

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING

April 8th, 2017 from 9:00am to 3:00pm, lunch provided.

The goal of this one-day training is to address the challenges we face in our ministries and communities, and equip attendees to better walk alongside others in a way that points them to the Gospel.

Topics include understanding and engaging with suffering, empathy, avoiding assumptions/gathering data, how words work, and utilizing grace, gentleness, and candor.

Childcare is provided with notification.

Questions & RSVP to: gee@ourelement.org

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday: April 14th at 7 and 8pm.

No Childcare available.

Easter: Services on Saturday the 15th at 6pm - nursery care only.
Sunday Morning at 8:15, 9:30 & 11am with full children's programs.

THANK YOU
FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

WEEK 13

MATTHEW 9:32-34

AUTHORITY OVER POSSESSION

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:34

John 10:28-29

Matthew 12:25-29

Luke 11:24-26

John 10:10

Colossians 2:15

Matthew 9:32-34

Luke 11:15

Matthew 12:43-45

Ephesians 4:22-24

Luke 10:20

AUTHORITY

OVER POSSESSION

WEEK 13 SERMON NOTES

Most people want to shy away from anything that deals with demonic oppression or possession in the Scriptures. In our modern world, we don't want to seem like we are weirdos so we try to ignore and to deny things like demons. There are those on the opposite end of the spectrum who want to blame everything on demons as well, from failed relationships to job loss.

Have you ever blamed anything on the devil?

What was it?

Why did/do you think that?

We all do this to some degree, when things get hard we say "the enemy is fighting against us," but sometimes it is God who makes something hard so we will grow through it. Not everything is meant to be easy and thinking that easy things are from Jesus and hard things are from the Devil is horrible theology. The word possess can mean 3 things...

- OWN (can a Christian belong to the devil? No.)
- DOMINATE (can a Christian be controlled by a demon? No)
Jesus Himself cancels out this type of possession in *Matt 12:25-29*
- INFLUENCE (can a Christian be influenced? YES.)

Satan can never take authority over a believer because Jesus has all authority, but he can whisper to you those things your heart longs for that will destroy you. This is why the Scriptures call what Satan does "schemes," because he mimics God and perverts His work.

Have you ever had something come "easy" and in the end it turned out to be a disaster?

How has working for something made it more valuable to you in the long run?

Read Matthew 9:32-34.

Matthew's purpose in this passage (and Jesus healing this man) is not to teach us about demon possession or how to perform an exorcism!

When Jesus casts out the demon, the religious leaders, who were very upset with Him anyway, try to write off what Jesus did by ascribing the authority He used as belonging to something else. They say, "He drives out demons by the power of the Devil." They don't want to believe in Jesus' words having ultimate authority so they discount His power.

Have you ever discounted God's power?

How?

Jesus says to the religious leaders when they mock Him, "I, and I only, am the One who can take over and break through any strongholds or any problems in your life." What it means to be a Christian, to live in the grace and power of Jesus, is to live our lives as if He (Jesus) possesses us. We tend to only use the word *possessed* in a negative way, but what Jesus says is if He isn't the center of our lives, something else *will* be.

What in your life have you given yourself over to that isn't Jesus?

Ephesians 4:22-24 put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. We must become a people so enthralled by the power and authority of Jesus that we are set free from what possesses us. Anything that is not Jesus is LESS than Jesus. Our reason for rejoicing is our reason for being set free...that our God has the authority and the grace to set us free.

Is it easier to see what others are possessed by or what you are possessed by?

How could facing your own "deceitful desires" enable you to help others in their deceitful desires?