

The Importance of Deliverance

Ephesians 5:25-27

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

In Mark 16:17 Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out demons." **He is talking to those of us that "believe," those of us who are saved.** Jesus said we would “cast out demons.” The power to break the strongholds of evil is available to us. But if we are going to go forth in His name, with His authority, to set His people free, we must first be free ourselves.

The devil wants us bound. He does not want us free, and he does not want us to set anyone else free.

I believe in living in victory. In fact, I believe in living in victory every minute. We are not called to be discouraged, dismayed, nor defeated. **We are called to be overcomers!** In fact, Romans 8:37 reminds us, “...we are more than conquerors through (Christ) Who loves us.”

As we have already seen, to live the victorious Christian life, **you have to enter the fight.**

For the church of Jesus Christ to leave its mark on our society, we must go into the battle. God is calling the body of Christ to rise far above the status quo of "**church as normal.**"

The process of expelling demons is called “deliverance.” “**Deliverance**” is not a “**panacea**” - a cure all. Yet it is an important part of what God is doing in relationship to the current revival in the church. **Some expect too much from deliverance and others expect**

too little. We honestly need to find out what part *deliverance* can play in each of *our own lives* and *receive whatever benefit it offers.*

In spite of what we are hearing today about the lack of commitment, I am amazed at the Christians who are reaching out to God, and want to continue in spiritual growth, and realize that every hindrance to spiritual development must be eliminated. It seems that for every Christian that *falls victim to the devices of Satan*, there are others that are willing to **"take up the slack"** and go on with God.

In Ephesians 5:25-27, we are told that the Church is the bride of Christ, and Christ is coming for His bride. The Scripture declares that His bride must be cleansed, "That He (Christ) might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

I believe that deliverance is an essential part of the preparation of the bride of Christ - getting rid of "spots" and "wrinkles." Since the church for, which Christ is coming to be **"holy and without blemish,"** we must agree that *unclean spirits* must be *purged* from our lives.

Now, we must be very careful right here because *we are not referring to a "cleansing" that affects our salvation,* because Hebrews 10:14 reminds us that, "by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." And then we have been told in Titus 2:13-14, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous good works." When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we are *cleansed* and *made whole* because of the **"blood of the Lamb"**!

But, that does not release us from the personal responsibility to live godly, as seen in James 1:23-25, "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he sees himself, and goes his way, and immediately forgets what manner of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." And then in 1 John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself even as he is pure." And, then, Titus 2:11-12 says, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age." All of these passages of Scripture emphasize human responsibility!

Demons are enemies of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. It is their desire to keep them from coming forth in the Christian's life and thereby hinder the believer in his daily walk with the Lord. That is why deliverance is a vital part of the Christian life as we seek to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age."

For example, one of the gifts of the Spirit is "faith". The Scripture says in Galatians 3: 11 that "The just shall live by faith." Jesus said in Matthew 21:22, "Whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." So, the Word of God tells us that the normal Christian life is a life of faith!

But, you see, the demons of confusion and doubt or unbelief can block the flow of faith and thereby block the child of God from living a life of faith! Many times the demon of doubt and confusion will rise up where there is confusion concerning some doctrine. Satan will use that confusion to cause you to doubt your walk and relationship with God. And the result of that doubt and confusion is that our faith is attacked. Therefore, the gift of faith cannot come forth in some persons until the hindering spirits to the faith have been dealt with.

Many Christians do not know how demons enter into our thought life and influence our activities. Demons enter through

"open doors." That is, *they have to be given an opportunity*. There must be an opening. In other words, one does not pick up a demon by walking down the street and accidentally bumping into one that is looking for a "home."

The organization of Satan's kingdom enables him to attack each one of us personally. There is not a person on the face of the earth who escapes his notice. He devises a plan to ruin and destroy each one. It is a sobering realization that you and I are definite targets of Satan's wiles (tricks). But how does he gain *entrance*?

Many times Christians are the victims of demonic interference because they have unknowingly been involved in occult practices. It may be something as seemingly harmless as having played with an Ouija board. But such involvement in the *occult*, no matter *whether done out of ignorance or knowingly*, will open the door for demonic oppression and hindrances to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is important to rid oneself of everything that has been invited in through the occult realm. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you and call to your remembrance every door that has been opened by yourself or others through the course of your life.

The fruit of the Spirit is a special target for the enemy. The first and principal fruit is *love*. Love is something to be received as well as to be driven forth. The demon of resentment can defeat love in a person's life. Many persons cannot understand why they are unable to love others, as they ought. Such a problem is a strong indication of the presence of a demon spirit of *resentment* or *unforgiveness*. Resentment usually invites in other demons, such as *bitterness*, *hatred* and *anger*.

A spirit of rejection may also hinder love. This spirit is very common and is often to be found as the "strong" or "ruling" spirit within an individual. *Rejection* has an opportunity to enter when a person is not loved as a child. Parents can easily open the door for the spirit of rejection in their child by failure to give that child proper

love. When **rejection** is strong it keeps the person from receiving the love extended by others. **It also prevents that person from giving love to others**. The **demon of rejection** must be cast out before that person can mature in Christian love.

If Satan can succeed in making the Christian feel a stigma attached to having demons he may prevent that Christian from seeking deliverance. While we cannot put all the blame on Satan and his demons for our problems, we are finding out that we can blame them for much more than we once thought. **In fact, some Christians have not yet learned that demons are responsible for any of their problems**. When we learn that demons do indeed invade our lives then we should be in earnest about getting rid of them.

One of the more obvious ways for demons to enter into our thought process is through the "open door" of some personal sin. An example of this is seen in Acts 5:3 where Ananias and Sapphira sold their property to give to the early church. **But they became covetous and decided to keep part of the money for themselves**. **In order to cover up their act they perpetrated a lie**. But Peter received a supernatural word of knowledge as to what they had done. **Peter asked Ananias why he had opened himself to the devil, "But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" Their sin was not keeping the money – their sin was making a false promise to God!**

Because of their sin, Ananias and Sapphira opened themselves to be filled with spirits of covetousness, lying, and deceit. The same thing can happen to anyone who sins willfully.

Now, once more we must be very careful in our thinking. Galatians 5 gives us a list of seventeen **"works of the flesh,"** and they include the sins of **adultery, fornication, witchcraft, hatred, wrath, strife, envying, murders and drunkenness**. **What does the works of the flesh and the works of demons have to do with each other?** **Simply this, when a man yields to temptation he sins in the flesh**. Through such sins he opens the door for the invasion of the enemy.

Then he has compounded his problems, because now he has to deal with the *FLESH* and the *DEVIL*. And, ladies and gentlemen, sometimes, *forgiveness* alone will not get the job done, there must be *deliverance*.

Therefore, if we are going to live victoriously for the cause of Christ, then we must realize that we are involved in a battle, but the good news is that we are fighting a defeated enemy. Remember, we have this promise in Romans 8:37, “We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Child of God, God never intended for you to live in *defeat*, but as a *Conqueror!*

If you have never been saved, why not today?

Please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true. I confess that, regardless of what Satan is trying to use to cause fear, doubt, and unbelief in my life, I am “*more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me.*” In Jesus name. Amen