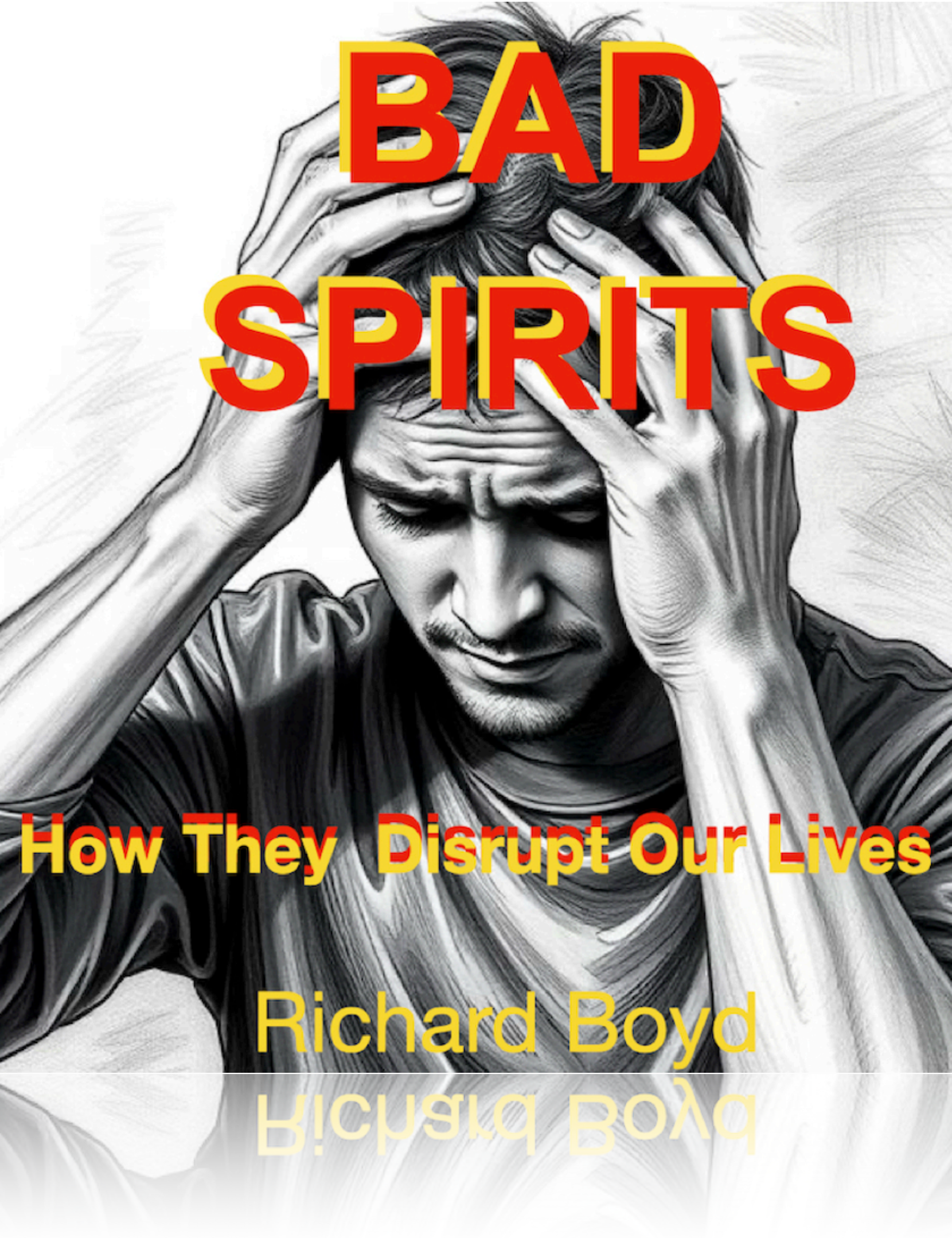




BAD SPIRITS

How They Disrupt Our Lives

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BAD ALSO UNCLEAN

“When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through dry places in search of a resting-place, and finds none. Then it says, ‘I will go back to my house out of which I came; and on arriving it finds it unoccupied and swept clean. Then it goes and takes along with it seven spirits more wicked than itself, and, after re-entering, they dwell there; and the final situation of that man becomes worse than the first.’”

(Matthew 12:43-45)

The words of Christ quoted in the above scripture make it very clear the intention of unclean spirits in the lives of people today. It is only when an unclean spirit is made to feel tormented beyond its already miserable existence that it leaves a human soul and looks for another resting-place in which to exist. Before we go any further with the study of this kind of spirit, we must first clarify: what are unclean spirits? Do they truly affect us, especially Christians, and how do we respond to their evil destruction?

The Bible clearly states that demons, devils (KJV), or unclean spirits are all the same. Their title should not be the main focus; what they do should be of greater importance. Throughout this book we will address them as **unclean spirits**, which precisely describes what they are.

THEIR ORIGIN

Many theories have been put forth as to the origin of unclean spirits. Some claim they are the souls of the dead who, having been unjustly killed, seek vengeance. Other traditions hold that they are the ghosts of the wicked dead. Over the years the church has held more than one view: that the devil, after being banished from heaven, induced many angels to fall away, and these fallen angels are the unclean spirits. (*Revelation 12:4*)

Another biblical interpretation is that unclean spirits are the offspring of angels who cohabited with humans (*Genesis 6:1-4*). Angels descended from heaven and had sexual relationships with human women, producing a race of evil giants who conquered the earth with violence. To cease this, God brought the flood in Noah's time, resulting in the spirits of the giants losing their bodies. These spirits, as a result of the flood, became trapped in the regions of the air, where they now roam seeking bodies to inhabit.

A third view is found in **Genesis 1:1**. Some scholars hold that a pre-race existed before God created Adam and Eve. In this belief Satan was possibly the leader of these spiritual beings who at some point turned from God. This is known as the **Gap Theory**. Between the ending of verse 1 and the beginning of verse 2 many believe there is a gap in the history of creation. From verse 2 onward we read how God created everything, including man, with no mention of angels or the devil in these verses. Later Genesis records Satan speaking through the serpent to Eve. Much of this is human interpretation regarding the origin of unclean spirits. Jesus knew exactly where unclean spirits came from, and **He** dealt with them on the basis of righteousness, not theory. Here is what we do know about unclean spirits!

THEY CAN ENTER HUMANS AND ANIMALS

Unclean spirits are without a body and are able to enter humans or animals, and at times even gain control of certain objects. Upon doing so they adversely affect a person's behavior. Unclean spirits are unquestionably real and will inevitably invade or influence the minds and bodies of people. Christians must understand that we are not immune to unclean spirits simply because we are saved.

There is much debate as to whether a child of God can be possessed by an unclean spirit. Some scholars argue it is impossible because of a Christian's redemption through the blood of Christ. There is no arguing about the power of Christ's blood and atonement for us on the cross. Nevertheless, Christians who do not continue to live in accordance with God's Word, and who deliberately live without the righteousness of Christ, will open a door to unclean spirits.

Two scriptural examples illustrate this.

1. **Matthew 12:43-45** (the passage that opened this book). Unclean spirits can only remain or feel secure within wicked "places" of their own kind. Jesus explains that one who is delivered from an unclean spirit is a person who has turned his or her life over to God, having cleansed his own spirit life. When the spirit returns to a person whose dwelling place has been swept clean of unrighteousness, it finds it more difficult to re-enter. Consequently the unclean spirit enlists more wicked spirits, far worse than itself, and the final situation of that man becomes worse than when he was first cleansed.
2. **Revelation 2:18-22**. The letter to the church in Thyatira warns that allowing a "Jezebel spirit" to seduce believers leads to severe judgment. Although addressed to a specific congregation, the principle applies to all believers: only those who have acquired righteous faith and know how to apply God's armor against unclean

spirits will develop the spiritual insight to prevent such spirits from entering their spiritual house.

Unclean spirits have one purpose: to bring physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual torment into a person's life.

BAD CHARACTER

An old saying states, “We are what we eat.” This illustrates how a person can be controlled by something other than themselves. Unclean spirits are wicked entities that take control of anyone who allows such evil into their life. Conversely, many people do not realize they are being influenced or dominated by these spirits. When one lives in sin or unrighteousness, this invites the devil and his cohorts.

Christians who permit any form of evil, witchcraft, or unrighteousness become vulnerable to unclean spirits. Note that unclean spirits possess:
Knowledge – *Acts 19:15* **Will** – *Matthew 12:44* **Speech** – *Mark 1:24*

Thus believers should discern whether a voice is God’s or an unclean spirit attempting deception.

Below is a list of common unclean spirits mentioned in the Bible, together with their scriptural references.

Familiar – *Leviticus 20:27*

Witchcraft, all forms of magic.

Jealous – *Numbers 5:14-30*

Jealousy isn’t always evil; it can arise from love and protection

Lying – *1 Kings 22:22*

All forms of deceit.

Sorrow – *1 Samuel 1:15*

Deep, unrelenting depression.

Evil – *Judges 9:23*

All forms of wickedness.

Proud / Haughty – *Proverbs 16:18*

Arrogance.

Perverse – Isaiah 19:14

Stubborn, unreasonable, contrary to good.

Heaviness – Isaiah 61:3

Continual despair.

Worship – Hosea 4:1

Idolatry.

Unclean – Acts 8:7

Righteousness lacking.

Blind – Matthew 12:22

Spiritual blindness.

Dumb – Mark 9:17-25

The inability to understand or express spirituality, and sometimes physically.

Deaf – Mark 9:25

Inability to receive or hear God's word.

Infirmity – Luke 13:11

Physical and mental sickness.

Divination / Fortune-telling – Acts 16:16

Seeking hidden knowledge.

Bondage – Romans 8:15

Control and domination.

Slumber – Romans 11:8

Laziness, irresponsibility.

Worldly – 1 Corinthians 12:2

Immoral, liberal attitudes.

False Doctrine – 1 Timothy 4:1

Erroneous teaching.

Seducing – 1 Timothy 4:1

Temptation toward sin.

Fear – 2 Timothy 1:7

Lack of courage.

Antichrist – 1 John 4:3

False Christianity.

Error – 1 John 4:6

Misinterpretation of God's word.

Foul – Revelation 18:12

Unpleasant, impure, offensive.

It is essential to teach both mature Christians and new converts that they will be tested by unclean spirits repeatedly during their walk with the Lord. Believers must remain vigilant, applying God's Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide daily life. Our homes, marriages, families, friendships, and workplaces must be monitored, lest evil take root. Prayer for wisdom will expose the traps Satan sets, and God's protection is promised (Psalm 91:2-3).

BAD SITUATIONS

Over the past thirty-plus years I have had personal and vicarious experiences with unclean spirits. I have traveled to regions where unclean spirits commonly dwell among the natives. Yet none compares to an ordeal I experienced in America.

One night I was ministering at a church meeting in a school cafeteria. The pastor invited me to speak. As I concluded, a woman about forty in the crowd interrupted with a question about something I had said earlier. Unable to satisfy her, I saw her body begin to shake uncontrollably. She suddenly spoke in a voice that made the hair on my neck rise. The pastor and I began to pray, realizing we had entered a conflict with the unseen world. The battle concerned a woman possessed by an unclean spirit.

What began as an insignificant situation grew into a two-hour deliverance of more than one unclean spirit. At the end we were exhausted. The woman testified that she had previously given her life to Christ and served in a local church. After a bitter divorce she married a younger man who was a local gangster and self-proclaimed wizard. His involvement in witchcraft and drugs brought double trouble to both of them, and she became open to unclean spirits after moving in with him.

Unclean spirits can affect us through the actions of someone close to us. Spirits that influence our lives before we become Christians may remain hidden for some time if not dealt with.

CLEANING THE SPIRITUAL HOUSE

What is a spiritual house cleaning or deliverance? It is the casting out of demons or allowing Christ's authority to cleanse our hearts and souls of any unrighteousness. Where do these spirits go once expelled? Jesus said they go to dry places, seeking rest but finding none, then returning to the same person. If that person has only swept out the house without allowing the Lordship of Jesus Christ to reside, the spirit will try to re-enter, bringing seven worse spirits with it.

Some claim that Christians need not worry because this only happens to non-believers. Jesus did not ignore evil or any spirit contrary to God. He took it seriously, knowing such spirits are not harmless. They can be deceptive, operating unnoticed in homes and churches.

Jesus gave every believer authority to deal with unclean spirits. Yet many churches avoid this ministry, fearing embarrassment or confusion among congregants. Christ Himself encountered unclean spirits everywhere He went, including a man in a synagogue (Mark 1:23). Deliverance requires compassion and sacrifice of time and faithfulness.

When you realize an unclean spirit is trying to regain control of your life, **repent** of all known sins. Repentance is crucial; the spirit is connected to sinful behavior. Satan is a legalist—once a door is opened, he quickly capitalizes.

After repentance and receiving Jesus' forgiveness, surrender daily to the Holy Spirit. Keep your home ordered; guard what enters through television, the internet, friends, and family. Focus solely on Christ. Avoid unforgiveness, complaining, hypocrisy, and depressive mood swings. If loved ones do not share your allegiance to God, do not be drawn into their unrighteous lifestyles. Those under medical care should be prayerful, as some prescriptions can alter mood. Guard against idolatry—do not become more passionate about anything than Christ.

Be discerning about counseling; investigate backgrounds rather than relying solely on word of mouth.

SIGNS OF UN-CLEAN SPIRIT ACTIVITY

Review the list of spirits in the preceding chapter. If you recognize any of these traits, or the Holy Spirit reveals disorder, seek prayer and ministry—not just any person who appears qualified. Remember, unclean spirits are **unclean**. Ask the Lord to reveal unholy characteristics in those claiming to minister deliverance.

Your local pastor should be the first person you approach for guidance. Satan tempts us, but it is the sin itself that causes harm.

A COMMON MYTH

“For this purpose the Son of God manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (*1 John 3:8*)

I once received deliverance after being saved. A young man asked, “Is that enough?” I replied that deliverance is a lifestyle in a Christian’s walk with God. Even Jesus understood that the devil would constantly seek to attack. After being led by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus was tempted (Matthew 4:1).

Jesus warned that Satan would seek any fault to accuse Him (John 14:30). Though Jesus was sinless, He recognized the devil’s attempts. We are not perfect, but we must stay alert to evil’s tricks, making godly choices daily.

CONCLUSION

Jesus taught us to pray continually, asking the Father to help us avoid temptation and protect us from the devil. We must rely on prayer to stay strong against negative influences. Since evil spirits can cause trouble, we should have faith in the Holy Spirit's power. The Holy Spirit can set us free from sin and temptation, transforming our lives and enabling us to bless others. Trusting in God's Spirit gives us hope and strength to live rightly every day.



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