

## Indications that Spiritual Warfare May Be Manifested

The most accurate diagnoses come not from looking only at symptoms, but at predictive life experiences. If an individual has opened certain doors, there is an increased probability that demonic involvement is present. These include (1) generational curses, oaths, and soul ties, (2) occult involvement, (3) trauma or victimization, and (4) long-term ongoing sin. These create areas of spiritual vulnerability into which demonic spirits may move.

Because everything we do and think and feel is the result of a mix of biological, cognitive, psychological, social, and spiritual factors, it is very difficult to say, "This is what a demonized person looks like." The Bible itself lists a broad assortment of symptoms that are attributed to demonic spirits.

In the physical realm, we see demonization resulting in muteness (Mt. 12:22), deafness (Mk. 9:25), blindness (Mt. 12:22), and bodily deformity (Lk. 13:10-17). In Matthew 4:23-25 we find the demonized among those who were ill from various diseases, those suffering severe pain, seizures, and paralysis. Mark 9:17 indicates that physical symptoms and demonization are not mutually exclusive. Jesus healed those who were sick and those who had demons. The word "healed" was applied to both.

In the psychological realm, some of the symptoms that demonized people displayed in the New Testament would be categorized as characteristic of a mental disorder today. Unprovoked violence, crying out uncontrollably, raving, and being troubled are mentioned (Mt. 8:28, Mk. 1:23-24, Lk. 6:17-18, Acts 19:13-16). These are not stable, healthy behaviors. Mental health symptoms and demonic symptoms can be similar.

In the relational realm, we see demonic involvement in Luke 8:27-28, manifesting in a man who lived naked among tombs and was impossible to restrain. This behavior would, at the least, hinder successful interaction with family, friends, and those in the community.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2012/spring/diagnosingdemonic.html>

1 = Maybe; 2 = Sometimes; 3 = Definitely; 4 = All the Time

### Opening the Door

- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family has been influenced by or in the presence of the use of mediums, tarot cards, palm readings, eastern religions, voodoo, African pantheistic religions, or the Ouija board.
- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family has been involved with or subject to the sexual abuse of minors, or some other form of victimization or traumatic abuse.
- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family has been involved with or subject to witchcraft (black or white) or wicca.
- 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone else in my family has submitted themselves to long term sin.

### Recognizing the Symptoms

1. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family have nightmares where a dark figure torments you. Or some other type of nightmare that is dark in nature. These are typically recurring. Sleep problems of various kinds.
2. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family struggle with thoughts about suicide.
3. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family have an overwhelming (reoccurring) conviction that I cannot be forgiven or loved by God.
4. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family feels incapable of experiencing love or emotions.
5. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family has reoccurring physical blindness, numbness, or a sensation of movements in my body.
6. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family is hearing thoughts and or voices that seems to not be our own.
7. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family feels like an action you/they took “was not you/them” in some way. It seemed as if it came from somewhere else.

### Struggling with the Truth

1. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family seems to struggle with praying and reading Scripture. I/we don't understand why, but I/they don't seem to be able to concentrate on any spiritual disciplines.
2. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family has a negative feeling when I/they think of going to church, speaking with Christian friends, reading the Bible or praying.
3. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 I or someone in my family has thoughts that are unusually negative, dark or even destructive.
4. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 When I or someone in my family I has negative thoughts or maybe hear distinct voices saying negative things, I/we also sense a fear of sharing those thoughts with anyone else.