

Determining the Need for Deliverance

Ephesians 6:12

“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.” The Greek reads like this, “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”

For the church of Jesus Christ to have an impact upon our society, we must go into the battle against the forces of evil. God is calling the body of Christ to rise far above the status quo of “**church as normal.**” Unfortunately, most of us don’t know the first thing about fighting the kind of war Paul is speaking about in Ephesians 6:10-12, because it is not a battle of “flesh and blood,” but of the spiritual realm.

Far too many believers are so naive they never even realize the actual source of the enemy’s attacks. They blame *circumstances* and *people*. Therefore, they waste their energy fighting *natural conditions* instead of *supernatural causes*.

We have lived so long in a society where wrong has become right and righteous, holy living has become abnormal. All around us, people are *bound* and *powerless* to set themselves free. They do not know who to listen to. They do not know *right* from *wrong*.

Millions are careening helplessly on their way to splitting open the bowels of hell, and they cannot see the danger they are in. The crisis is acute. The danger is imminent! Something must happen in the *heart* and *soul* of not only *America* but in the *heart* and *soul* of the *church*.

What is happening around us? Why all of the *hurt* and *pain*?

Why all of the *failure* and *disappointment*? The answer is simply - *Demon spirits are frenzied and running loose in these last days, and they are out to destroy you, your family, your home and our nation.* And it is time that we understand *where we are* and *what we can do.* Everyone who names the name of Christ must release the power that is resident within us!

Look with me as we determine the need for deliverance from demonic oppression.

The presence and nature of evil spirits can be known by two principle methods: (1) *Discernment.* In 1 Corinthians 12:10 "discerning of spirits" is listed as one of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. The *discerning of spirits* is not just the *discerning of demons*, nor is it the *discerning of just evil spirits.* The "*discerning of spirits*" has to do with the *entire class of spirits, including good spirits, bad spirits, and human spirits.* It is *supernatural insight* into the *realm of spirits.*

And, secondly, *Detection.* *Detection* is simply observing what spirits are doing to a person. We must also be careful right here also. *Detection* must not be based on what we think or feel, but must be based entirely on the Word of God. A great example of this is seen Mark 7:24-30. *A Syrophenician woman came to Jesus with an appeal that He cast an "unclean spirit" out of her daughter.* In Matthew's parallel account the mother says, "My daughter is grievously vexed with a demon." *How did she know this?* She knew it by the *symptoms.* We can learn to detect evil spirits by observing what they are doing to a person. Some of the most common symptoms of indwelling demons show up in the following ways:

1. *Emotional Problems.* Disturbances in the emotions, which persist or recur. Some of the most common disturbances are *resentment, hatred, anger, fear, rejection* (feeling unwanted and unloved), *self-pity, jealousy, depression, worry, inferiority* and *insecurity.*

2. Mental Problems. Although emotional problems and mental problems both have to do with our mind, there is a difference. The reference to mental problems here refers to disturbances in the mind or thought life, such as mental torment, procrastination, indecision, compromise, confusion, doubt, rationalization and loss of memory.

3. Speech Problems. Outbursts or uncontrolled use of the tongue. These include lying, cursing, blasphemy, criticism, mockery, railing (condemnation with harsh and abusive language), and gossip.

4. Sex Problems. This has to do with unclean thoughts regarding sex. These include fantasizing sexual relationships with regards to adultery (someone else's husband or wife) lust, homosexuality, fornication (sexual relationships between singles), and incest.

5. Addictions. The most common addictions are to nicotine, alcohol, drugs, medicines, caffeine and food.

6. Physical Infirmities. Many diseases and physical afflictions are due to spirits of infirmity. To see this, we need only to turn to Luke 13:10-17, "Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound - think of it - for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him." When a demon of

infirmity is cast out there is often a need to pray for a healing of whatever damage has resulted. Therefore, there is a close relationship between deliverance and healing.

7. Religious Error. Involvement to any degree in religious error can open the door for demons. Objects and literature from sources of religious error have been known to attract demons into houses.

(1) **False religions.** Eastern religions, pagan religions, philosophies, and mind sciences.

(2) **Christian Cults.** Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Unity and many more. Such cults deny or confuse the necessity of Christ's blood as the way of atonement for sin and for salvation. Cults also include some lodges, societies and social agencies, which use religion (Scripture and even God) as a foundation, but omit the blood atonement of Jesus Christ. All such cults may be classified as "bloodless religions," "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:5).

(3) **Occult and Spiritism.** These include séances, witchcraft, magic, Ouija boards, fortune telling, horoscopes, astrology, and divination. In fact, Deuteronomy 18:9-15 says that any method of seeking supernatural knowledge, wisdom, guidance and power apart from God is forbidden!

(4) **False Doctrine.** 1 Timothy 4:1 warns of great increase of doctrinal errors promoted by deceiving and seducing spirits in the last days. Such doctrines are designed to attack both the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ (virgin birth); to deny the inspiration of Scripture; to deny the necessity of the blood atonement for salvation; to distract Christians from the move of the Holy Spirit; to cause disunity in the Body of Christ; to cause confusion in the church because of their hold on tradition; to be puffed up because of a spirit of pride.

All of these are areas that Satan will use as "**open doors**" for demonic activity in the lives of mankind, even those of us that are Christians.

Too many of us want to run down to an altar and have some preacher tap us on the head with a little bit of oil, expecting every satanic assault to be stopped for the rest of our lives. It is not going to happen that way!

It is time for every child of God to get committed to the cause of Christ and become vigilant over our own homes and families. Why? Satan hates a godly family because he knows its spiritual strength! If Satan has his way, you will be walking around divorced this time next year. If Satan has his way, he will send you spinning into bankruptcy this time next year.

The devil is causing families to become so caught up with obtaining worldly possessions they no longer have time to pray, read the Bible, or worship together as a family.

Evil forces are attacking the fiancés in many families until the parents are forced to work long hours. There is little time left for parents to spend with their children, or with each other.

But if we are going to be the Church in the Last Days, this is no the time for us to sit back whining and complaining about what Satan is doing to attack and destroy our families and loved ones...it is time to stand up and fight! It is time to realize that God has given us power and authority over the devil and he has no right invading our families!

If you have never been saved, why not today?

Please stand for prayer.

Father Your Word is true! I receive every promise of power and victory that I might stand against the enemy. I confess that I am “more than a conqueror through Christ Who loves me.” In Jesus’ name. Amen.