

RUSSELL SANDERS
THE POWER FROM FASTING AND PRAYER
PART 8
THE BENEFITS – LESSON 6

The sixth listed benefit from Lesson 1 ([click here to read](#)) that some people may gain from prayer and fasting is the power (ability) to discern demon spirits by their names or characteristics.

To cast out the strongest of demons, it is beneficial, or perhaps necessary, to know the name of the demons. This could probably weaken the demon by exposing its name. They much prefer to remain hidden or unknown. This usually happens one of two ways:

The first way is to command the demon in the name of Jesus to identify itself by name or get it to offer its name. This is shown in scripture (Luke 8:26-33) when Jesus was in the Gadarenes and encountered a demon-possessed man. He was wild, even breaking restraining chains. The demons immediately recognized who Jesus was. (vs. 28.) In commanding the demons to come out Jesus asked them in verse 30, ***“What is thy name?”*** ***They*** replied “Legion” because there were so many of them. They identified themselves together as a ***“legion.”*** (Mark 5:9.) Then Jesus cast them out. How many there were, we do not know, but there were enough that at least one or more entered each of about 2,000 swine. (Mark 5:13.)

The second way to identify a demon by name is for the Holy Spirit to identify the spirit’s name by discerning of spirits. We see this in Acts 16:16-18. A certain demon-possessed damsel followed Paul and his companions. The spirit in her knew who they were. These spirits spoke through her and said that Paul and Silas were men of the most-high God. (Acts 16:17.) This went on day after day until Paul, having received of the Holy Spirit that she was operating under a spirit of divination which is called Python (Greek: Puthon) cast the spirit out of her. (Note: Python is one of the strongest of all demons.)

As a side note, we will discuss the authority of the believer tomorrow. Do not attempt to cast out a demon without knowing your authority through the name of Jesus.