

Seven Stages of Spiritual Disintegration

Each stage of disintegration roughly correlates to psychological disintegration of the personality. The progress of this disintegration may waiver back-and-forth and may differ within persons as to the length of time and intensity of a particular stage. Some people may even skip stages. But whatever the pattern of disintegration, the end result is bondage to the devil in ever increasing degrees of intensity.

The stages described here pertain to person make decisions that lead to the stages of disintegration. It is also possible for innocent people to experience, through no fault of their own, some or all of these stages because of what others have done, such as casting curses/spells/hexes upon them, subject them to occult rituals as children, parents consecrating their child to Satan, and generational demonization, etc.

These stages apply to both the Christian and the Non-Christian.

NOTE: This material is for informational purposes only. Unqualified persons should not attempt diagnosis.

Stage 1: TEMPTATION

Temptation, can come from any of three sources:

- 1) our own nature
- 2) the devil
- 3) the world.

Roughly eighty-five percent (85%) of our temptations come from our own fallen nature through concupiscence. In the first part of his *Summa Theologica*, St. Thomas Aquinas was quick to point out that, *“the devil is not the cause of every sin: for all sins are not committed at the devil’s instigation, but some are due to the free-will and the corruption of the flesh.”*

Ten percent (10%) of temptations come directly from the world, usually through the media, but also through perverted cultural trends and influences.

Five percent (5%) of temptations come directly from the devil, who knows our weaknesses and exploits them.

All this is ordinary, the normal and ordinary ways in which we are tempted.

These thoughts or urges toward evil can also be recognized as extraordinarily diabolical when there doesn’t seem to be any previous cause or occasion to explain them. For example, graphic images or lustful thoughts that just pop into one’s mind with provocation.

Stage 2: ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is a stage in which the person begins to indulge or accommodate the thoughts and urges toward evil, instead of mortifying them. An example of this is illustrated by a man noticing an attractive woman walking down the sidewalk. A lustful thought pops into his head. This is not sin. But, if the man indulges that thought with other thoughts like, "I'd sure like to get that gal into bed" or "Man she has a nice derrière that I'd like to grab", then the man sins. He has indulged in lust. In some cases, the man may act out on these impulses leading him to commit adultery or fornication.

Accommodation is when there is a pattern of this indulgence and little desire and/or ability to mortify these thoughts and actions. This may begin a double-life of outward piety but inward impiety.

As this stage develops the person may regress to a lesser level of spiritual maturity and faith. This can lead to a lack of wisdom in which the person indulges his curiosity in matters contrary to God, such as the lust, pornography, occult, witchcraft, Satanism, paganism, sex, and drugs. He may even begin to dabble in these curiosities.

Stage 3: INFESTATION

Demons are obsessed with locality as evidence in the story of the demoniac in St. Mark's Gospel (5:1-16). The demons pleaded with Jesus to send them to the pigs, rather than into the abyss. Demons need a place or entity in which to be. This is why water, salt, medals, sacred vessels, church buildings, houses, etc. are blessed.

Infestation is the influence of diabolical activity in a particular object, place, or home. This type of activity is non-personal in nature, inasmuch as it is directed to things. It may manifest itself in unexplained phenomenon such as laughter, screams, footsteps, scratching sounds, shadowy figures, unusual temperature shifts, windows and doors that open and close, and objects that disappear and reappear in other parts of the house.

Other unexplained signs are offensive odors, the strong feeling of an evil presence, electrical disruption, the spread of mold, blood like spots on the wall, and levitating objects.

Infestation has also been known to take place in animals that exhibit strange and unusual behavior often linked with the above phenomenon.

These disturbances can be caused by lifestyle choices, persistent unconfessed sins, curses and Satanic pacts (even upon totally innocent people), occult activity, or a particularly heinous murder or suicide at or near the place where these manifestations occur.

Stage 4: OPPRESSION

Oppression is personal in nature insofar as the demonic activity focuses on the vexed person. Usually, oppression is a result of dabbling in the occult oneself or being cursed by someone else into or dabbling in the occult.

Demonic Oppression is the stage of overwhelming burden (depression), often filled with anxiety. The sense of despair and hopelessness becomes intense. This sense of heaviness pervades all aspects of the person: mental, physical, psychological, and spiritual. Symptoms may also include the burden of mild to serious illness.

Demonic oppression involves a dimension of corporality. During oppression, one may experience bodily attacks or may suffer from mild to serious illnesses. It particularly manifests itself through physical attacks which can take the form of blows, scratches to the skin that materialize, and even being pushed or thrown.

Oppression can affect one's work and relationships and give the sense of negative or harmful events or foreboding feelings converging together with no obvious root.

Demonic oppression can affect one's sleep. It is common to awaken around 3am for no reason. Midnight to 3am is when many occult and Satanic rituals are performed, 3am being the "backside" of Christ's passion at 3pm.

Demons may chatter to the person. This can be unintelligible chattering, or discernible comments insulting the vexed, tearing down self-esteem, confidence, and faith.

There is no possession, loss of consciousness, or involuntary action and word with oppression.

Demonic Oppression can manifest as "bad luck" without validity or cause. This can be a clue to the presence of a personal or family curse.

Common sentiments include:

- 1) "if it weren't for bad luck I'd have no luck at all"
- 2) "no matter what I do I just cannot (succeed, get ahead, stop this behavior, etc.)"
- 3) "I lose a job for no reason"
- 4) "I lose friends for no reason"
- 5) "I made deals or arrangements with people who then suddenly cancel or back-out for no reason"

Such events that give clue to a curse cannot be attributed to personality or behavioral problems, to poor decision-making, or to coincidence. There is a pattern to the events that precludes coincidence.

The purpose of demonic oppression is to get the attention of the vexed person, to convince the person about how bad life is, that there is nothing that can be done about it, to give up.

It is the hope of the demons that the vexed person will play the victim, blaming all behavior and all problems on the demons.

In addition, once oppressed, the vexed person may find himself doing things they would not normally think of doing.

It is at this point the self-help deliverance prayers may not be effective. The person will most likely need to seek out a deliverance counselor.

Stage 5: OBSESSION

Obsession happens when one becomes unnaturally preoccupied with evil. It may involve addictive or other unhealthy behaviors, but with an incorrigible aspect. In obsession, the demon attacks the person's psychology and engenders dark and despairing thoughts that can eventually lead to suicide.

The vexed person may feel very depressed and heavy with a sense that there is some evil around or within him. The vexed person may have very obsessive thoughts having to do with the demonic or thoughts that he cannot be freed or delivered from this affliction.

The attacks to the mind are intense and persistent. These are more violent and prolonged than ordinary temptations assaulting the victim in order to trouble the soul. The attacks may manifest in the form of seductive visions to lure victims into a deeper relationship with the demonic or horrific apparitions that terrorize them. These are not corporeal occurrences, but take place in the imagination, much like hallucinations. Nonetheless, they really result in the inability of the victim to form lasting relationships and instill a sense of helplessness.

Other symptoms include sudden attacks, at times ongoing, of obsessive thoughts, sometimes even rationally absurd, but of such nature that the victim is unable to free himself. Therefore, the obsessed person lives in a perpetual state of prostration, desperation, and attempts at suicide.

Almost always obsession influences dreams. Some people will say that this is evidence of mental illness, requiring the services of a psychiatrist or a psychologist. The same could be said of all other forms of demonic phenomena. Some symptoms, however, are so inconsistent with known illnesses that they

point with some certainty to their evil origins. Only an expert and well-trained eye can identify the crucial differences.

Stage 6: SUBJUGATION

Subjugation, or dependence, is normally when the person voluntarily submits to Satan. This submission may be overt actions, such as a blood pact with the devil, consecration to Satan, or full participation in the occult, witchcraft, paganism, etc.

The submission may be subtler by the voluntary decision to live a sinful lifestyle or adopting certain ungodly philosophies to which the person comes to accept as true.

In some instances, this dependence is created in innocent people, involuntarily, due to circumstances beyond one's control or when forced into a situation. Subjugation, therefore, can be part of the spiraling down into bondage as a result of curses, spells, and hexes upon an innocent person. An example of this is a child with Satanists or witches as parents, or when a person is forced into prostitution or other evil activity.

Stage 7: POSSESSION

This occurs when Satan takes full possession of the body (not the soul); the vexed person speaks and acts without the knowledge or consent. Because there is no freedom without knowledge or consent, the victim is not culpable for his actions during the manifestations.

According to the *Rite of Exorcism* some of the signs of possession include: speaking in tongues, extraordinary strength, and revealing the unknown.

Possession is possible by involvement in the occult, leading a perverted life-style or other life of vice in which the grip of evil is upon them, or any other activity in which the person leaves himself open to the demonic.

All forms of occult activity is an invitation to the devil and may eventually lead to possession, including divinations, witchcraft and magic (*Catechism* 2115-2117). Specifically, such activity may include casting curses and spells, (or someone cursing the vexed person), using the Ouija board or tarot cards, performing or seeking fortune telling, practicing voodoo, Santeria (and similar activities), participating in satanic rituals, playing violent video games (violence is one of Satan's tools), playing Occultic games (D&D, etc.).

Possession is possible if a person consecrates himself to Satan, or even in his innocence be consecrated or "married" to Satan by a family member or friend. (see the booklet, *Begone Satan*)

Contrary to popular opinion, a possessed person may act normal at times. The possessed person, however, will likely be withdrawn and depressed because of the demonic presence he knows that is within him. But, the struggle for domination of the personality still rages on and intense demonic control may return at any time.

The Possessed may still give consent. In fact, consent must be given in order to proceed with an exorcism. They may also receive the Eucharist at times. At other times the mere presence of a Sacred or blessed object may send them into a fit. Sometimes a Possessed person may be able to enter a Church, and other times he will go into a fit to even be on the same street as the Church.

Regardless of the intensity of Satan's control and influence, the person's spirit, which is indwelt by God, and the person's soul, animated by God, cannot be possessed and will always yearn for deliverance. Hopefully, the person will accept counseling and exorcism and be delivered according to the power and authority of Christ through the Church.

Note: The non-Christian may also have the same yearning from the inner spirit, but unless a decision is made for Christ, freedom from the demons is not likely.