

Martinha and the Devil

James 4:7

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

We were in Brazil serving as missionaries. Brazil is a spiritist country which means a lot of witchcraft goes on. Eighty percent of the population has dabbled in the occult. We saw a lot of demonic activity in the Brazilian culture.

We were trying to plant a church in a little village in the center of a strong spiritist area. The young pastor leading the church was fighting against the demonic forces and casting out demons whenever necessary.

Living in the middle of Satan's territory had an effect on his family. Evil was like a thick darkness all around them. One night his little five year old daughter woke up screaming. She told her dad there was a monster in the room. She pointed, "He's up in the corner and he keeps looking at me and scaring me." Her dad went into the room thinking she was just having a nightmare. So, he came in the room and he sat down with her on the bed and assured her there was no little monster in the corner. He told her that she knows Jesus as her Savior and he would protect her. He talked and comforted her for ten minutes or so. Wanting to go back to bed he asked her to look up in the corner to see if there was still something there. She looked up in the corner and screamed, "Daddy, it's still there! That little creature is still up in there staring at me! It's mean it's going to come and get me. Make him go away!"

Her father thought it strange that she was now wide awake, but still seeing this evil thing. So he suggested they sing some songs they had learned in Sunday School. They rejoiced in the Lord singing a number of choruses. Another 15 or 20 minutes passed. Again he said, "Okay, honey. Look up in the corner. She looked up again and in terror cried, "No, daddy, he's still there and he's even bigger! It's coming after me, daddy help me." Later he told me he didn't know what to do. He said they don't teach this kind of stuff in Bible schools and seminaries. Finally, after praying again, he turned to Martha and asked, "Martha, what scripture verses did you learn in Sunday School? Let's quote them together.'

She had learned Matthew 19:14 and began to quote it with authority:

"Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the kingdom of heaven."

As she uttered those words, *“Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the kingdom of heaven,”* there was an audible pop in the room, like a balloon exploding. Her father heard it. She heard it. They both looked up in the corner and Martha shouted, “It's gone, daddy, it's gone! Thank God it's gone. The evil monster is gone.”

Her father walked away from that situation amazed and discovered something new. Demons can torment children. Demons can attack Christians, trying to intimidate them. Even little children are susceptible to the enemy's attacks. That evil spirit was pestering and trying to gain access to her room and to her life. Even so, she could talk, quote scripture, pray and sing, but what made the enemy flee was the authority with which she stood on the word of God.