

Oppressed

August 9, 2026

Acts 10:38 NLT And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then **Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil**, for God was with him.

Luke 8:26-39 NLT

So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee. 27 As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town.

28 As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!" 29 For **Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him**. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power.

30 Jesus demanded, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, for he was filled with many demons. 31 The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.

32 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs.

So Jesus gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned.

34 When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. 35 People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and **they saw the man who had been freed from the demons**. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. 36 Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them.

So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. 38 The man who had been **freed from the demons** begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, 39 "No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

Oppress - to exercise power against, to have dominion over, to control or manipulate, to exploit, to treat violently

The truth about demons:

Demons are **real**.

Demons are **strong**.

Demons are **shrewd**.

2 Corinthians 11:14 NLT But I am not surprised? Even
Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Demons are **evil**.

Ephesians 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Spiritual **battles** must be fought with spiritual **weapons**.

God's people have been **authorized** and **anointed** to dismiss demons and deliver the oppressed.

Matt. 16:17 These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons **in my name...**
This is not about methodology.

2 Cor. 10:4-5 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

Our spiritual weapons:

1. The **presence** of God
 - **John 1:5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.
2. The **authority** of God
 - **Jude 25** "...to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, **dominion** and **authority**, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

3. The **power** of God

- **Luke 11:20** But if I am casting out demons by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.

4. The **armor** of God

- **Ephesians 6:11** Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

5. The **word** of God

- **Heb. 4:12** For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword

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