

He Didn't Believe — Until Hell Answered Back

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

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We live in a world saturated with noise, information, and a relentless push towards the rational, the provable, the things we can touch and measure. The spiritual realm, the unseen world that the Bible speaks of so vividly, is often relegated to the realm of myth, superstition, or, at best, a metaphor for psychological struggles. Many people, even some within the church, operate with a functional disbelief in the active, personal reality of Satan and demonic forces. They might acknowledge it theologically, but they live as if it has no real bearing on their day-to-day lives. They scoff at talk of spiritual warfare, dismiss deliverance ministry as hysteria, and confidently assert that such things died out with the apostles or belong only to less "enlightened" parts of the world. They simply don't believe. And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because sometimes, disbelief isn't shattered by an argument, but by an encounter.

There's a specific kind of blindness that comes not from a lack of evidence, but from a refusal to see. It's the intellectual pride that builds a fortress around the heart, convinced that science, reason, and human understanding are the ultimate arbiters of reality. Anything outside that box—angels, demons, spiritual battles—is neatly filed away as primitive or psychological. This person might hear testimonies, read the biblical accounts of Jesus casting out demons, or even witness strange occurrences, but their grid of disbelief filters everything, explaining it away, rationalizing it, finding any explanation except the supernatural one. They stand on the shores of a vast spiritual ocean, insisting that only the puddles they can see are real.

But what happens when the ocean rises up? What happens when the carefully constructed walls of rationalism are breached, not by a gentle tide, but by a tidal wave? What happens when the unseen realm, which they so confidently dismissed, stops being unseen? What happens when you mock the darkness, and the darkness answers back? There are moments, encounters so undeniable, so terrifying, and so utterly outside the bounds of human explanation, that the fortress of disbelief crumbles in an instant. It's the moment hell answers back, not with a whisper, but with a roar. Today, we're going to explore this jarring collision between skepticism and the supernatural, looking at the biblical reality of the demonic and the profound, life-altering moment when disbelief is swallowed by an undeniable encounter with the forces of darkness.

Number 1: The Fortress of Disbelief - Why We Don't Want to See

Before we explore the encounter, we need to understand the foundation of the skeptic. Why is it often so hard, even for Christians, to truly believe in the active reality of demons and spiritual warfare? It's not usually a lack of biblical information. The Bible is startlingly clear. From Genesis the serpent to Revelation the dragon, the narrative is one of cosmic conflict. Jesus's ministry was a

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constant confrontation with demonic powers. The apostles continued this work. Paul explicitly tells us our fight is "not against flesh and blood" but against "spiritual forces of evil" Ephesians 6:12. So, the information is there. The disbelief comes from somewhere deeper.

One root is Intellectual Pride. Our modern, post-Enlightenment world has enthroned human reason. We are taught that anything that cannot be scientifically measured or empirically proven is suspect. Believing in invisible spirits feels primitive, unintelligent, embarrassing. It requires a humility that says, "My understanding is limited. There are realities beyond my comprehension." This pride creates a filter. Even when faced with evidence, the intellectually proud mind will twist itself into pretzels to find a "rational" explanation, because acknowledging the supernatural would mean dethroning human reason. Think of the Pharisees who saw Jesus perform undeniable miracles of deliverance and, rather than accept the divine source, attributed it to Beelzebul, the prince of demons Matthew 12:24. Their pride blinded them to the obvious truth.

Another root is Fear. Honestly acknowledging the reality of demons is terrifying. It means acknowledging that there is an active, intelligent, malevolent force that hates God and hates those made in His image. It means recognizing that evil is not just an abstract concept or a human failing, but a personal entity. It's far more comfortable to believe that the "devil" is just a metaphor for our inner struggles, or that demonic possession only happens in horror movies or far-off lands. If we admit demons are real, we have to admit we are vulnerable, that we are in a war. Disbelief, in this sense, is a psychological defense mechanism against a reality that feels too overwhelming. We'd rather feel safe in our ignorance than face the potential terror of the unseen battle.

A third root, especially within the church, is Bad Theology or Experience. Perhaps someone grew up in a church that went to extremes, seeing a demon behind every bush and engaging in bizarre, unbiblical practices. The reaction against this extreme can lead to the opposite extreme: denying the reality altogether. Or perhaps someone did try to engage in spiritual warfare based on bad teaching and felt defeated or foolish, leading them to conclude it wasn't real. There's also a strand of theology cessationism that teaches such things ceased with the apostles. While well-intentioned, this view requires ignoring vast portions of Scripture and 2,000 years of church history. Disbelief can sometimes be a reaction to imbalance or genuine hurt.

Whatever the root, this fortress of disbelief is strong. The person inside feels safe, rational, and superior to those "superstitious" folks. They might even mockingly challenge the darkness, daring it to show itself, confident that nothing will happen. They poke the bear, unaware that the bear is real, and it is listening. This sets the stage for the moment the fortress walls are not just breached, but obliterated.

Number 2: The Unseen Reality - What the Bible Says About the Darkness

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While the skeptic rests in their disbelief, the Bible paints a consistent and sobering picture of the spiritual realm. It affirms that God created everything, including the angelic beings. It also records the rebellion of a high-ranking angel, Lucifer Satan, who, consumed by pride, sought to usurp God's throne Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28. He drew a significant number of other angels with him in his fall Revelation 12:4 suggests perhaps a third. These fallen angels are what the Bible refers to as demons or evil spirits.

Their nature is inherently evil and opposed to God. They are not misguided or misunderstood; they are malevolent entities whose entire purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy John 10:10. They actively work against God's purposes and seek to deceive, tempt, oppress, and, in some cases, possess human beings. They are intelligent and organized. Paul doesn't just speak of random spirits; he speaks of "rulers," "authorities," and "powers" Ephesians 6:12, indicating a hierarchy and structure within the kingdom of darkness. They have strategies "the devil's schemes" - Ephesians 6:11 and they study human weaknesses to exploit them.

They have real power, but it is limited and ultimately defeated. Satan is called the "god of this age" 2 Corinthians 4:4, indicating a temporary, usurped influence over the world's systems. Demons can influence thoughts Acts 5:3 - Satan filling Ananias's heart to lie, inflict physical ailments Luke 13:11, 16 - the woman crippled by a spirit, and exert control over individuals Mark 5 - the Gadarene demoniac. However, their power is nothing compared to God's power. They were decisively defeated and disarmed at the cross Colossians 2:15. Their ultimate doom is sealed Revelation 20:10. They operate now as defeated rebels, knowing their time is short Revelation 12:12.

Crucially, they operate primarily through deception. Satan is the "father of lies" John 8:44. Demonic influence often manifests not as spinning heads, but as subtle lies whispered into the mind: lies about God's character "He doesn't love you", lies about identity "You are worthless", lies that foster unforgiveness, bitterness, addiction, and division. They gain access, or "footholds" Ephesians 4:27, through unrepented sin, unforgiveness, involvement in the occult, generational patterns, or sometimes through severe trauma. They look for "open doors" to establish strongholds.

This is the reality operating beneath the surface of our physical world. It's not myth. It's not metaphor. According to the Bible, it is a factual description of the cosmic conflict we are born into. The skeptic dismisses this unseen reality, believing their five senses tell the whole story. But the Bible warns that there is more going on than meets the eye. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week. This unseen reality, though invisible to the skeptic, is constantly active, waiting for moments of vulnerability or invitation.

Number 3: The Invitation or the Intrusion - When Worlds Collide

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How does the moment of confrontation happen? How does the skeptic's disbelief collide with the unseen reality? Sometimes, it's an invitation – a foolish, arrogant, or naive step into territory that belongs to the enemy. Other times, it's an intrusion – the darkness forcefully manifesting in their presence, uninvited and undeniable.

Consider the invitation. This often happens through dabbling in the occult, even "innocently" or out of skeptical curiosity. The Bible strictly forbids practices like divination, sorcery, consulting mediums, or spiritism Deuteronomy 18:10-12. Why? Because these are not harmless games; they are literal invitations for demonic spirits to interact with the human realm. A skeptic might use a Ouija board at a party "for laughs," convinced it's just subconscious movements. They might visit a psychic "just for fun," believing it's all cold reading. They might mockingly recite an incantation they found online. In their disbelief, they are treating spiritual landmines like toys. They are knocking on a door they don't believe exists, unaware that something on the other side can answer. This naive invitation, born of skepticism, can be the very opening the enemy needs to provide a terrifying "proof of life."

Then there is the intrusion. This is when the demonic manifests without an explicit invitation from the skeptic, often through a third party or a specific location. Imagine the skeptic accompanying a friend to a prayer meeting where someone manifests a demonic spirit. Their rational mind tries to explain it away "epilepsy," "hysteria," "acting", but the spiritual reality in the room – the palpable evil, the supernatural strength, the voice changing, the spirit reacting violently to the name of Jesus – bypasses their intellect and hits their spirit directly. It's something so viscerally real and other that their explanations crumble.

Perhaps the skeptic is visiting a place with a dark spiritual history, or a home where occultic practices have occurred. They might experience phenomena that defy natural explanation – objects moving, oppressive atmospheres, disembodied voices, terrifying apparitions. Their senses, the very things they relied on to disprove the supernatural, now become the undeniable witnesses to it. The intrusion forces the reality upon them.

A powerful biblical parallel is the story of Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8. Simon was a man who dabbled in dark arts "practiced sorcery" and amazed people. He saw the genuine power of the Holy Spirit through Philip and even "believed and was baptized." But his heart wasn't right. When Peter and John arrived, Simon saw the Spirit given through the laying on of hands and tried to buy this power. Peter's rebuke was instant and severe: "May your money perish with you... Your heart is not right before God... Repent... for I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." Simon had encountered the true power, but his old ways invitation still held him captive. His belief was superficial until confronted with the genuine authority of the apostles intrusion. The collision

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revealed the darkness still clinging to him. The skeptic's moment often mirrors this – a collision that forces the hidden reality into the light.

Number 4: Hell Answers Back - The Undeniable Manifestation

This is the moment the message title describes. This is the point of no return. The invitation has been made, or the intrusion has occurred, and the darkness responds. What does it look like when "hell answers back"? It's crucial to understand that it's rarely like the movies. However, the common factor is that it is undeniable and supernatural, shattering the skeptic's naturalistic worldview.

It might be Auditory. The skeptic using the Ouija board suddenly hears a voice, not from the board, but in the room, or even in their head, speaking things it couldn't possibly know, filled with malevolence. It's a voice that isn't just external sound waves but carries a spiritual weight and presence that chills them to the bone.

It might be Visual. An apparition, a shadow figure, objects moving inexplicably. Not just a "creak" in the house, but something blatant and clearly intelligent. The skeptic tries to debunk it, checking for wires or wind, but finds nothing. The event defies physics and logic, leaving only a supernatural explanation.

It might be Physical. An unseen force pushing, choking, or holding them down often described as sleep paralysis, but sometimes occurring while wide awake. A sudden, inexplicable pain or illness coinciding with dabbling in the occult or being cursed. Supernatural strength or contortions witnessed in another person manifesting a demon. In the Gospels, the demoniacs often had supernatural strength breaking chains - Mark 5:4 or were thrown violently to the ground Mark 9:20. The physical manifestation bypasses intellectual arguments.

It might be Mental/Emotional. A sudden, overwhelming onslaught of oppressive, terrifying, or blasphemous thoughts that feel alien, intrusive, and relentless. A crushing sense of dread, paranoia, or hopelessness that descends with no natural cause, often after opening a spiritual door. It's not just a bad mood; it's a spiritual atmosphere clinging to them. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week.

Crucially, in many cases, especially when the Name of Jesus is invoked, the response is Violent Reaction. The skeptic, witnessing a deliverance prayer, sees the person react with rage, blasphemy, or physical contortions specifically when the name of Jesus is spoken or the Word of God is read. The spirit within the person recognizes and hates the authority. This is often the most convincing proof for the skeptic – why would a "psychological issue" react so specifically and

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violently to a religious name or book unless there was a spiritual entity involved that recognized its enemy?

The "answer" from hell is designed to do one thing: instill terror. It's a raw display of malevolent power meant to shock the skeptic out of their complacent disbelief and into a state of fear. The enemy, in a twisted way, provides the very "proof" the skeptic was mockingly asking for, but in a way they never expected and certainly didn't want. The fortress of disbelief is shattered, not by a logical argument, but by a cannonball of supernatural reality.

Number 5: The Shattering - When the Floor Disappears

The aftermath of hell answering back is often a period of profound crisis for the former skeptic. Their entire understanding of reality has been irrevocably broken. The floor they were standing on, built with the bricks of rationalism and materialism, has just disappeared. They are in freefall, and it is terrifying.

The first stage is often Intense Fear and Confusion. The neat categories they used to organize the world no longer work. If this is real, what else is real? The sense of safety and predictability is gone. They may experience paranoia, anxiety attacks, or an overwhelming sense of dread, feeling watched or targeted. The encounter replays in their mind, defying any lingering attempts to rationalize it away. They are forced to confront the fact that they were profoundly wrong about the nature of reality.

This leads to an Existential Crisis. If there is a demonic realm, does that mean there is a divine realm? If there is a Satan, does that mean there is a God? If hell is real, is heaven real? The encounter forces the "big questions" they may have comfortably ignored for years. Their disbelief, which felt like intellectual sophistication, is now exposed as naive blindness. This can be deeply humbling and disorienting. They may feel ashamed of their previous arrogance or terrified of the implications of this new reality.

There's also often a sense of Vulnerability and Defilement. Especially if the encounter was personal physical attack, intrusive thoughts, they may feel spiritually "dirty" or violated. They realize they opened a door or were exposed to something profoundly evil, and they feel its lingering effects. This can lead to a desperate search for cleansing or protection, often without knowing where to turn.

This shattering, while terrifying, is also a moment of Profound Opportunity. It's the moment the "hard ground" of their heart has been broken up, making it receptive to the seed of truth. The very terror that the enemy intended to use to paralyze them can become the catalyst that drives them to

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seek the only power strong enough to overcome the darkness they just encountered. The encounter proves the darkness is real, which paradoxically opens the door to believing the Light is real too. The shattering is not the end; it is the necessary precursor to rebuilding on a new, true foundation.

Number 6: The Only Answer - The Authority of Jesus Christ

In the midst of the fear and confusion following the encounter, the person inevitably asks: "What now? How do I fight this? How do I get free?" The encounter proved the reality of the demonic, but it offered no solution. This is where the Gospel becomes not just "good news," but life-saving, emergency-room news. The only answer, the only defense, and the only power greater than the darkness they just witnessed is the authority of Jesus Christ.

This is why Jesus's ministry was so crucial. He didn't just teach about God; He demonstrated God's power over the demonic. Time and again, demons recognized Him and were terrified.

"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Mark 1:24

The demons begged Him not to torture them or send them out of the region Mark 5:7, 10. They acknowledged His supreme authority.

This authority was not just His own; He delegated it to His followers. "He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons..." Luke 9:1. And He promised, "In my name they will drive out demons..." Mark 16:17. The Name of Jesus is not a magic word; it is the invocation of the supreme authority in the universe. At His name, every knee must bow, including those "under the earth" Philippians 2:10.

For the person shattered by a demonic encounter, this is the lifeline. The solution is not to learn "better magic" or find a "stronger psychic." The solution is to run to the One who has already defeated the enemy.

Repentance: Acknowledging their disbelief, pride, or any specific sin like dabbling in the occult that opened the door. Turning away from that and turning towards God.

Faith in Jesus: Believing that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for their sins, and that He rose again, conquering Satan, sin, and death. Placing their life under His Lordship.

Using the Authority: Learning to stand against the darkness in the Name of Jesus. This involves prayer, renouncing any ties to the occult, commanding spirits to leave in Jesus's name, and filling their life with God's truth.

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Community: Connecting with a strong, Bible-believing church where they can be disciplined, prayed for, and protected within the Body of Christ.

The encounter with hell drives them to the foot of the cross, the place where hell was defeated. The terror they felt becomes the fuel for their desperate reach towards the Savior. They didn't believe until hell answered back, but that answer, paradoxically, points them to the only One who has silenced hell forever.

Number 7: Living in the Light - From Skeptic to Soldier

The journey doesn't end when the initial fear subsides or the demonic manifestation ceases. The encounter fundamentally changes the person's life and trajectory. They move from being a blind skeptic to being an aware participant in the spiritual war. Their faith is often not a gentle, intellectual assent; it's a gritty, experiential, "foxhole" faith born out of a direct confrontation with the enemy.

This transformation often leads to several key shifts:

A New Respect for Spiritual Reality: They no longer treat the spiritual realm lightly. They understand the reality of temptation, the danger of sin, and the importance of spiritual protection. Prayer, the Bible, and church fellowship become lifelines, not just religious routines.

A Passion for Truth: Having been deceived by their own rationalism, they often develop a deep hunger for God's Word as the ultimate source of truth. They devour Scripture, seeking to understand the spiritual principles they previously ignored.

Compassion for Others in Bondage: Having experienced the terror of demonic influence firsthand, they often develop a profound compassion for others who are oppressed or deceived. They may become passionate intercessors or even get involved in deliverance ministry under proper guidance and authority, wanting to help others find the freedom they found.

Boldness in Testimony: Their story becomes a powerful testimony. They are living proof that the spiritual realm is real, that the devil is active, but that Jesus Christ has ultimate power and authority. They are unafraid to share their experience, warning others about the dangers of disbelief and pointing them to the safety found only in Christ.

The encounter that began as a terrifying answer from hell becomes, through the redemptive power of God, a catalyst for a life lived fully for the Kingdom of Light. The skeptic, once blind, now sees. The mocker becomes a warrior. The one who didn't believe now stands as a witness, forever changed by the moment hell answered back, and forever grateful for the Savior who answered

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Conclusion

We live in an age of skepticism. The pressure to dismiss the supernatural, to explain away the spiritual, is immense. Many build fortresses of disbelief, feeling safe and rational within their walls, sometimes even mocking the unseen.

But we have explored the biblical truth that the unseen realm is real. Demons are not myths; they are fallen entities actively opposing God. And sometimes, whether through a foolish invitation or a terrifying intrusion, the walls of disbelief are shattered. Hell answers back. The manifestation is undeniable, leaving the skeptic terrified and their worldview in ruins.

This shattering, however, is not the end. It is the crisis that reveals the only true answer: the absolute authority and power found in the Name of Jesus Christ. The One who defeated Satan at the cross is the only refuge from the darkness the skeptic now knows is real.

This encounter transforms the skeptic into a soldier, aware of the battle, armed with truth, and passionate about the freedom found in Christ. They didn't believe until hell answered back. But that terrifying answer ultimately led them to the One whose voice silences hell forever. May we never treat the spiritual realm lightly, but walk humbly, armed with God's Word, and anchored in the unshakeable victory of Jesus Christ.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's Word.