

## Not of God

*Continued from Page 1*

Making a decision knowing that the situation is from God would guarantee that the outcome would be His will and would result in success. Knowing that the circumstances were not from the Lord, or that He is against such activity would result in failure and unhappiness if a wrong decision were made.

Knowing this, God has provided many examples in the Bible to help us discern what He is for and what He is against. The account of the maniac of the Gadarenes (Mark 5, Luke 8, Mat. 8) gives us some insight into many activities and behaviors that God has nothing to do with and could even be encouraged by “devils” (Mark 5:12). Examining this man’s demonic actions can help us realize, if they are happening today, that they are certainly not of God and are of the devil(s).

If one is committing some of this man’s ungodly actions, does it mean that he is possessed by the devil? A child of God has God as his Father. He is spiritually born into the family of God. Satan is no longer one’s Father if he is saved. However, if he gives Satan leeway to do so by disobeying God’s commands, he can be influenced by Satan and his devils, although he cannot be possessed as was this man in the Mark 5 account.

Some of this man’s demonic-inspired actions include:

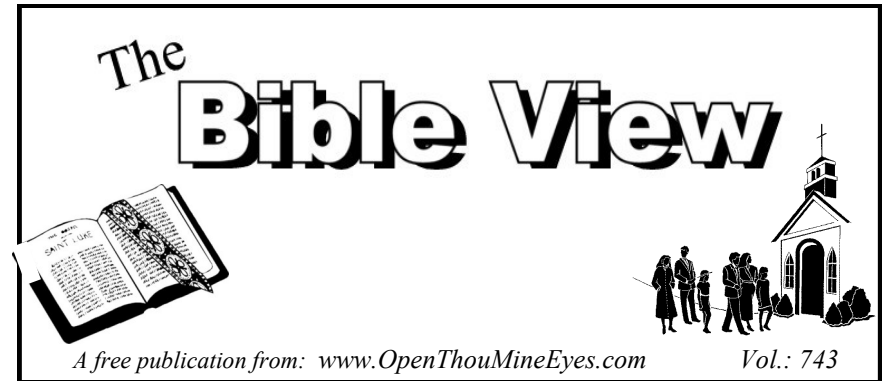
**He was controlled by an unclean spirit.** God created us in His image, and we are always to take care of our bodies. If we are saved children of God, then our body is the temple of the living God and should especially be taken good care of.

Satan usually encourages the opposite of what God does. While God wants us to take care of our body, the devil wants us to not take care of it and even ruin it. The spirits governing the maniac of the Gadarenes had him commit unclean things, including hurting his body and committing socially unacceptable acts. Because of demonic leadership, this man led a lonely life, filled with ungodly behavior and immodesty.

We see this ungodly leadership in many people today. They do not take care of the body God gave them. Filthy thoughts and habits, such as smoking, drinking, pornography, and immodesty, are an integral part of their lifestyle. Their activities, like the demon-possessed man of the Gadarenes, are not of God.

In today’s music, be it rock, gothic, rap, and even “Christian” rock, we hear words and see actions that do not glorify God. Some of the music’s titles, lyrics, and performers’ actions indicate that they are from an unclean spirit that certainly has nothing to do with God. Some of the themes of this ungodly music include: grotesqueness, mocking God and Christianity, insanity, hurting and

*Continued on Page 3*



## Teach Me, Lord!

*Bill Brinkworth*


*“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.” Psalm 143:10*

In this Hebrew hymn, David pleads for God’s help. He asks God for something very wise to request and is that which will always keep one from having regrets in life. The leader asked God to teach and show him His will. If we know God’s desire and follow it, we will always be where and what God wants us to be and will accomplish what He has planned for us.

Unfortunately, our fleshly desires are often followed rather than God’s way, and we find ourselves in a harmful situation or wrong direction. All our mistakes in life are because we did what we wanted and did not seek God’s guidance in our decision making. God’s leadership is never wrong.

Knowing God’s will can be

found:

 In His Word, the Bible. In the Word of God, God has carefully preserved examples of others facing similar challenges with which we may have to face. We can learn from what others encountered and how they dealt with the situations.

We can find what God desires from us and demands we not be involved in. When we read and study God’s Word, the Holy Spirit will also use conviction to keep us from making the wrong decision or direct us to the path God has for us.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Not of God

*Bill Brinkworth*

All through our lives, we are continually making decisions regarding what we are going to do, where we will go, or what we believe is the right thing to do. In making a proper choice, it would help a Christian to know what is of God and what is not His will.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Teach Me, Lord!

*Continued from Page 1*

✿ By hearing similar sources repeating the same conviction that was placed in our hearts. Often, God uses preaching, Christian peers, books, and other's advice to reinforce what God desires for us to do. If God wants us to know something, He often lets us hear it more than one time from different sources.

*"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."*

*Prov. 11:14*

✿ By following open doors of opportunity in the direction you are seeking. If you really want God's will, you should allow Him to direct you or stop you from going or doing the wrong thing. If your desire is not possible, accept that as His will. If you misread His direction, He can always create the opportunity again.

✿ If you believe it is God leading you to do the idea or change what is on your heart. God will NEVER lead anyone to do something sinful or wrong!

✿ By being aware when your prayers are answered.

If you do not know what to do, or God's direction is not clear, continue to do what God has already shown you to do until He shows you otherwise! Be patient! If it is God's will to do something, He will make it possible in His timing. You may be in a hurry, but God knows it may not be the

proper timing.

God does not desire to play guessing games with those that want to follow His leading. He will make His way clear when He sees fit. Will you let God say "no" to your request if He desires, and will you obey His direction if He shows you? If so, God will lead you in a plain path if you ask and wait for His clear leadership. You can know God's will and way in your life.

*"Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies."*

*Psalms 27:11*

## Not of God

*Continued from Page 4*

and killing people, disobeying authority, dismemberment, unnatural and immoral sex practices, death, drugs and other abuses of the body, and thousands of other wicked practices that even most unsaved people know are not right to even think about. Unclean spirits are involved in what today's ears, eyes, thoughts, and actions are exposed to. God is not in those influences.

**He lived in tombs.** He had a desire to be among the dead.

This is not unlike the interest of many today who are infatuated with things having to do with death. Minds have been influenced by the media to think that life after this life is adventurous, exciting, and not a lonely, fearful, and painful

eternity that the Bible promises awaits those that are not saved from their sins.

**He did not conform to rational thinking and behavior.** That man's actions were not following the norms of society, and because of the way he lived, he could not get along with other people. His behavior was not of God.

**He attempted many times to destroy and disfigure his body.** Satan loathes even the people he controls and wants their bodies destroyed. Here the maniac cut his body with stones.

Today, it is too common to hear about and see people wanting to mutilate or hurt their bodies. Satan hates the perfect body God gave us. His ungodly influence quite often wants to change how it looks by marring it with [tattoos](#), not being satisfied with the gender God made us, defacing it by piercing it with holes, not satisfied with how we look, and even ending one's life early by murderous abortions, suicide, or euthanasia (the killing of older people).

**He cried!** In all this man did, he still was not happy. He cried day and night.

Adultery, drinking, drugs, doing what one wants, perverse lifestyles, and other sins never give permanent happiness. An examination of those committing sins reveals no peace and usually great sorrow in the end.

The good news, however, is

although this man was totally entrapped and controlled by ungodly influences, Jesus made him a changed man. Knowing Jesus and Christ's own commandments made all the indwelling spirits leave the possessed man. Jesus changed this man and broke the demonic control of the maniac's life

We learn one more thing about the indwelling, demonic spirits from this story. When they were commanded by Christ to leave this man, they left him and entered 2,000 nearby grazing hogs. Immediately these hogs went insane and committed hogicide by drowning themselves in the sea. This again reinforces that Satan does not care whom he destroys, and if he cannot use you, he would just as soon use a pig.

In such a few words, it is not possible to make one aware of all the demonic and ungodly influences that can compel and control one today. However, this poor man's actions can make us aware that some of today's lifestyles are similar to the maniac's and are not of God. Before involving yourself in some activity, please first ask yourself, is it of God? If God is against it, we should also be!

**"WHEN SATAN KNOCKS  
AT YOUR DOOR, ASK  
JESUS TO ANSWER IT."**

*— Pythagoras*