have given them a place, and we have been encouraged by how much less we now have to deal directly with demonic spirits during sessions. However, we do still occasionally have direct interactions with demonic spirits during ministry sessions. It is also important to remember that "dealing directly" does not have to even include dialogue – for example, we also consider the "one way" interactions of our opening prayer to be "dealing directly" with demonic spirits.

Footnotes:

See Payne, Leanne. *Restoring the Christian Soul*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996) p. 208-216. Note that on page 213 Leanne acknowledges that she addresses demonic spirits directly in certain circumstances.

Note: our understanding is that Dr. Smith is currently teaching that we **do** need to deal with demonic spirits in certain situations, but that we **don't** have to *fight* them (Ed. M. Smith, live teaching comments: Advance Theophostic® seminar 2002, Basic Apprenticeship seminar 2002, SRA Apprenticeship seminar 2002, Basic Apprenticeship seminar August 2003, International Association of Theophostic® Ministers conference November 2003).

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994) p. 427-429.