

Characteristics of Demonic Influence*

Knowledge of supernatural

Supernatural strength

Going about naked

Unable to hear, speak

Seizures

Blindness

Use of "different" voice

Presence of distinct personality

Bizarre behavior

Fierce, violent behavior

Unusual behavior/attitudes (e.g., vicious toward self)

Feeling of overpowering evil

Self-report of demonic influence

Based on Dickason, 1987; Newport, 1976; Sall, 1976; Southard, 1986; Virkler & Virkler, 1977.

Behavioral Indicators of Possible Demonic Influence

A. Cultic or Occultic Religious Practices

1. Involvement in the practice of magic or mysticism.
2. Involvement in occultic religious practices.
3. Conscious invitation extended to Satan and or demons (spirit guides) to become involved in the person's life.
4. Involvement in Eastern religions or "New Age" channeling practices.
5. Family history of demonic influence, witchcraft, palmistry, Satanic Worship, or other occult practices.
6. History of living in areas without strong Judeo-Christian cultural influences.
7. Participation in American Indian or Oriental religious/cultural practices.
8. Personal use of Tarot cards, Ouija boards, horoscopes, palmistry or fortune tellers.

B. Other Clues

1. Disinterest in or absence of spiritual growth by a professing Christian.
2. Extreme negative reactions to the mention of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and to Christian religious practices.
3. Systematic pattern of personal sinfulness.
4. Prominent evidence of unforgiveness / bitterness and vengeance.
5. Unusually high resistance to benefits from medication and psychotherapy.
6. Personality disturbance and especially multiple personality disorder (a dissociative disorder), rather than schizophrenia or psychosis.
7. Addictive patterns such as abuse of alcohol, drugs, or habitual gambling or perverted sexual preoccupations.
8. Personal preoccupation with power, position, wealth and fame.