

This went on till late at night. I got so tired of this that I asked the question, ‘Who are you?’ The voice started saying evil and cruel things to me. Then I saw a supernatural being appearing beside my bed to help me. He had a bright light, and with a red tipped sword he pointed to the voice. Then everything was silent again. I realized that through the power of God the evil was defeated and I was full of joy.

From then on the voice never came back again and I realized that only the victorious power of Jesus Christ had triumphed over this attack from the realm of darkness” – This is the story of a young man who experienced the power of darkness.

Can God Really Help?

Have you experienced anything similar in your life? You might not have had any contact with a demon or heard strange voices but maybe you’ve taken part in satanic rituals or practices of darkness (occult practices). Maybe you constantly carry certain objects around with you or store them in your house for protection from harm.

These are things with which Satan holds a person captive. He likes to paralyse people with fear and makes them suffer under his bondage. How cruel he is with those who are in his grip! How distressing it is to be his slave! God knows everything about us, he knows in which misery you are in. And only he can help. Take heart, there is one way out of Satan’s bondage and that is Jesus Christ.



Practices of Darkness

Satan does not easily give up any of his slaves. His tactic is to cover up and lie about his doings. You might need to ask yourself these questions and bring the darkness to the light:

1. Do I ever hear voices or is there a conversation going on in my head?
2. Have I ever seen, heard or felt a spiritual being in my room?
3. Have I ever prayed to spirits in the graveyard or called on the spirits of the dead to help?
4. Do I have a spirit guide offering guidance and companionship?
5. Have I ever gone to a sorcerer for healing from sickness or for magic to help in business, exams, gardening, sickness, love magic or many other reasons?
6. Do I have any things like leaves, pieces of bark, bones, masks, pig teeth or any other object that is supposed to protect me?
7. Have I ever consulted a diviner (mind reader, medium or witch) or ‘spiritist’ or was I ever involved in a satanic ritual?
8. Have I been present when people have tried to call the spirits of the dead?
9. Have I been participating in making offerings to the spirits?
10. Have I prayed to Satan or used things like boards or cards that have been dedicated to Satan?

The Way to Freedom

Did you know that you were really made to be free? Satan has no right to destroy your life because Jesus Christ already paid for

your freedom when he died for you on the cross. Do you want to be free from sin? Then believe in his salvation and accept his control in your life. If you were involved in any of the above practices, you need to renounce them, confess them one by one by praying the following prayer out loud:

“Lord, I confess that I have participated in (*name the certain practice*). I know it was evil and offensive in your sight. I ask you to forgive me. I renounce any and all involvement with (*name the certain practice*), and I cancel out any and all ground that the enemy gained in my life through this activity. Thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you, Jesus Christ, for your victory over all power of darkness. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.”

It would be of great value for you to meet with a councillor or a mature Christian to go through this and confess these things to the Lord. Expose the darkness by bringing those hidden practices to the light. You also need to remove and destroy things that are attached to the evil practice of darkness. Burn them!

Furthermore, take this as a warning! Do not dabble (or experiment) with the occult out of curiosity! Keep yourself completely away from it!

But don’t only think of getting free from demonic powers, you have to get free from the power of sin and give your life totally to the Lord Jesus

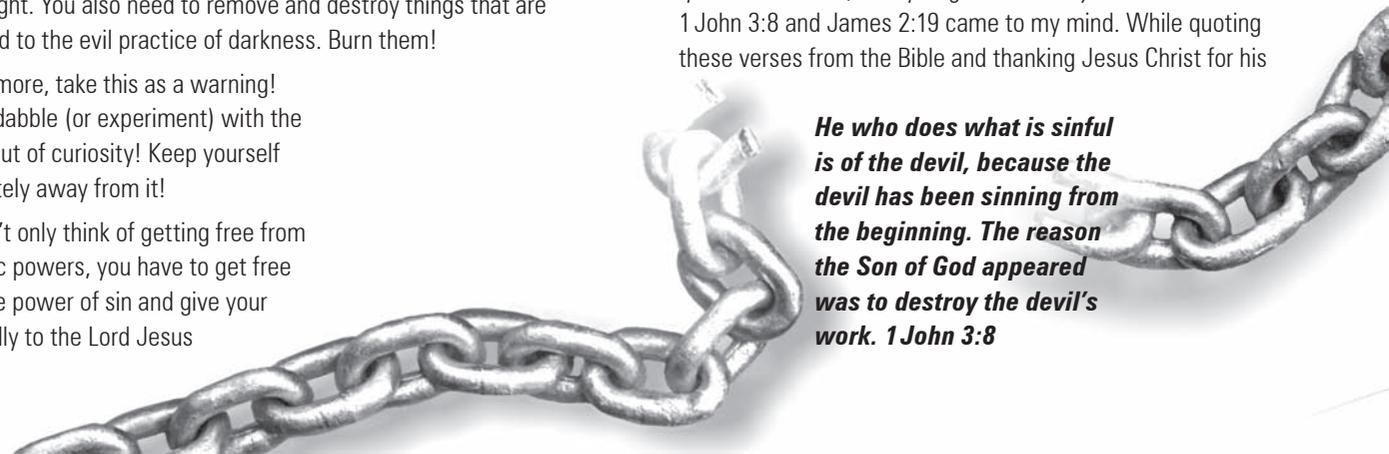
Christ. Otherwise it could be that the evil spirit will come back again and bring some more demons with him and things will get even worse (see the story of Jesus Christ in Matthew 12:45).

An Encouraging True Story of a pastor in Papua New Guinea

“In 2004 we were on holiday in the village of my wife. During that time one of my brothers-in-law was taken control of by an evil spirit. This man could not sleep that night. At midnight his family sent someone over to our place to call me, in order to pray for this person. Together with my wife I prayed for God’s guidance and protection for our own lives before I went to where this person was.

Upon approaching this place I felt scared and started to quote Bible verses like Colossians 2:15, where it says, ‘*And having disarmed the powers and authorities (of Satan), he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*’ Also 1 John 3:8 and James 2:19 came to my mind. While quoting these verses from the Bible and thanking Jesus Christ for his

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. 1 John 3:8



blood, I was strengthened by the Lord and received confidence to go forth in HIS name.

When I went over to my brother-in-law, he was lying on the ground gnashing his teeth and throwing punches and kicks into the air as if trying to hit someone. I called his name but he didn't respond so I read Mark 6:8, '*... he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.*'

Together with two other Christians we prayed and commanded this evil spirit to come out and leave him. Miraculously the Lord drove away the spirit. My brother-in-law sighed and then he went into a deep sleep. Demons truly respect the name of Jesus Christ, for they know that they are already defeated by Jesus Christ." – What an encouraging story of this young pastor who experienced victory in the power of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

Believe in the Truth

Isn't this comforting to us that the power of Jesus Christ is mightier than the power of Satan. Satan has **some power**, but Jesus Christ has **all power**. As believers we have nothing to fear because we have a new position, we are in Jesus Christ. Therefore we also share in his victory over Satan and darkness. We always need to stand on this fact and meditate on this truth. N. Anderson says: "Dealing with the demonic should be seen as a truth encounter rather than a power encounter." The Lord Jesus told his disciples in John 8:32, "*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"

Many people are also afraid of the spirit of the ancestors. But the spirits of the dead are not allowed to roam around. They are held captive to wait for the judgement of God. The spirits of believers are with the Lord. Jesus Christ died, rose again and is alive forever more. He holds the "*keys of death and the world of the dead*" (Revelation 1:18). This verse shows us that the spirits of the dead are under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Your Identity in Jesus Christ

If you have committed your life to the Lord and surrendered yourself to Him, then the following Bible verses show you what your identity and position in Jesus Christ is. They are the foundation of your freedom in Jesus Christ.

Read these statements aloud, especially if you are presently involved in a spiritual conflict.

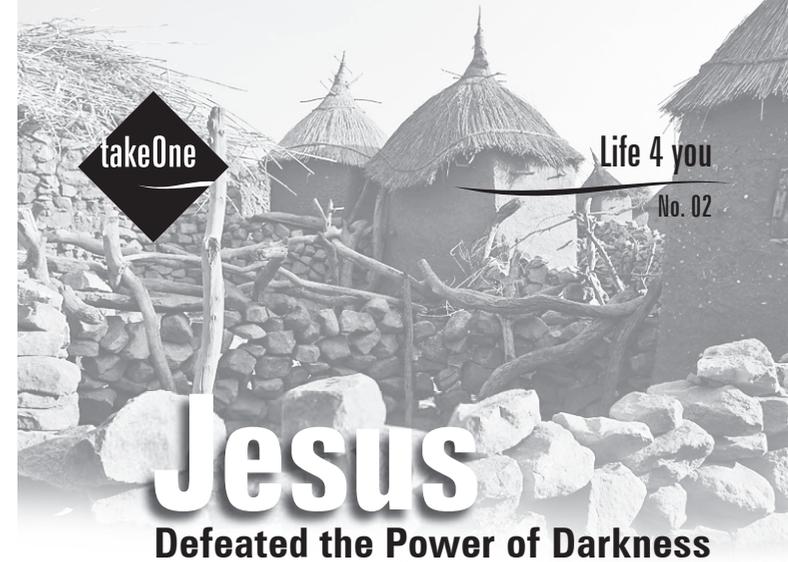
- I am a child of God (John 1:12)
- I am a new creation (2. Cor. 5:17)
- I am a son/daughter of light not of darkness (1. Thess. 5:5)
- I am born of God, and the evil one – the devil – cannot touch me (1. John 5:18)
- I died with Jesus Christ and died to the power of sin's rule over my life (Ro. 6:1-6)
- I am free forever from condemnation (Ro. 8:1)
- I have been raised up and seated with Jesus Christ in heaven (Eph. 2:6)

- I have been bought with a price; I am not my own; I belong to God (1. Cor. 6:19,20)
- I have been rescued from Satan's rule and transferred to the kingdom of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:13)
- I am righteous and holy (Eph. 4:24)
- I have been made complete in Christ (Col. 2:10)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3)
- I have direct access to God through the Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

You may also sing songs about Jesus Christ and his accomplished work on the cross. The devil cannot stand against God's truth. Think about what you are reading and let your heart rejoice in the truth.

If you have Jesus Christ, you have life – life in its fullness and freedom from all power of darkness. Hallelujah!

*Torsten Kugler
(partly taken from N. Anderson's books)*



Powers of darkness – a reality?

"It was on the day I got converted and had given my life to the Lord Jesus Christ that Satan tried to hold me back. On that particular evening when I wanted to go to bed I heard someone calling my name twice. With fear I went into the house but there was nobody. However, the voice still kept calling my name, even after I had gone to bed. I was so afraid that I took my bedding and moved to another room, but the voice kept following me. ▶