

Oppression, Afflictions, Suffering and Chastening

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

(Romans 8:18)

Many Christians believe they can be oppressed, afflicted, and even possessed by the devil. Can they? What is it really? What is the reason? As always we must look at our only source of evidence and authority—the Bible. Let’s define some terms that will be used in this article.

Oppression - The Bible defines it as distress or affliction. The Dictionary says, “...to overload or burden.”

Affliction - The Bible defines it as misery, mistreat, or suffering. The Dictionary says, “...pain, distress, or grief.”

Suffering - The Bible defines it as hardship or affliction. The Dictionary says, “...pain, distress, sorrow, or loss.”

Chastening - The Bible defines it as check, correction, discipline, or rebuke. The Dictionary says, “...corrected or punished.”

Possession - The Bible defines it as something seized or obtained. The Dictionary says, “...having, holding in one's power or command, under the power of, to enter in or occupy.”

All that’s pretty straight forward. As Christians we are going to suffer in this world. At times we will have distress, afflictions, misery, be mistreated, have hardship, and as God wills correction from Him. When we become saved we are, if you will, “possessed” of God.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” (John 14:16-18)

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Let me say right off that the Bible is clear, as is a logical approach to understanding the nature of God, that no **true believer indwelt with the Spirit of God** can be possessed. Let me show you.

If you are a true born again believer in Jesus Christ then, **“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”** (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Right? Ok, now if that is so then...

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
(2 Corinthians 6:14, 15, 16)

It's just not possible to have light and dark dwell together.

Many believers in both the Old Testament and the New Testament suffered many things, but if they were truly God's people then they were not possessed with the devil.

There was oppression and affliction

Deuteronomy 26:7, 8; Ruth 1:20, 21; 1 Samuel 1:11; 2 Kings 13:4; Job 35:9; 36:15; Psalms 12:5.

God can send afflictions because of sin

Deuteronomy 28:7,20,25,28,29,41; 31:21; Joshua 23:13-16; 24:20; Judges 2:13, 14; 6:9; 16:19; 2 Chronicles 20:9; Job 5:6; 11:16; Psalms 25:18; 66:11; Isaiah 30:20; 48:10; Jeremiah 15:11; Lamentations 1:3,7,9; 3:1; Hosea 5:15; Jonah 2:2; Zechariah 8:10; 10:11; John 5:5-14; Acts 7:10,11.

Chastening

Deuteronomy 8:5; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:5-11.

Oppression by men

Exodus 3:9; Deuteronomy 26:7; 28:29, 33; Judges 2:18; 4:3; 6:9; 10:8; 1 Samuel 10:18; 12:3,4; 2 Kings 13:4; 2 Chronicles 16:10; Job 20:19; 35:9; 36:15; Psalms 9:9; 10:18; 12:5; 42:9; 43:2; 44:24; 55:3; 62:10; 73:8; 74:21; 103:6; 106:42; 107:39; 119:134; 146:7; Ecclesiastes 4:1; 5:8; 7:7; Isaiah 1:17; 3:5; 5:7; 23:12; 30:12; 33:15; 38:14; 52:4; 53:7; 54:14; 58:6; 59:13; Jeremiah 6:6; 22:17; 50:33; Ezekiel 18:7, 12, 16, 18; 22:9, 17, 29; 46:18; Hosea 5:11; Amos 3:9; Acts 7:24.

Oppression by satan

Job 36:15; Psalms 9:9; 42:9; 43:2; 103:6; Isaiah 54:14; 58:6.

Possession by satan

John 13:2, 22; Acts 5:3; 8:9-24.

We are, if saved, possessed by God

John 14:16,18; Acts 2:2-4,17; 4:8; 13:52; Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5,7; Ephesians 4:23.

Afflictions by men

Genesis 16:11; 29:32; 32:42; 41:53; Exodus 3:7,17; 4:31; Deuteronomy 16:4; 26:7; 1 Samuel 1:11; 1 Kings 22:27; 2 Kings 14:26; 2 Chronicles 18:26; 20:9; 33:12; Nehemiah 1:3; 9:9; Job 5:6; 10:15; 30:16,27; 36:8,15,21; Psalms 22:24; 25:8; 44:24; 88:9; 106:44; 107:10,39,41; 119:50,92,153; 132:1; Proverbs 31:5,7; Ecclesiastes 8:6; Isaiah 63:9; Jeremiah 4:15; 16:19; 30:15; 48:16; Lamentations 1:3,7; 3:19; Hosea 5:15; Amos 6:6; Obadiah 1:13; Nahum 1:9; Habakkuk 3:7; Zechariah 1:15; Mark 7:34; 13:19; Acts 20:23; 2 Corinthians 2:4; 4:17; 6:4; 8:2; Galatians 3:4; Philippians

1:16; 4:14; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:2, 14; 3:7; 2 Timothy 3:11; 4:5; Hebrews 1:25; 10:32,33; James 1:27; 5:10.

No Affliction with fear of God

Psalms 34:19; Proverbs 19:23.

Jesus Suffered

Luke 24:26; Acts 17:3; Hebrews 2:18; 5:8; 13:13; 1 Peter 2:21, 23; 3:18; 4:1.

Suffering for Jesus

Job 3:20; Acts 9:16; Galatians 3:4; Colossians 1:24; 1 Thessalonians 2:2; 3:3; 2 Timothy 1:8; Hebrews 10:32,33; 1 Peter 2:19,21; 4:1; 5:10. (Note: Paul suffered but was functional never pinned down. Paul talks about suffering or afflictions but never oppression. There is no single case of any believer being oppressed of the devil.)

Afflictions can come to non-believers too

Luke 13:2; Romans 3:16; 1 Peter 5:9; Jude 1:7.

Torments

Matthew 4:24; 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 (Note: Paul was tormented not oppressed or possessed it was something he could handle he was not incapacitated).

God does not send evil if you ask for good

Matthew 7:7-11.

Jesus casts out the devil from people

Matthew 4:24; 8:16, 28-32; 9:32,33; 10:1,8; 12:22-29,43-45; 15:21-28; 16:23; 17:14-21; Mark 1:23-27,32,34,39; 3:11,15,20-30; 5:2-13,15,19,20; 6:7,13; 7:25-29,30; 8:33; 9:15-26; Luke 6:18; 7:21; 8:2,26-33,35; 9:1.38-42; 10:17-20;

11:14-26; 13:11-16 (she was not saved at the time 18 years 6+6+6 = 18) Acts 10:38; 26:17,18.

You're a new person after salvation

Mark 2:21, 22; Luke 5:37,38; Romans 8:11.

We can cast out demons if we have the spirit

Mark 16:17, 18; Acts 5:16; 8:7; 13:8-10; 16:16-18.

Satan attempts to test or try us

As was Job Luke 22:31; (Jesus says Peter at that time was not saved 22:32) 2 Corinthians 2:11; Revelation 2:10.

We are freed in Jesus

John 8:36; Colossians 1:13.

We have overcome by Jesus

1 John 2:13, 14.

We are to bear good fruit and all truth

John 15:16; 16:13.

If saved we have peace not bondage

John 14:27; Romans 5:1; 6:22; 8:15; 15:13; 16:20; 1 Corinthians 14:33; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 1:28; 4:6-9; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18; 5:18.

We are not to give place to the devil

Ephesians 4:27; 6:10-20; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8, 9.

Satan can hinder us

1 Thessalonians 2:18.

We have a prescription for affliction/sickness

James 5:13-16.

In the end time satan will persecute us

Revelation 13:7.

In **Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12, 13; and Luke 4:2** this was temptation for Jesus not oppression. We must remember Jesus sent the devil away with a word. Also, note that several times in Revelation it mentions sores, pains, and afflictions coming upon men because of sin; not because they are righteous.

I have as always tried to let the Scriptures speak. My words mean nothing unless it comes from the Bible or God. Please go and read the verses compiled here for yourself, and allow God to speak to you about this subject.