

# Luke 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

## Analysis

**Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself.** The returning demon, finding the house empty despite being clean, recruits reinforcements—"seven other spirits" (ἐπτὰ ἔτερα πνεύματα, hepta hetera pneumata), a number suggesting completeness or fullness. These are "more wicked than himself" (πονηρότερα ἐαυτοῦ, ponēroterā heautou)—escalating malevolence and destructive power. The collective invasion represents intensified spiritual bondage.

**And they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.** The multiple demons "enter in, and dwell there" (εἰσελθόντα κατοικεῖ ἐκεῖ, eiselthonta katoikei ekei)—permanent residence, not temporary visit. The conclusion is devastating: "the last state of that man is worse than the first" (γίνεται τὰ ἔσχατα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκείνου χείρονα τῶν πρώτων, ginetai ta eschata tou anthrōpou ekeinou cheirona tōn prōtōn). Seven demons are exponentially worse than one. This warns that religious reformation without genuine conversion can lead to greater hardness and deeper bondage. The person who tastes deliverance but fails to commit fully to Christ becomes more resistant to truth, more entrenched in sin, and more vulnerable to deception. Hebrews 6:4-6 and 2 Peter 2:20-22 describe similar danger.

## Historical Context

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This warning applied prophetically to Israel, which had experienced God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage and received the Law, yet repeatedly fell into idolatry and rebellion. By Jesus' day, Israel had been 'swept clean' of overt idolatry (the exile cured that) but was filled with dead religion and hypocrisy. Their rejection of Messiah would lead to far worse judgment—the 70 AD destruction exceeded previous calamities. The principle extends to any individual or nation that experiences God's grace but refuses full surrender, resulting in greater hardness and judgment.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the escalation from one demon to eight demonstrate the progressive nature of spiritual bondage when grace is resisted?
2. What does this passage teach about the necessity of not only turning from sin but turning to Christ in saving faith?
3. In what ways might someone experience initial spiritual 'deliverance' through religion or morality but end up in worse spiritual condition by never truly coming to Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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τότε πορεύεται καὶ παραλαμβάνει ἐπτά ἔτερα  
Then goeth he and taketh to him seven other  
G5119 G4198 G2532 G3880 G2033 G2087

πνεύματα πονηρότερα ἐαυτοῦ καὶ εἰσελθόντα κατοικεῖ  
spirits G4190 than himself and they enter in and dwell  
G4151 G1438 G2532 G1525 G2730

ἐκεῖ· καὶ γίνεται τὰ ἔσχατα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκείνου  
there and is the last G3588 man state of that  
G1563 G2532 G1096 G2078 G444 G1565

χείρονα τῶν πρώτων  
worse G3588 than the first  
G5501 G4413

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 12:45** (Spirit): Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

**John 5:14** (Parallel theme): Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

**1 John 5:16** (Parallel theme): If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

**Zephaniah 1:6** (Parallel theme): And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.