

The Devil made me do it!

Remember the old saying “The devil made me do it”, well maybe it aint so old and people still use it... Who knows! Anyway, was chatting away with some people on the Internet and I still got no idea why so decided to study something that I feel God said to me. The Devil is not Omnipresent! What is that word you may ask? The dictionary says “*Present everywhere simultaneously*”. God is Omnipresent but the devil is not. So what did the Holy Spirit mean by saying this to me? Imagine yourself binding the devil at 10am in Brisbane, then a Christian in Cairns at 10am also is binding the devil, and also at the exact same time in Perth, Sydney and Victoria, imagine thousands doing it all at the same time.

Now, why do we bind the devil, OK, one instant I have done it, I have been ill and bound the devil of sickness, some may have bound the devil of infirmity, poverty, lack, strife, division, imagine us all doing it at once. It is no wonder the Devil is pinged off with us, we blame him for everything and he is totally confused at all this binding and the majority of times he has nothing to do with it! Seriously, have we ever really stopped and looked at what we are doing. We are basically really playing games I think, Jesus didn’t walk around binding this devil and that devil every day of the week, especially when the pharisees or sadducees came against him he didn’t bind the devil! We need to understand it isn’t the devil but it may be a “spirit” of something, let’s get our fact right first before we go off half cocked and make a fool of ourselves when nothing happens.

I look at some people and I really wonder what planet they are on, for instance, I now of a man that used to always bind the devil of poverty and lack, yet at the same time he was the stingiest person I had ever met! Another instant is someone I know was praying for someone with cancer and binding the devil of cancer, but the recipient went on smoking and of course died, the comment was the devil stole their life. **NO**, why is it we always want to shun or shift the blame off of us and onto something else? Take me for instant, I have a neck injury that causes me much sickness and pain, do I bind the devil of infirmity? No I don’t think so, unless God shows me that is what it is of course, but I just need to do what the Bible says and get the elders to lay hands on me and pray for healing. Then I also have to get my act together and keep up with my exercises and also lose weight like I was told 18 mths ago, although I have lost some, it still was not enough.

Do I bind the Devil of poverty because I can’t afford to pay my bills? **NO**, I needed to go out and get a job that pays money, I am not capable of full time work but I am able to do part time work. Over the years I have seen and learned some things that I look back on now and think, I must have been nuts! I think sometimes we think we are too **HOLY** to sin! Have a read of **James chapter one**, I love the book of James it is so practical. One person on the internet said to me, maybe we give the devil too much credit, how true! But, we also need to look at self I think like it says in James.

Next time you go to take authority over the devil, stop and think first, what is the real reason for this problem or circumstance. Yes, the devil is the father of all lies etc etc, but sometimes we just live in an imperfect world. Oh, if yours is perfect let me know, I am moving in with you then! I have been reading yet another book titled “My Velvet Elvis” for my chaplaincy, and it is a great book, the guy goes into the culture of the day, the meanings of words and phrases and a heap more which I won’t get into, but basically he says, that we have made Christianity a **religion**! The New Testament disciples called it “The Way”, that is why Jesus said “I am the way the truth and the life” it refers to a lifestyle, a way of life. The Author says that our so called Christian walk is really meant to be a very personal walk in the garden with God, like it was with Adam and Eve.

When Jesus said to the disciples “come and follow me” in that era, it was literal, a Rabbi would say that to a young person and that young person would leave family, jobs, things and follow that Rabbi 24/7 and they counted it an honour that they were chosen to follow that teacher. If we wanted to we could get down to the nitty gritty and ask have we done that? Have we really followed Jesus? The disciples would have been with him day and night and watching and learning all there was to learn about Jesus, 24/7 I am talking about here, can any of us lay claim we have done that? I don’t think so. Can we do that? Yes I think we can, how?

We need to involve God more in our day to day affairs, minute by minute, instead of binding the devil, ask the Holy Spirit, what is happening, why this is so, seek God’s way of doing things. I have been doing this as of late and it is amazing just how much the Holy Spirit is revealing to me in my life, mostly areas where I need to adjust something in my life, it has been an eye opener and a hard task too. He has revealed things in my life where I need to change and I don’t want to! It has been a very convicting time to say the least. It has been amazing that some things that I blamed on the devil was just plain dumb my attitude or someone elses attitude, but because I have asked God to show me, he has been faithful and has shown me whether I liked it or not!

Let me take a common problem that most of us at some time or another would have experienced. Our bike or car broke down. OK, so we blamed the devil saying "I must be doing something right cause he is trying to stop me". Not necessarily, have you kept your service history in check? Do you give your vehicle a hard time? Do you go for a cheaper brand or product regardless of the effects it may have? Think about it, is that vehicle really breaking down because of neglect or mistreatment? Another one..... Strife, division, or gossip is in your ear all the time and bring you down..... You bind the devil of strife and division, no..... You should be putting those people in their place and telling them to shut their mouth! Obviously someone has been operating in the flesh instead of in the Spirit! Nothing to do with the Devil. I know a man who gets ripped off in his business a lot, he is forever blaming the devil and binding that spirit or this spirit, but I also see a problem, that same man rips off his customers in his business, now that to me looks like sowing and reaping! Have you been reaping something you sowed some time ago and are now blaming the devil?

OK, so these are just a few issues here, how do we fix it all? Seek God on everything! Instead of blowing up and flipping out, simply just pray and ask God about it, what to do, how to handle it, which way to turn. Also as I said before we still live in an imperfect world! Have a read of **John 16v2; Luke 13v24**. Jesus did not promise us a bed of roses! If he did that is OK, but remember roses have thorns!! We are still in this world unfortunately, we will have trials and tribulations, they are promises of the Kingdom of God for those who want to live righteously. Yes, there are times where we do need to bind the "spirits" at work around people or our lives for that matter, but make sure you have got it right, I have heard many people ask the same question "how come I got no victory in this area" and they bound and loosed and prayed their hearts out, but they didn't seek God on the matter how **HE** would have **US** go about it.

Over the years, I have watched people bind, break and confess stuff over my childrens lives for the healing of their deaf ears. To no avail! Over the years I have prayed "God help my kids do well at school and in life" and have seen some amazing things in my childrens lives. People have prayed for my neck too, but I have seen God move in many areas of my life regardless of my neck, matter of a fact if my neck wasn't like it is, I would not have had the opportunities that I did have, we need to stay focused on what God wants, not others!