

Passivity: The Chief Basis of Demonization

by Jessie Penn-Lewis and Evan Roberts

Presented by New Wine Online (<http://www.newwineonline.com>)

The primary cause of deception and powerlessness in surrendered believers may be condensed into one word, PASSIVITY; that is, a cessation of the active exercise of the will in control over spirit, soul and body, or either, as may be the case. It is, practically, a counterfeit of surrender to God.

The deception over passive surrender may be exemplified thus: a believer surrenders his "arm" to God. He permits it to hang passive, waiting for "God to use it." But will God lift the arm for the man? Nay, the man himself must lift it, and use it, seeking to understand intelligently the mind of God in doing so. The chief condition, therefore, for the working of evil spirits in a person, apart from sin, is passivity, in exact opposition to the condition, which God requires from His children for His working for them.

In brief, the powers of darkness aim at obtaining a passive slave, or captive to their will; whilst God desires a regenerated man, intelligently and actively willing, and choosing, and doing His will in liberation of spirit, soul and body from slavery. The powers of darkness would make a man a machine, a tool, an automaton; the God of holiness and love desires to make him a free, intelligent sovereign in his own sphere - a thinking, rational, renewed creation created after His own image (Ephesians 4:24). Therefore God never says to any man, "Be thou idle."

God does not need, nor demand non-activity in the believer for His working in and through him, but evil spirits demand the utmost non-activity and passivity. God asks for intelligent action (Romans 12:1-2. "Your reasonable service,") in co-operation with Him. Passivity must not be confused with quietness, or the "meek and quiet spirit," which, in the sight of God, is of great price. Quietness of spirit, of heart, of mind, of manner, voice and expression, may be co-existent with the most effective activity in the will of God.

Taken from "[War On The Saints](#)"

By Jessie Penn-Lewis and Evan Roberts,
Published by Thomas E. Lowe - Unabridged ed.

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