1. Where do they stay?
2. Their purpose
3. Whose home is our heart?
4. They know they are already condemned
5. They are chained

 1. What do we know about demons? What do we have to know? This is obviously not my primal concern as we have to place our sight in the One who overcame the devil and all the demons, but we obviously should have some knowledge about the topic so that we can know who are we dealing with. The first thing is that if we don’t know God and we are not born again and we don’t have a relationship with Him, it is pointless to think that we can withstand any demonic force or attack, or we can outsmart it and not fall into its deceit and trickery.

 Because when we are under its attack, we have to know that the one who can overcome it and give us the necessary wisdom for not falling into deceit, is God in us. No one ever can overcome the devil by himself as here we are speaking for a spiritual and supernatural creature with much more experience and power than us. So what we need to focus first is on God, to know Him and to have a relationship with Him.

 But for those who already walk in Him, there are few things that we can discover in some of the verses on which we will comment bellow. This is obviously just a part of what can be known on the topic as “we know in part” (1 Corinthians 13:9).

 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:10-13

 Just check of what importance is to be strong in the Lord and put the whole armor so that we can be able to withstand in the evil day and against the wiles of the devil. It is because all the answers are found in the Lord, not in our own might or strength.

 We can see in these verses that our battle is not against blood or flesh (meaning not against persons for example), but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. These description points out to the devil and his demons. They are found in heavenly places. We know that there is a heaven, the one that we see every day and this takes our heaven and the stars above it. Then there is the third heaven for which apostle Paul writes about in 2 Corinthians 12:2. That is the place where God is. Paul refers of it as a Paradise. So we can conclude that the demons live in the other one, in the kind of dimension that can be also called “second heaven”. This terminology is not found exactly in the Bible, but as the phrase “third heaven” is found, and we also have a heaven that we see daily in front of us and that’s the first heaven, we can conclude that here in this verse by speaking about heavenly places, we assume that it refers to “second heaven”. This is also what some people state.

 We are speaking about spiritual creatures that we can not see and surprisingly for some of us they are involved in many things surrounding our daily life. It is naive to think that demons are only being manifested in a visible manner as some movies and stories describe it. The Bible tells us in 1 John 5:19 that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (the devil). This obviously mustn’t scare us, because if we have Jesus in our life, we have also His protection.

 2. Even being new born believers however, we can still fall into his snares. That’s why we are being exhorted in the verse above to be well prepared. They (demons) are involved in many things and mainly are having to do with a deceit, with a scam whose purpose is to lead us astray from the truth found in the gospel and Jesus Christ. Why? Because this is the way they are being defeated. All the other wrong images or ideas we’ve got for them as well as purposes of their manifestations are produced by them, so that we can have also the wrong idea about them.

 They (demons) are involved in many things and mainly are having to do with a deceit, with a scam whose purpose is to lead us astray from the truth found in the gospel and Jesus Christ.

 They want us to think what they would like for them so that we can have the wrong idea. They can take different forms and present themselves as something they are not, even as something apparently good and angels of light as the scripture tells us.

 “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” 2 Corinthians 11:14

 This is however not their true image, speaking about any of these images, being an angel of light or just an idea or something else supernatural as ghosts and many other manifestations that we hear about daily. They have this ability to take different forms and to show what is actually not true as they are led by the father of all lies which is the devil. When we are dealing with them, we are actually dealing with the devil as they are together and they are led by him and have the same fate as him.

 “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **whose minds the god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” 2 Corinthians 4:3,4

 Here from this verse we see which is the purpose of the devil and this is to keep man blind to the truth. We need also to see which is the purpose of the gospel. Its purpose is to open man’s eyes to the reality, and that is that life doesn’t end up here in earth, it doesn’t consist if what we only see here, but it keeps on for eternity and while here we need to get ready for that. Many people already don’t believe in that as they are so used to the present reality they live in. The devil just confirms their illusion by letting them live well and in comfort, telling them that they are right and that need to focus as much as they can on the goal to achieve this. If we see, life in these last years has become a lot more easier and comfortable. It is not always wrong and as bad to live well obviously, but this is not the only thing important in this life. What God offers us, is way more important. To get people conform with the idea to feel comfortable and to think about this life only is letting their mind away from the thought of eternity. People think that this life is good and there is nothing else to worry about. If they have to worry for something, that is to make their life better now. We live in time of consumerism where we have all in abundance. The devil mustn’t deceive most of them as they already have their convictions of how they see life.

 So we see that our mind and heart are also deceitful. We need the light of the gospel, so that we can see clearly the truth. God needs to intervene. This is the miracle of the gospel and that’s why is been proclaimed, so that more persons can know the truth and the truth is that this life ends up with all its privileges and comforts and after it is an eternity awaiting for us and depends on how we have accepted the truth and the Son of God. It depends on this for how we are going to spend eternity.

 As we said before, the main work of the devil and its demons is to blind man from the truth. Some people might think that demons have some other purpose, but their main one is this – to avoid that more people can hear the gospel and have an opportunity to get saved by God. They can be in that person that tells you to hurry up while you probably stopped by to listen to someone shearing the good news of the gospel with you, or they can be in the person that comes in between your conversation about Jesus and the salvation with someone and changes the topic. You share the good news with someone and then all of a sudden another person comes in between or the phone rings. Why? Is this by chance? Sometimes it might be and I thought it was, but when it kept on happening, I understood that there was something more into it and that was the influence of the devil who governs in the hearts of the sons of disobedience, in those who don’t know God. This is how they are called according to the Bible.

 “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,” Ephesians 2:2

 The people being used in these situations are obviously not doing this on purpose and they are not to be blamed exactly for that as they are not doing it with purpose. They are just being influenced by these forces and it doesn’t mean either that they are completely possessed. It is just that the devil can influence their minds. As well as he can say things and influence the minds of believers. It is just that if the believers are spiritually prepared and awaken, they will know that this is from the devil. The devil takes a lot more territory as we normally think and he influences a lot more. Who is stronger than him is only God and Jesus Christ, but for the rest he beats everyone. We can also overcome him, but only with the help of God. The devil is not only manifested in those obvious possessions and manifestations that we see with our eyes. The good news is that he is already defeated. He is already condemned. He knows this and he wants to take more people possible with him.

 Evil spirits can also speak through persons and say things with the main reason to lead people astray from the truth. Again we are not speaking about obvious demon possession, but one that is rather deceitful. This is how he works the most of the time – through deceit, in a way to let us think something else instead of what really it is. And most of the times is for leading us astray from knowing and following Jesus. There are also possessions that are so obvious same as those ones that Jesus was dealing with as recorded in the gospels and there we see a clear demon possession, but this is a different situation with a different purpose. When instead we talk about someone being used to launch a deceitful and negative messages about the gospel, we are speaking about a situation in which the person doing that, doesn’t do it on purpose most of the times, but he just says things or phrases that can impact negatively certain persons without realizing it.

 This can happen to anyone and even Christians and godly people can be led to do or say things influenced by other spiritual powers and not from God. Obviously this can’t happen as often as it could to another person as Christians guard their mouths in what they say and are also being careful about what they do.

 “Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the doors of my lips.” Psalm 141:3

 The Bible says as well that our wisdom can be demonic.

 “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This **wisdom** does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, **demonic**.” James 3:14,15

 Speaking about wisdom in this verse, it speaks also about our thoughts and our mind. Somehow we (our mind) collaborates with these evil spiritual forces. We choose sin, we choose the evil and once we choose it, we open the door for these forces to take possession. The Bible compares our heart to a house.

 3. The house can be clean and Jesus can be living in it and also can be a place of dwelling of these evil spirits.

 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, ‘I will return to my **house** from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put on order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.” Matthew 12:43-45

 We can see here this verse speaking about a spirit that goes out of a man and referring of a man as a dwelling place, as a house. It speaks about our being, about our heart. The way to chase these spirits away is by the help of Jesus. Many times it is not a question of asking Him to chase them away from us (even if this might be asked sometimes and is correct), but of asking Him to come in us. To invite Him in our home which is our heart. I remember asking Him sincerely for forgiveness one day, after which He came to live in me. When He comes in, He cleanses everything. We need to keep our heart clean by letting Him always in. Obviously once that He came the first time, He already acknowledges this house as His home. Once that He dwells in, the evil spirits automatically go away as they can not dwell in the same place with Him. Darkness is having nothing in common with light. They are out now, but still wait and want to come in. As they see that He is away, they will profit and will want to come again. There are two possibilities – or Jesus is out knocking on the door or the sin is out and wants to come in. Yes, for those who have already let Jesus in, is easier to hear His voice being out of the door and wanting to come in. Then they don’t think twice, they don’t hesitate and let Him in as they love Him and His presence, as they know that there is nothing better. They also need to be careful however as this parable tells us that if the house is empty the evil sprits can come to dwell in again and it will be worse. To me this means that the house is been empty for some time already and this person had let deliberately these spirits and the sin to come in. These next verses speak about Jesus being out and knocking on the door.

 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelations 3:20

 “I sleep, but my heart is awake; it is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, “Open for me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is covered with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.” Song of Solomon 5:2

 We know that these verses are directed to a church in general, in the first case and in the second referring to it as the spouse, speaking about the love between the bride and the bridegroom. The bridegroom is Jesus and we are the bride. But these verses speak also personally to us as individuals as we can also have a personal relationship with Him.

 The next one instead speak about the sin being out and wanting and waiting to take a possession.

 “So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin lies at the door**. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” Genesis 4:6,7

 We can see here the Lord warning Cain about what can happen if he is not careful for the sin lying on the door. He told him that he should rule over it. We can do this only by the help of God. In the following verses of this chapter we can sadly see that he let the sin in and killed his brother Abel. Somehow we collaborate with this sin, with these evil spirits and this influences our life. It takes control over us. It is like the devil gives us the idea of what we can do, but we perform the action at the end, we take the step.

 Notice that it is us that somehow participate in this, that we open the door to this sin, to these demons, meaning that we can not blame them for all our troubles and problems we create ourselves. The responsibility is ours. God will demand this from us.

 The godly people in general guard themselves and don’t fall into Satan’s deceit. That’s why the Bible exhort us to watch and be ready. This is also what is written in Ephesians 6. In the same chapter are also mentioned these evil powers we battle with. It tells us that we need to resist in the evil day by getting the armor of God, by getting prepared. And how is this done? By persevering in prayer, by reading His word.

 “Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, **being watchful to this end** with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” Ephesians 6:10-17

 4. There is also another verse that speaks about these spiritual creatures. We have to know that previously all of these creatures were in the service of God as angels. That’s why they still have certain supernatural powers today. But when one day Satan fell off, they followed him and they also got his fate by following him. They know they are already condemned together with Satan for this. We know that a sentence was pronounced against Satan and one of this is the one he received in the garden of Eden when he was in the form of serpent. God told him:

“So the Lord God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head , and you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:14,15

 This is what He said to the serpent and we know that He was referring to the devil. He said that there was going to be an enmity between the serpent and the seed of the woman. This refers to Jesus that one day was going to be born as a man, being in this way a seed from the woman. He was going to bruise the head of the serpent. This is like a sentence pronounced already against the devil, saying what was going to happen, that he was going to be destroyed by Jesus. This is one of the reasons why he came – to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

 And not only Jesus, but even we (as we are obviously also a seed of the woman) are going to bruise his head, but only with the help of Jesus, only with Him living in us, because as we said, the devil is having much more strength and experience from us. But Jesus came to destroy his works and He can make us complete, I mean that with Him we are complete human beings, the ones that we were supposed to be and in this way we can withstand the devil. We are meant to have a relationship with God.

 In a way we are executing a judgement upon the devil while we live and accept Jesus and we fight with His strength in us. Why? Why do we need to face the devil here in this life? Because this is how it is supposed to be. This is the right way. The way that God has chosen to judge him before condemning him at the end of the times. With another word we are not supposed to be his victims, but to overcome him through the blood of Jesus. In a way he will be defeated by those whom he deceived. By those fighting with the strength of Jesus who withstood him, when tempted while being in a human form. Jesus is the pioneer of our faith. He is the author and the finisher of it. He can do it and we can do it **with Him living in us**, as this is the only way. This is a part of devil’s judgement. In the book of Revelations it also states that at the end he will be thrown into the lake of fire.

 5. Here are some other verses:

 “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into **chains of darkness**, to be reserved for judgement.” 2 Peter 2:4

 “And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in **everlasting chains under darkness** for the judgement of the great day;” Jude 1:6

 We see in these two verses speaking about these angels that got condemned, that were sentenced for the judgment one day. It means that they are waiting now. But where are they now? Where are they awaiting for this sentence? To me it speaks about these demons, about these powers and authorities in heavenly places. These verses mention as well that they have been chained into chains of darkness. It looks like they are chained in hell, but they are still having power to come and torment us here. Why? Because the final and ultimate judgement hasn’t come to them already, but when this sentence was pronounced, they became like chained in the darkness which is hell, meaning that they already belong there and because this is already pronounced and decided, it is a done deal. It is not in this way with us for example. Even if we know that some of us human beings will go to hell, non of us is already chained, because there is not sentence pronounced already for us about this. There will be a sentence if we are not with Christ, but this “if” means that we are still having an opportunity. We are being warned what could happen if we don’t follow the Lord and that we could go to that place, but we are in time of grace, meaning that we still have this opportunity for **some time**. This is what I think at least.

 I imagine however that this chain with which they are chained is a long chain that reaches down to the hell, but in the same time they can come up here where we stay, but still with this chain on them. This is obviously figuratively described as a chain, as we are speaking about something spiritual here that is holding them to the hell, that is tying them to it. It is like they are chained to hell, but they still can come up here to us and live in these heavenly places. The chain that they are chained with, is spiritual and it just defines that they belong to hell as this was decided already for them and it is a question of time that they will definitely end up in hell and that’s why this is like a sentence pronounced for them. It is like those prisoners that are chained to their cells and move only to certain extend or even if it is long they can walk around, but they know that they belong there. This also explains the smell of sulfur they bring with them sometime according to certain tales we hear about this. According to some people who have had close experiences with certain demons, they could feel the smell of sulfur. We know that this is what is found in hell and it means that they bring that smell from there. This however doesn’t mean that is something that always happens, because as we said the main purpose of these creatures is to deceive us and they will mainly want to attack and cloud our mind and will use any possible and different way for that purpose.