

St. Matthew AME Church
Bible Study
Monday, January 25, 2010

Demonic Spirits

Philippians 4:6-7

- I. Demons or evil spirits play a major role in the New Testament.
 - A. Belief was that God has a host of angels or good spirits to work His divine will and that Satan, the accuser and tempter of humankind, also had his demonic angels to pursue his assaults on people.
 1. Demonic spirits goal is to undermine our relationship with God and prevent us from living a victorious life in Christ.
 - B. The target of the attack is our minds. Whoever or whatever controls our minds controls us.
 1. Mind controls our thoughts. Thoughts determine personality, attitude, conduct, etc....
 2. God wants us and Satan wants us, but only one can have us.
- II. Demonic forces seek entrance into our minds. In order to get in our minds there must be an open door. That open door is doubt.
 - A. Doubt means that we don't trust God or have confidence that God is able or willing to do what He says or keep His Word.
 1. As long as we doubt demonic forces will have entrance to our minds.
 2. Doubt ensures a battle because we go back and forth between wanting to trust God and dealing with demonic forces seeking control of our minds, meaning control of our lives.
 3. We become double minded, back and forth, unstable (James 1:5-8)
 - B. It is not enough for demonic forces to get entrance; they are not satisfied until they establish a stronghold in our minds.
 1. Stronghold is a fortified place or fortress. If demonic forces establish a stronghold they then dominate and control our lives.
 2. We must do all we can to see that demonic forces are not able to establish stronghold's in our lives.
 - a. A stronghold opens the door to a host of demons entering our lives. (Mark 5:1-9)
 - C. We must also be careful not to leave a void or emptiness in our lives. Space hates emptiness and something will fill it.
- III. Importance of our relationship with God. The stronger our relationship with God the more difficult it is for demonic forces to come in.
 - A. Relationships take time