

The second reason is that there is no evidence that Jesus gave His disciples the authority to tell demons where to go, nor did He instruct them to do so.

Jesus gave authority to His disciples to preach the kingdom, heal the sick, and cast out demons. He did not explicitly give His disciples the authority to tell demons where to go. In the ministry of Jesus and His disciples we see an emphasis on proclaiming the kingdom of God with demonstrations of power that dispel sickness, drive out spiritual darkness, and testify to the good news. It was clear through these signs that followed the believers that the reign of God was coming to all who responded to the gospel with faith.

Some Perspective on Demons

Demons are fallen angels. They are pure spirits, which means they do not have bodies. They are not limited by time or space. When a person is held in bondage to an evil spirit, it does not mean that the evil spirit is confined to a person. The presence of evil spirits is connected to the presence of sin on the earth; that is what attracts them.

Therefore, when we give the command in Unbound, evil spirits are not being *released from* a person and freed to go torment someone else. Instead, the person is being liberated and is now experiencing the kingdom of God in a greater way. In a very powerful way, when the spirit no longer has access to a person, it has become homeless, for there is no place of agreement in the person where it can reside. The kingdom of darkness recedes and the kingdom of God advances, one person at a time. I look forward to the day when all of God's children can say with Jesus, "the prince of the world is coming, but he has no place in me" (John 14:30).

What spirits do after they leave is not our concern. Helping believers close the door to their influence is. The ultimate fate of every demon was sealed at the Cross, and the final destination of every evil spirit will be assigned by God and carried out by His angels. We do not want to go beyond the authority that Jesus gave us by assigning places for demons to dwell. We also do not want to engage in superstitious practices that are motivated by irrational fears.

In Unbound sessions, individuals who come for ministry exercise their faith through repentance, forgiveness, and renunciation. They cooperate with the Holy Spirit and surrender to His power. When the command is given, spirits that have held people in bondage must leave (or release their hold) because they no longer have permission to remain.

We should not be afraid to proclaim the good news, heal the sick, or cast out evil spirits. Like Jesus, we can make the people to whom we minister the focus of our attention and compassion. Commanding spirits to leave a person who no longer makes a home for them can be a source of joy, as we delight in the victory of Jesus and the knowledge that we belong to the Father. We can trust in the sovereignty of God as His will and purposes unfold.

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