

## Good And Evil Spirits

There are references to spirits, both good and evil, scattered throughout the Bible. Some are alluded to and many are directly named. Of course we know about the Perfect Holy Spirit Who is always good, but this is not a study of the Holy Spirit. This text is a study of the spirits that are actually named in the Bible. The scriptures we have selected from the Bible, describe the actions and outcomes of these named spirits. We know, of course that there are evil spirits that cause havoc, but there are also good spirits that do good things, and we will look at some of their names, like Truth, Justice, Goodness and Mercy for example. They are all part of the heavenly hosts and all stand before God, the evil, cursed ones on His left and the holy ones on His right (Matthew 25:41), waiting for direction from God (Job 1:6; 2 Chronicles 18:18). The good spirits are sent to do good and bring blessing, while the evil ones bring judgement from God on the wicked.

We can work out by what the scriptures tell us, that the evil spirits can cause whatever trouble they choose. We can also notice that the spirits are spoken of as 'he' not 'it' so the references are the masculine gender. The Lord Himself, in His sovereignty, uses the devil and other evil beings for His own purposes and plans and when He has finished with the devil, he will be tossed into the lake of fire for all eternity (Revelation 20:10). In Matthew 25:41 we see that the lake of fire was made for the devil and his angels, not for people. Unfortunately, there will be people sent there because of their wickedness (Revelation 20:15). Another thing about these spirits is; we cannot see these spirits unless God opens our eyes into the spirit realm and only then we get to see them (2 Kings 6:17; Numbers 22:31). There are two whole, huge, spiritual kingdoms out there, of which humans play only a small part. Get your Bibles ready, because there will be more scripture references in this sermon than in any other on this website.

Evil spirits are under the complete control of God and cannot do anything unless God gives them direct permission. While on earth, Jesus exercised total control over evil spirits and they knew Who He was (Luke 4:33 to 36). The demons believe in God and shudder in terror (James 2:19). Once we are Holy Spirit-filled Christians, the evil spirits are also subject to us (Luke 10:20) and we have authority and power over them (Mark 6:7). The evil spirits cannot attack born-again believers at will – they are subject to God and have to ask permission. When we study the following scriptures, we will see that the evil spirits were only given permission to attack the non-believers or the wicked, except in the case of Job but that was for a specific purpose. In Luke 22:31 we read how the devil asked excessively to attack the apostles but permission was denied and Jesus prayed for them. God refused to allow any attack. On the other hand, when Paul became angry at Hymenaeus and Alexander, Paul, the Holy Spirit-filled apostle had the authority to hand them both over to the devil to be taught not to blaspheme (1 Timothy 1:20). Certainly the devil noisily roams around looking for people to devour (1 Peter 5:8), but it does not mean he is allowed to devour them.

Let's look at the scriptures to back up the earlier comments. Firstly turn to 2 Chronicles 18:18 to 22 and see God Himself called for the evil spirit; the evil spirit was in heaven in the throne room because he spoke to God; the evil spirit chose his own actions and was given permission; and he was male. 'Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing at His right hand and His left. And the Lord said, "Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?"

Then there came a spirit and stood before the Lord and said, "I will entice him."  
And the Lord said to him, "By what means?"

And he said, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets."  
And the Lord said, "You shall entice him and also succeed. Go forth and do so."  
Now, you see, the Lord put a lying spirit in the mouths of your prophets, and the Lord has spoken evil concerning you (Ahab)'.

We can see by that passage of scripture that the evil spirit had to ask permission, so young Christians do not need to be afraid of the devil. If we submit ourselves to God, resist the devil, he has to flee (James 4:7). In Job 1:6 to 22 then 2:1 to 7, (too much to include in this text) we see that the devil had to ask permission to attack Job, and it was granted but only in stages. The Lord held Job up as an example of righteous living then gave the devil permission to destroy his life, but was told not to kill him. Poor Job didn't know the devil was at work in his life or why those things happened. We have the benefit of knowing Job's story so we can be aware of why evil happens to us sometimes. Occasionally, the Lord allows even the most righteous to be attacked so we can be purified by fire (Isaiah 48:10), and sometimes evil spirits bring God's chastisement on Christians. We can read about God's discipline in Hebrews chapter 12 and Proverbs 3:11 & 12. In Job 42:11 it states something profound we need to take notice of: Job's family comforted him after all the calamities that the Lord had brought upon him. Yes, the Lord used the devil to do those things to Job.

Now let's look at some interesting facts about spirits. Some do good, some do evil, some rule over whole nations and kingdoms, some are individual, sometimes they group together, some run in families (familiar), some are very unusual, like the spirit of deep sleep for example. The 'good' spirits mentioned in the Bible are normally within God's people. The spirit of man, also called the spirit of life, seems to be mentioned more than any other. The spirit of man is what causes us to do the sensible or silly things we do, and feel the way we feel, both positive and negative, and it is what gives us our emotions and reactions.

We are made up of three parts: spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The spirit is from God and enters the womb of the unborn baby (Ecclesiastes 11:5) and returns to God on our death (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Jesus received the spirit of Stephen when he died (Acts 7:59). The spirit of man is God's lamp in which He searches our hearts, or our innermost parts (Proverbs 20:27). The soul is described as the deepest parts of our human nature. It was in the soul where Eve was tempted and where Adam disobeyed God and sinned. It is in the soulish realm where our rebellious sin nature lurks. Our soul, which is our sinful character; and our spirit, which is God's holy character are separate but both live within our mortal bodies. The Word of God – the Bible – divides the soul from the immortal spirit of God's character, and of the joints and marrow – the body (Hebrews 4:12). It is the spirit, not the soul that returns to God after we die, as long as we are believers. Our sinful soul is constantly warring against God's pure spirit and that is acted out in our bodies (Romans 7:4 to 25). What happens to our soul when we die? For the non-believer, the soul and the body are destroyed in hell (Matthew 10:28). The soul of the believer will be preserved, sound and complete along with the body and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Even Jesus had the spirit of man or the spirit of life and the following scriptures show us that we feel emotion in our spirit, not in our soul as most people think. Jesus perceived in His spirit, or could sense that the scribes were questioning Him in their hearts (Mark 2:6 to 8). Jesus groaned and sighed deeply in His spirit because of the malicious attitude of the Pharisees (Mark 8:11 & 12). Jesus was chafed in spirit; deeply moved; disturbed; sighed repeatedly; wept and was deeply disquieted over the death of His friend Lazarus (John 11:33, 35 & 38). Jesus was troubled in spirit; disturbed and agitated over the fact that

Judas was about to betray Him (John 13:21). These scriptures describe deep emotion and they are felt in the spirit. Just before Jesus died, He committed His spirit to God (Luke 23:46). When He died, He gave up the spirit of life (Matthew 27:50; John 19:30). Mark says Jesus breathed out His life (Mark 15:37). Jesus said if He wanted to, He could have called on thousands of angels to rescue Him from the hands of the Romans (Matthew 26:53). Angels are spirits sent to minister to Christians (Hebrews 1:14). Jesus was put to death in His human body, but He was made alive in the spirit (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus preached to the spirits in prison, or in Hades, the waiting place of the dead (1 Peter 3:19) so they could live in the spirit (1 Peter 4:6).

The spirit of man can also be called courage (Joshua 2:11). The spirit of a man sustains him in bodily pain (Proverbs 18:14). When the peoples of Canaan heard about the Israelites, their hearts 'melted' and there was 'no spirit' in them (Joshua 5:1); they had lost their courage. God gives us a spirit of power, or courage (2 Timothy 1:7). Again we see that the spirit is God-given.

Attitude and character can both be described as the spirit of a man. There is a spirit of a right attitude to God, 'Renew a right spirit within me' (Psalm 51:10) and a spirit of a wrong attitude to God; 'Whose spirit inspired what came forth from your mouth? (Job 26:4)' We are one in spirit with Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:17) and the Lord Jesus is with us in spirit (Galatians 6:18; 2 Timothy 4:22; Philemon 1:25).

We must stand firm in united spirit and purpose (Philippians 1:27) and have the 'same' or united attitude (2 Corinthians 12:18).

Unmarried people can be wholly set apart in body and spirit (1 Corinthians 7:34).

We must not turn our spirit against God (Job 15:13).

We must be constantly renewed in the spirit of our minds (Ephesians 4:23) and the spirit can be defiled; therefore we need to cleanse ourselves (2 Corinthians 7:1).

We can be absent in body while being present in spirit and our spirits meet together with the power of our Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 5:3 & 4; Colossians 2:5). [That means somebody in Australia can pray and believe for healing for a Christian in the UK, because the Christians in the two countries are one 'in the spirit', though absent in the body].

We have the spirit of faith (2 Corinthians 4:13).

There is a humble spirit (Proverbs 16:19; 29:23; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2) and God blesses the humble, or the 'poor in spirit' (Matthew 5:3).

A gentle and quiet spirit is very precious in the sight of God (1 Peter 3:4).

Paul said "Which do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of correction or a spirit of gentleness? (1 Corinthians 4:21)

Jesus said, "You do not know what sort of spirit you are." Meaning they had the wrong attitude (Luke 9:55).

Both John the Baptist and Jesus grew up and became strong in spirit (Luke 1:80; 2:40) and this strong character was noticed before Jesus had turned thirteen (Luke 2:42).

When John the Baptist came in the 'spirit and power' of Elijah (Luke 1:17) he came with the same strong character and attitude Elijah had.

When the Lord renews our attitude after we are born-again, He describes it as giving us a new mind, a new spirit and a new heart (Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31; 36:26; Ephesians 4:23).

Emotion, as we have already seen, is felt within the spirit and our emotions react.

The spirit can be overwhelmed (Psalm 142:3). When the Queen of Sheba saw the excesses of Solomon, she was overwhelmed; there was no more spirit in her (2 Chronicles 9:4). The spirit can faint when it is overwhelmed (Psalm 77:3).

The spirit within us constrains us (Job 32:18).

Our spirit needs to be refreshed (1 Corinthians 16:18; 2 Corinthians 7:13).

Sometimes our spirit cannot find rest (2 Corinthians 2:13).

The spirit can be grieved by sin (Acts 17:16); the spirit can be grieved by, for example, a broken heart (Isaiah 54:6) and the spirit can be grieved by anxiety (Daniel 7:15).

The spirit can be troubled (1 Kings 21:5; Psalm 77:4; Daniel 2:1). The spirit can be crushed (Psalm 34:18), the spirit can be wounded (Isaiah 66:2) and the spirit can be broken (Job 17:1; Psalm 51:17; Proverbs 15:13; 17:22; 18:14; Isaiah 66:2).

The spirit can fail, or be disheartened by circumstances (Psalm 143:7).

Intelligence is another name for the spirit in a man.

There is a spirit of intelligence in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives us understanding (Job 32:8).

There is a spirit of wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9; Proverbs 1:23; Ephesians 1:17).

There is a spirit of understanding (Job 20:3).

Then there is the spirit that gives us life and is owned by God (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The Lord God breathed the spirit of life into Adam (Genesis 2:7).

God gives breath and spirit to the people on the earth (Isaiah 42:5).

The Lord is the God of the spirits of all flesh (Numbers 16:22; 27:16).

The Lord forms the spirit of man within us (Zechariah 12:1).

Without the spirit, our bodies are lifeless (James 2:26).

God's anger can make our spirit faint (Isaiah 57:16; Ezekiel 21:7).

The human spirit rejoices in God (Luke 1:47) and Jesus also rejoiced in God (Luke 10:21).

The strangest of God's recorded creations are the four living creatures mentioned in Ezekiel and Revelation. Their spirit of life was in their wheels (Ezekiel 1:20 & 21; 10:17).

Food can revive the spirit (Judges 15:19; 1 Samuel 30:12)

Hunger can make the spirit 'faint' (Psalm 107:5).

The spirit of life leaves a child that is stillborn (Job 3:11).

We need to have the ability to discern between the utterances of true and false spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10). The Lord is the God of the spirits of the prophets (Revelation 22:6), but the spirit of prophecy is under the speaker's control (1 Corinthians 14:32). We are to test every spirit of prophecy to be sure it has proceeded from God for many false prophets have gone forth into the world (1 John 4:1). The Lord says woe to the false or foolish prophets who follow their own spirit (Ezekiel 13:3).

The spirits of the righteous have been made perfect (Hebrews 12:23) [It is the soul that is corrupt].

Our spirit is alive because of the righteousness of Christ living in us (Romans 8:10).

The Spirit of God testifies with our own spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16).

We do not have the power over our own spirit to retain the breath of life neither do we have the power over the day of our death (Ecclesiastes 8:8).

When a person has risen from the dead, their spirit returns from death (Luke 8:55).

It is our spirit that is saved (1 Corinthians 5:5).

It is the spirit that is tormented in hell. The dead person feels pain, heat, anguish, thirst, discomfort; they can still love their families and be concerned for them (Luke 16:23 to 31).

We have to control or rule our own spirit (Proverbs 16:32; 25:28).

Only a man's own spirit understands his own thoughts (1 Corinthians 2:11).

The Word written in the scriptures are spirit and life (John 6:63).

When we pray in tongues, our spirit, by the Holy Spirit within us, prays (1 Corinthians 14:14).

These following named spirits only do good things.

There is the spirit of life that gives health and makes us live (Isaiah 38:16).

We must worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23 & 24).

Goodness and Mercy follow us all the days of our lives (Psalm 23:6).

The scriptures say Daniel had an excellent spirit (Daniel 5:12; 6:3).

There is a willing spirit (Psalm 51:12; Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38).

There is a spirit that searches diligently for God; earnestly seeks Him (Psalm 77:6; Isaiah 26:9).

There is a trustworthy and faithful spirit (Proverbs 11:13).

There is a patient spirit (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

There is a spirit of justice (Isaiah 28:6).

There is a spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and fear of God (Isaiah 11:2; Daniel 5:12).

The Lord aroused the spirit of Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah and the spirit of Joshua the high priest and the spirit of the remnant of the people, so that they came and laboured on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God (Haggai 1:14 & 15). [A willing spirit]

All of these positive actions, attitudes, reactions, emotions and goodness come from the God-given spirit that entered us in our mother's wombs (Ecclesiastes 11:5) when we were still 'an unformed substance' and before our days took shape. That is when God wrote all our days in His book (Psalm 139:16). We can recognise the Spirit of God in a person because every God-given spirit will confess that Jesus Christ has become Man, and has come in human flesh. Every spirit which does not confess that Jesus has come in the flesh, is not of God but is the spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:2 & 3). Whoever is of God listens to what is written in the Bible but he who is not of God does not listen. By this we know the difference between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error (1 John 4:6).

Isaiah 14:9 to 19 and Ezekiel 28:14 to 19 explains the pride then the fall of the anointed cherub, who was rejected from heaven and named satan, the accuser or adversary. The King James Version of the Bible names the anointed cherub as Lucifer, but some other translations don't. Many people believe that he took one third of the holy angels with him and they became demons or evil spirits but that is not scriptural. The passages in Isaiah and Ezekiel do not mention any such thing. The verse some preachers use is found in Revelation 12:4, but to use that verse, is to take it out of the time frame and out of context. Lucifer was ejected from heaven thousands of years before the church was formed, and this verse in Revelation is talking about the dragon trying to destroy the Messiah (verse 5) then attack the new church. That happened only 2,000 years ago, but demons were around long before that, as we see in the Old Testament. Also, many preachers believe that the book of Revelation is still to unfold in the future. If that is the case, why would they put Revelation far into the future then take one verse and place it so far in the past, it happened before the earth was created? That is not logical. Further to that, the angels that rebelled against God are already in chains awaiting judgement as we see in 1 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6. Also, the evil spirits are still in heaven and can talk to God, whereas the rebellious angels are in chains. Moreover, the evil spirits that are in heaven are called spirits, not angels (2 Chronicles 18:19). And since the spirit said to God he would be a lying spirit in the people on earth, we can logically work out that these evil beings freely travel between heaven and earth and it says so in Job 2:2. It was called a lying spirit not a lying angel. Spirits are mentioned in the scriptures hundreds of times, but the angels that rebelled are only mentioned a few times. Two references to them states that they are already in chains and another reference is when Jesus said in Matthew 25:41 that the eternal fire was prepared for the devil and his angels.

In Judges 9:23 we see again where God Himself sent an evil spirit. In 1 Samuel 16:14 we see that the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul and an evil spirit sent from the Lord tormented him. Most people assume that evil spirits could never be sent from God but as

we can see, they are all subject to God and can be sent from God. It stands to reason that since God uses evil spirits for His own purposes from time to time, that He created them for His purposes. In 1 Samuel 18:10 we read how the evil spirit from God came violently or forcefully upon Saul. People act differently when they are under the power of an evil spirit. They do not all act the same way, all the time. If we study the life of Saul we can see how evil spirits come and go. Take a typical schizophrenic. They are not crazed all the time. The bad temper and violence manifested by Saul was a result of the evil spirit. This is called a spirit of anger.

In 2 Samuel 24:1 God was angry with Israel and stirred up David to number Israel and Judah. In 1 Chronicles 21:1, the devil stirred up David to number Israel. We see the same situation where David was stirred up to number Israel. God used the devil for His own purpose. The Lord didn't use a spirit, He used the devil himself. Note also that the Lord speaks to the devil and the evil spirits without any malice or anger. He does not call them names. These evil beings have access to God now as they did back in the Old Testament. The door of access to these evil beings closes in Revelation 12:7 & 8. In verse 10 it is written that the devil is cast out of heaven to earth. Jesus said He witnessed the devil fall from heaven (Luke 10:18) although we don't know exactly when.

So where did these evil beings come from? In Job 1:6 and 2:1 the spirits are described as the sons of God and they presented themselves to God in heaven. In Genesis 6:1 to 4 they are described as the sons of God and were giants and since they married 'the daughters of men' and had children with them, obviously they were not spirit but very human-like. They were called mighty men not mighty spirits. They were wicked but very human-like and their bodies were destroyed in the flood with every other human and animal. We know that because only Noah, his wife, three sons and three daughters-in-law survived to repopulate the earth along with the animals Noah rescued. Every other person died and went to Hades. When Jesus died he went to those same people and preached the Gospel to them (1 Peter 3:20 then 4:6). Look here at something else. Humans are always called sons of men and daughters of men. These wicked beings called sons of God were alive on earth in Genesis 6:1 to 4 and were killed in the flood, then they appeared in Job 1:6 & 2:1 as spirits and were with the devil.

God created these beings for His own purposes, just as mankind was created for God's purposes. Evil Spirits have rebelled and have become wicked, just as humans have rebelled and now have a wicked heart. Humans are not God's only creation. There are more than angels in heaven. There are seraphim, cherubim and the wonderfully unusual four living creatures, so it is logical there are other creatures as well. Most have remained pure and holy, but like mankind, some have become wicked. Only the fallen angels are already in chains. The wicked men who have died are not yet in chains. The final judgement has not yet happened and until it does, the evil beings are free. It is true that God is pure and holy but He is able to do whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3). He does not have to explain any of His reasons to us. He does not have to justify Himself to His created beings so He can in all righteousness, use whatever method He chooses to achieve His goals, because He owns everything. Remember that God created everything for His own reasons, and humans are just a tiny portion of His overall eternal plan. God uses the evil beings for His own purposes.

God creates whatever He wants to, even though He does not have some elements within Him. For example, God does not have blood, but He created it. God is not made of wood, but He created it. God does not need air, but He created it. God is not made of chlorophyll, but He created it. God doesn't have feathers, but He created them. He has no darkness in

Him but He created it. He created everything, and when the scriptures say God created everything and there is not one thing made that He did not make, then that is what took place. God made everything on earth and saw that it was good. He created the heavens and He created things that are invisible. Read John 1:3; 'All things were made and came into existence through Him (Jesus); and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being'. Everything was created. Read more in Colossians 1:16 & 17; 'For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him and in Him and for Him. And He (Jesus) Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist'. God created things in heaven that we can't see and everything exists through Him. Read more in Proverbs 8:20 to 31. God is absolutely pure and holy and there is no darkness in Him, but He created darkness, just the same as He created all the things mentioned above. In Him all things consist. There is no sin in God, but if God didn't create the opportunity for sin, that too would not exist. God's direction to Adam in Genesis 2:17 backs that up. When God told Adam not to eat of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, just by saying that, God created the opportunity for Adam to sin. If God had never mentioned the tree to Adam, there would have been no opening for disobedience and sin. It would not have happened. So for His own purposes, God created the opening and gave Adam the intelligence and thus the opportunity and the ability to sin. God created spirits as perfect beings, just as He created man as a perfect being. Just as man is now wicked and needs redemption, so some spirits are now wicked, but for them there is no redemption. The reason for that simple. Heaven is the most perfect place to be, and these spirits rebelled while in heaven, in the presence of God, whereas mankind have not yet been to the Father. We have had so much suffering on earth, when we finally get to heaven, we will never, ever rebel because we know the consequences.

There are evil spirits that cause deception, illnesses, chaos and death. They are known by a few different names such as, evil spirits (Acts 19:12), demons (Matthew 12:28; Ephesians 2:2), fallen angels (which is not strictly scriptural because the fallen angels are already in hell awaiting judgement), unclean spirits (Matthew 10:1; Mark 1:23), loathsome spirits (Revelation 18:2), rulers of darkness, master spirits, forces of wickedness (Ephesians 6:12), foul spirits (Luke 4:36) or rulers in heavenly places but they are all the same thing (Luke 8:2; 9:42). They are led by satan who is known as the devil (Acts 10:38), the accuser, the enemy, the adversary, the beast, the dragon and the evil one (Ephesians 6:16; Revelation 12:9). The way to deal with these evil beings is to cast them out, drive them out, resist them, overcome them, rebuke them and put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:13 to 18). Read Matthew, Mark and Luke to see how Jesus dealt with these evil beings. In Acts 16:18 we read how Paul dealt with the evil spirit. Note that Paul spoke to the evil spirit within the girl – not to the girl herself. In Acts 19:13 to 16 we see that we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and be close to the Lord before we try to deal with them or they could turn on you. Once people are delivered from evil spirits, they are often healed at the same time (Luke 6:18; Acts 5:16; 19:12). Sometimes when evil spirits are driven out of a person and if that person doesn't become a Christian, then the evil spirits may return and the person is seven times worse off (Matthew 12:43 to 45; Luke 11:24 to 26). The Lord commanded one evil spirit never to return to a child (Mark 9:25).

The sin in mankind opens the door to evil spirits and sickness (John 5:14). Sin can bring a curse down the generations and can cause a woman to be barren (Genesis 9:25; Numbers 5:28; 2 Samuel 6:23). Idle words and word curses can bring curses upon children and we will have to give an account to God for what we say (Matthew 12:36 & 37; Matthew 27:25; James 3:9). These curses open the way for demonic attack.

Names given to children can bring about a curse and death. The Lord Himself named many of His people, He changed the names of others and sometimes told parents-to-be what to name their unborn babies. People live up to their name. Parents need to be very mindful of what they name their children because as we repeatedly say the child's name, so we bring about good or evil responses to that name. Read the story about Nabal, a man whose name meant foolish and wicked (1 Samuel 25:25). 'Let not my lord regard this foolish and wicked fellow Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal [foolish and wicked] is his name and folly is with him'. Other examples of people living up to their names are Jacob (supplanter or usurper and that is just what he was), Abraham (father of a multitude), Job (he cries), Moses (saved from water), Jesus (Saviour). Names mean different things in different languages. One example is the Gaelic name Rhiannon. It means Queen of witches. Alison means little witch. This is not a deliberate offence to ladies with those names, but every time that name is spoken, the speaker is calling that woman a witch, and in time the spoken word can bring about the negative effects of a curse. Witchcraft is an abomination to God and with it comes a curse, and that opens the door for the devil to attack. However, if you name your child David (beloved), every time you say his name, you are telling him he is loved. Your child's name can be a curse or a blessing, and names need to be carefully thought about because they are repeatedly spoken out to the prince of the power of the air. What is a natural thing for humans, our names, is played out in the spiritual realm.

A ghost is not the soul of a human wandering around the earth. Before Jesus came and rose from the dead, when people died the scriptures say they 'slept with their fathers'. They could not roam around on earth. When non-believers die, they go to a place called Hades to await judgement and will rise again from death but only to be sent to the lake of fire (Revelation 20:5; 21:8). They can not roam around. Just as Stephen did, when a believer dies, Jesus immediately receives their spirit (Acts 7:59), so they don't roam around on earth either. Job 1:7; 2:2; Matthew 12:43; Luke 11:24 all tell us that it is the devil and evil spirits that walk to and fro on the earth. These evil spirits can inhabit buildings (Isaiah 13:21; 34:14), they can enter animals (Mark 5:13), they can possess people, they have intellect and will and make choices, they vary in their wickedness, they need rest and they can travel around (Matthew 12:43 to 45). They cause sickness, disease, fever, physical deformities, mental sickness and they can speak (Mark 5:2 to 13; Acts 19:15). Evil spirits can fight with God's holy angels (Daniel 10:13 & 20). They can cause people to self-harm (Mark 5:5; 9:22). They can give people supernatural strength (Acts 19:16). They can draw people away from the Truth (Matthew 13:19; Mark 4:15).

Some names of these horrid spirits are: a spirit of anger lodged in the heart of fools (Ecclesiastes 7:9 Ephesians 4:31), a spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3), a spirit of pride (Proverbs 16:18; Ecclesiastes 7:8; Daniel 5:20), a spirit of error (Isaiah 19:14; 29:24), a spirit of perverseness (Isaiah 19:14), a spirit of confusion (Isaiah 19:14), a spirit of rumour or gossiping (Isaiah 37:7), a spirit of infirmity or a demon of sickness (Luke 13:11), a spirit of bitterness which burns in the human spirit and defiles us (Ezekiel 3:14; Hebrews 12:15), a haughty spirit (Proverbs 16:18), a spirit of deep sleep or stupor or slumber given for judgement (Isaiah 29:10; Romans 11:8), a spirit of discouragement (Ezekiel 3:14), a spirit of divination (Acts 16:16), a spirit of death, or the giving up of the spirit of life (Job 11:20), a spirit of heaviness, which is depression (Isaiah 61:3), a spirit of lies and falsehood (Micah 2:11), a spirit of impurity (Zechariah 13:2), a spirit of prostitution or harlotry (Hosea 4:12; 5:4), a spirit of fear or terror (Job 4:14 & 15; 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:7), a spirit of bondage (Romans 8:15), the devil causes oppression (Acts 10:38), there is a spirit of anguish (Job 7:11; Isaiah 65:14), a spirit of jealousy (Numbers 5:14 & 30), a spirit of sorrow (1 Sam

1:15; Isaiah 65:14), evil spirits sometimes cause epilepsy (Luke 9:39), there are seducing spirits (1 Timothy 4:1), there are demons that teach false doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1).

You can actually receive a 'different' spirit (2 Corinthians 11:4).

A demon spirit works in the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2).

We are wrestling against evil 'master spirits' and forces of wickedness in the heavenly realm, who are the rulers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12).

They cause deceit (Psalm 32:2).

They seduce people into idolatry, or Babylonism (Revelation 18:3 & 9).

There are loathsome spirits (Revelation 16:13; 18:2). The loathsome spirits are actually the spirits of the demons (Revelation 16:14).

Evil spirits can possess people, or completely overtake them (Matthew 8:16; Acts 16:16).

They cause insanity and violence (Mark 5:1 to 10 then 15; Luke 8:27 to 30 then 35). When this man had the demons cast out, he was then in his right mind, or no longer insane. Read 1 Samuel 16:14, 15, 16, 23; 18:10; 19:9 for a description of insanity and violence caused by the evil spirit sent from God.

There is an earthly, demonic, unspiritual 'wisdom' that does not come from above and which causes confusion, and all sorts of evil and vile practices (James 3:15 & 16).

Evil spirits can cause deafness and muteness (Mark 9:17 to 20 & 25). This boy also seemed to have suffered from epilepsy.

There is a spirit of the 'world' which makes people act sinfully (1 Corinthians 2:12).

There is a familiar, or a family spirit that is passed down through the generations, seducing people to become involved in witchcraft, which in turn will cause inherited diseases (1 Samuel 28:8; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 19:3).

The Lord sometimes sends evil spirits to do His work to bring judgement on disobedient people (Judges 9:23; 1 Samuel 16:14, 15, 16, 23; 18:10; 19:9; 2 Chronicles 18:18 to 22).

Whole nations can become under the control of evil spirits, which are sometimes named. There are spirits of princes (Psalm 76:12). Some monarchies are very evil and this Psalm says God will cut off the spirit (the life) of princes. The devil is called the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). The prince of demons is named Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24) which translates as the 'lord of the flies'. If we see the result of a burly, strong man who has been bitten by a malaria-carrying mosquito, for example, we can see that the tiny air-borne insect has the power to destroy life.

Revelation 16:14 tells us evil beings can influence governments. There was a spirit in the king of Assyria (Syria) (1 Chronicles 5:26). The Lord stirred up the spirit of the Philistines and the spirit of the Arabians (2 Chronicles 21:16). There was a spirit in the king of Persia (2 Chronicles 36:22; Ezra 1:1). The Lord stirred up the spirit of the kings of Medes to destroy Babylon (Jeremiah 51:11). The Lord caused the spirit of the Egyptians to become exhausted and fail (Isaiah 19:3).

Eventually, the devil and all of these evil beings, along with both Hades and death will be sent to the lake of fire for all eternity (Revelation 20:14). All of the universe and the whole of heaven will be free from them forever and ever. When Jesus rose from the dead, He received the keys of hell (Hades) and of death (Revelation 1:18) and He had a new, healthy resurrected body that showed His wounds (Luke 24:37 to 39). When we get to heaven, we too will have a new resurrected body (1 Corinthians 15:42). Hallelujah!

Amen and God bless you.

<http://www.biblebookoftruth.com/>