

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Daniel 4

There are many happenings in the world to-day. Some of them are even good. I like the testimony of an African atheist, December 27, 2009 in the Times. "Now a confirmed atheist, (he's) become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good. "

His recommendation is - "Missionaries, not aid money, are the solution to Africa's biggest problem - the crushing passivity of the people's mind set

One of the not too good situations, is of people's lack of composure under stress. Medical experts are now saying that everyone born from now on will need treatment for mental illness, at least once during their life time.

BBC - April 13, 2009 - UK society 'increasingly fearful'

The poll of 2,000 adults for the Mental Health Foundation found 77% found the world more frightening than in 1999.

The charity described a "culture of fear" in which the media and politicians fueled a sense of unease.

And a recent international study found that Americans had the highest rate of mental illness. So what is mental illness? Pastor Win has many booklets about it.

The website of the National Alliance on Mental Illness says the following.

"Mental illnesses are medical conditions that disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning. Just as diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are medical conditions that often result in a diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life.

Serious mental illnesses include major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and borderline personality disorder. The good news about mental illness is that recovery is possible."

Some of the problems are physical; due to birth defects or extreme head trauma. There are too many children born as "crack babies", or with F A S, (Fetal Alcoholic Syndrome) etc.

We can still pray for healing and deliverance for them.

James 5: 14 & 15 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Mark 6: 13 - And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them .

The purpose of this message is not to look at this phenomenon from the medical or psychological view point, but rather from the Biblical.

There are many examples of this in the Bible.

The world's wisest person, King Solomon mentioned it in Ecclesiastes 1: 17 - And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

And in to-day's world; we do need wisdom. God does not want His people to be blissfully ignorant, especially when it concerns the Word of God.

Gnosticism or superior knowledge was rampant in the days of the Early Church. The Church leaders were always on the lookout for it; so that it didn't infiltrate the Church.

For all of Solomon's wisdom, what did it get him; besides 1000 wives and a severe rebuke from God, and the break-up of the nation?

1 Kings 11: 4 to 14 - For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen. And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

Solomon was wise, but David's heart was right before God.

Luke 10: 17 to 22 - And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him .

The Gospel Message of Good News is simple enough to understand, for those who have been called and chosen.

Paul was preaching in Acts 26: 24 & 25 - And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

Paul used his knowledge and education for the Glory of God.

I've seen studies that show that many modern ministers believe less, as their education increases.

Now there is a lot of knowledge out there, but the world isn't really a better place. In spite of, or because of all the experts. Most nations still went through a "financial Pearl Harbour", and it's not over yet.

Have you heard that a little knowledge, by itself is a dangerous thing? It is like a ship without a rudder, just drifting around aimlessly. And just as every ship has a captain, the Lord Jesus Christ is ours. Then, and only then, will we, like those ships, start going in the right direction.

Proverbs 9: 10 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

So how do we get this? The Book of Proverbs has much information for us.

Proverbs 1: 1 to 4 - The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

In fact, these qualities or spirits, are still available to believers to-day.

Isaiah 11: 1 to 4 - And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel

and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

These 7 spirits of the Lord are still for us to-day, and should be loosed into us and our families daily.

Daniel 1: 17 - As for these 4 children, God gave them knowledge & skill in all learning & wisdom: & Daniel had understanding in all visions & dreams.

Colossians 1: 9 to 17 - For this cause we also, since the day we heard it , do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Is there any practical application of this? Exodus 36: 1 - Then wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded.

Now the term "mental illness" is not mentioned in the Bible. However, there are other words or phrases meaning the same thing.

Mad, madness, and beside one's self are some of the Biblical expressions.

Strong's Hebrew 01947, Greek 3913, and 454 are some of the main words.

Did you catch what Solomon tied with madness?

Madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

Folly is treated extensively in the Proverbs. It is Strong's 0200.

While mental illness has many aspects, foolishness is completely preventable.

Proverbs 22: 15 - Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Godly child rearing is needed to-day. The lack of it has brought forth an amoral generation, not knowing right from wrong.

If folly is not dealt with; and the pressures of the world overwhelm them; there will be much vexation of spirit.

King Saul fits this profile exactly. In fact, you could say that he was a good example of a bad example. You'll find his story in 1 Samuel and 1 Chronicles. 1 Samuel 13: 13 - And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

It seems that Saul only dug himself in deeper trouble. And after 3 strikes, 1 Samuel 15: 26 - And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

And as part of that process, 1 Samuel 16: 14 - But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Because Saul rejected God's wisdom, he had madness and folly, with a lot of vexation of spirit.

Did Saul display any symptoms? 1 Samuel 18: 10 & 11 - And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it . And David avoided out of his presence twice.

Did you hear that? One of the manifestations was the giving of false prophecies. And there was another time when Saul was chasing David.

1 Samuel 19: 18 to 24 - So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah. And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah. And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?

One time he was prophesying with God's Holy Spirit, and another time with an evil spirit. Was anyone able to spot the difference?

Believers with discernment, can tell. But the world passes it off as minor character fluctuations. And if it gets too bad, they are put on tranquillizers. How many children, especially boys are on drugs because they are a little too active?

So if we were to look at Saul's psychological profile, what would we find? In spite of being a big man, he had a weak character. He was sometimes even paralyzed by fear; shown when he sent a youth to fight the giant that he should have fought. He feared his own people, and rebelled against God. He had many mood swings. His jealousy, combined with hatred toward David, led to attempted murder. He was more concerned with his public image, than in pleasing God. And finally his occult involvement led to his and his sons' death.

Also his inability to make up his mind and stick with it, made him indecisive in most matters.

James 1: 8 - A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Saul is a good example of someone with potential making all the wrong choices. His biggest mistake is in not truly submitting himself to God.

James 4: 7 & 8 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Now speaking of double-mindedness; to-day it's called schizophrenia. Frank Hammond in his book, "Pigs in the Parlour" talks much about it. And many people have received deliverance from it's demons, and are able to live a normal life. Rebellion and rejection are the two major factors in it. We do not counsel giving up life-saving medicine. When the Lord Jesus heals you, you won't need it any more.

Are only the poor and lowly susceptible to mental illness? One time, the world's most powerful man was afflicted by it. King Nebuchadnezzar, the one whom Saddam Hussein patterned himself after, was struck down.

Daniel 4: 19 to 37 - Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies. The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one

coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity. All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Is there anyone else who walked in pride, who was abased by God?

Isaiah 14: 12 to 17 - How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Now if God did the same to-day, what would they say? It probably wouldn't be noticed as out of ordinary. He is just adopting an alternate life style.

1 Samuel 21: 10 to 15 - And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?

David was afraid for his life, so he faked madness.

Does that ever happen to-day? There is a growing trend of "temporary insanity". And people are literally getting away with murder.

An extension of that is seen in the world of terrorism. Drugged up fanatics, kill many innocent people, besides themselves. And it's all in the name of god. There are those who advocate discussions with them. Joseph Chamberlain tried that with Hitler in the 1930s. And at last count, some 6 million people lost their lives. So why don't we negotiate with the Taliban?

I saw on a BBC interview a while ago, with the Taliban leader, that they won't talk with Westerners. They see us as infidels and dogs.

Here we are dealing with irrationalism. You cannot reason with irrational people, determined to kill you. The only way to overcome it, is on the spiritual level.

The Bible has account of this.

Mark 5: 1 to 20 - And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship,

immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

That's the most successful way of dealing with madness. A direct and up-close encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. This man was a sociopath with psychotic tendencies. He was definitely suicidal, and vexed with madness. But when he saw the Lord Jesus coming, he ran to him for help. The demons were cast out, and the man's sanity was restored. As proof of his deliverance, he went around telling others how they could get free.

Are there any other examples of abnormal behaviour or lunacy?

Matthew 17: 14 to 18 - And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and

perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

The Lord Jesus healed him, and didn't even make a claim on Medicare.

Are they all happy ending stories? No.

Matthew 27: 3 to 5 - Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that . And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Both Peter & Judas betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ. What's the difference?

Peter's heart was right before the Lord. He only succumbed to fear.

Judas Iscariot's heart was not right.

John 12: 6 - This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

2 Corinthians 7: 10 - For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

They were both disciples in close quarters with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Were there any others affected?

What happens when people turn away from God and go after other gods?

Jeremiah 50: 38 - A drought is upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols.

Deuteronomy 28: 14 - And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Deuteronomy 28: 28 & 29 - The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, & thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: & thou shalt be only oppressed & spoiled evermore, & no man shall save thee .

God has many ways of encouraging His people to return to Him.

Leviticus 26 has a detailed outline of what can happen.

One of God's tactics is to remove prosperity.

Deuteronomy 8: 18- But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Are people's reactions like Job's?

Job 1: 21 - And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Reuters carried a story, "U.S. household wealth falls \$11.2 trillion in 2008"

Thursday, March 12, 2009 - By Emily Kaiser

WASHINGTON - U.S. households suffered a record 9 percent drop in wealth and pared debt in the fourth quarter as a deepening recession battered confidence and finances, Federal Reserve data showed on Thursday.

Household net worth dropped by \$5.1 trillion from the prior quarter to \$51.5 trillion. For the full year, net worth dropped by \$11.2 trillion, reflecting steep declines in the housing and stock markets.

The declines in household net worth were the largest since quarterly and annual records began in 1951 and 1946, respectively, said the Fed -- the U.S. central bank.

Since a second-quarter 2007 peak of \$64.4 trillion, household wealth has dropped by about 20 percent, effectively wiping out four years of gains. That has put a chill on consumer spending and added to Americans' anxiety about their economic well-being.

Now this has caused a lot of anxiety in many people. Part of the problem is their attitude towards money. It is supposed to be as in Matthew 6: 20 & 21 - But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

However it is more like 1 Timothy 6: 10 - For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

What happens when a lottery jackpot goes over \$100 million. Most people go crazy trying to buy their tickets. Believers are susceptible too. Remember Balaam. 2 Peter 2: 15 & 16 - Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

It's getting pretty bad when God has to use a donkey to get our attention.

So if we just do the works of Jesus Christ, everything will go all right?

How did Our Lord Jesus Christ fare? Mark 3:21 & 22 - And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

John 10: 20 - And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? His family and friends thought He was crazy.

The religious accused Him of using satan to cast out demons.

What happens when the ungodly refuse Jesus Christ?

Acts 7:51 to 58 - Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

And his manifesting religious demons caused a lot of trouble.

Acts 26: 9 to 13 - I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

And Paul received castigations from the Romans too.

Acts 26: 24 & 25 - And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

Pastor Win told of a pastor many years ago, who got saved. His proper preaching of the Bible, disturbed so many, that his family had him committed to a mental hospital. However his preaching there got so many saved, that they quickly released him.

So what do you do when people say that you are crazy; because you believe in deliverance?

Matthew 4: 24 - And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Deliverance was practiced by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And deliverance is still mandated for us to do.

Mark 16: 15 to 18 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

However, I would break off those false pronouncements as curses; of madness, of being crazy etc., and send them back, to the original sending demons. You have just heard a demon talking.

To see how they work, especially in religious circles, study 1 Kings 22, and how the lying spirits indwelt the prophets.

Mental illness is a reality, and needs to be dealt with. Pretending that it doesn't exist will only prolong the misery.

I had a book by a New Zealand Pentacostal pastor, who told his flock that they didn't have demons, and to walk it out in faith. After some committed suicide because they couldn't do it, he had to admit that deliverance was essential.

The world avoids it by making fun of it. TV shows and movies make light of it, but mental illness is a serious matter.

Remember the movie, "It's a MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD"?

There are different methods of treating it, but I prefer Our Lord Jesus' way. But it will be a challenge to workers. As there are bigger demons, and will require greater preparation by believers.

Mark 9: 20 to 29 - And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

This touches on a couple of important items. Deliverance workers need to

be better prepared for the battle. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples in the previous example, that these come out only with prayer and fasting. Therefore, we need to get rid of all that limits our usefulness to God. Psalms 78: 41 - Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Mark 16: 14 - Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Unbelief and hardness of heart are major factors which will limit us.

And in the Old Testament there were those who wanted to be used more of by God. Ezra 7: 10 - For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Isaiah 38: 3 - And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Psalms 101: 2 - I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

1 Kings 8: 61 - Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

1 Chronicles 29: 9 - Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

Prayer and fasting by people seeking deliverance is helpful too.

But if you are on medication, don't stop it until the Lord Jesus heals you. Then you won't need it. But do come regularly for deliverance, and do your warfare prayers. And also continue binding and loosing for home, church, work and nation. There are lots of demons, like mental illness that need binding up regularly, and loose the spirits of the Lord.

Now does everyone that we pray for get total and immediate freedom? Unfortunately no.

Why? I am not going to play the guilt trip game that is going around. I do not tell people that they don't have enough faith. The fact that they have come for prayer, shows that they have enough. Matthew 13: 58 - And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Luke 8: 48 - And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

Demons usually stay in people because they have legal grounds to. It is our responsibility as deliverance workers to find out what it is, and remove it.

Mark 2: 4 to 12 - And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Yes, unconfessed sins provide ample excuses for demons to stay, and need to be dealt with.

Sometimes witchcraft causes trouble, especially when it's in the Church.

Ezekiel 13: 17 to 23 - Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you? And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies? Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly. Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life: Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Now in this day and age, there is something else going on.

Is it my imagination, or are there more manifesting people walking around? What did they do in the Bible?

Luke 4: 33 to 36 - And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

Our Lord Jesus told the demons to shut up and come out of him.

It will be nice when we are able to do it that easily.

Acts 16: 16 to 18 - And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Now we don't normally cast demons out of unbelievers, but Paul thought it was necessary.

However we should bind their demons up.

Matthew 12: 29 - Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

Matthew 16: 19 - And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

I believe that we should not only be binding the demons, but commanding them to go down and not to manifest until in true deliverance.

We can use the fate of satan as an example.

Revelation 20: 1 to 3 - And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

We have the authority, we just have to use it.

Mark 6: 13 - And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them .

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Church of Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance

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