

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Who is occupying my soul?” Luke 11

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 11: 14-26

### 1. A human being = Soul + Body = [Heart + Mind] + Body

- A. A human being consists of soul and body. A person is alive when his/her soul and body are integrated together – in other words, when the soul resides within the body. When a person’s soul leaves the body, the body is dead and the soul returns to God. What then is a soul? What is the relationship among soul, heart and mind?
- B. In a number of cases where the Lord Jesus drove out demons [evil spirits] from possessed persons. In this incident of verses 14-26 some of His critics criticized Him of driving out the demons using the power of Beelzebub [king of flies, indicating Satan in a derogatory way]. Lord Jesus explains in a logical way why this criticism is not rational, but He drove them out of the possessed persons using “a finger of God,” [v. 20] He also warned them the meaning of His performing of such miracles and making people whole as “the kingdom of God has come near.” Messiah drew the believers who accepted Him as their Lord and Messiah to Him and formed a ‘church,’ which He referred as the kingdom of God.
- C. Here, we are drawn to the question – How does a demon, which is an evil spirit, dwell inside of a person, be kicked out by the power of God, and can come back into the same person, as in verses 24-26? Adam and Eve were created in the image of God [Genesis 1: 26], whereupon Adam was given the responsibility of governing God’s creation on the earth. God breathed life into Adam and he became a human being:

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. [Genesis 2: 7]*

Like God we are a spiritual being with a physical body. Bible calls the spiritual part of us as ‘soul.’

*Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; My eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body! [Psalm 31:9]*

- D. Our soul contains our heart and mind. Within our soul we can accommodate a spirit, which can be either an evil spirit or God’s spirit. God has given us a freedom of will. This means we have the key to our hearts and minds. Our mind is like the front yard where thoughts, feelings, plans, and daily communications occur. Our hearts are in the deeper part of our soul where our motives, principles, deeper feelings, moral fibers, convictions and unshaken beliefs reside. Some people guard and nurture the contents of their hearts better than others.
- E. The difference between the heart and the mind can be likened to birds, which come and sit on the branches of the large tree in your front yard for a while then fly away. That is like what happens in your mind. But when a bird comes and builds a nest in the tree and rears a family there, it is like a spirit coming into your heart and taking a residence there.

### 2. Who is occupying our hearts?

- a. Evil spirits, which are called demons, are the disciples/ workers of Satan. They seek to enter into your hearts and live there, thus dominate your actions, activities, convictions and life in general. When they are successful in dominating the lives of many people in a society, they have effectively established a kingdom of Satan in the community or nation. This happens because the owners of

human hearts, who have been given the 'freedom of choice' by God, opened the doors of their hearts and welcomed them in. Note what the demons say after they were chased out of a person;

*"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. [Luke 11: 24-25]*

These demons found the entryway into the person unlocked and open so that they were free to re-enter! They found no trouble entering and taking residence there. What does this tell us?

- b. On the other hand, the Spirit of God knocks at your heart's door and waits until you open the door. He does not barge in like the demons. He seeks your respectful, heartfelt welcome into your heart.

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. [Revelation 3: 20]*

When a person's heart is occupied by the Spirit of God, which is also the Spirit of Jesus Christ, there is no room for evil spirits to enter.

*Discussion topics:*

1. *Who is occupying the inner part of my soul as the lord and king? Is it myself, my spouse, my parents, my children, my teacher, the world, my ambition or Jesus Christ?*
2. *How many times have I failed to say 'NO' when an evil spirit sought to enter into my heart? What must I do to deny its approach and entry into my heart and life?*