

## Steps to Deliverance

Luke 4:40-41

“When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup> And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of God!” And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.”

The Greek reads like this, “As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. <sup>41</sup> Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak.”

**I want you to get something settled in your mind this very moment the devil is a liar! He wants you to have a distorted view of God.** We must never allow ourselves to believe anything about God that is different from what the Bible says.

I Peter 5:7 invites us to cast all our cares on God "because He cares for you." **The first thing we need to get settled in our heart today is that God is a good God.** “He cares for you.” Many Christians do not seem to understand this truth. **God is full of blessing, mercy and abundance.** He is the source of **strength, health and vitality.** He brings **prosperity, joy, peace and security.**

James 1:17 continues with this reminder, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." **Ladies and gentlemen, you can always be sure that the good things in your life have come from God.** Not only that, you can always rely on his loving character to remain the same. God will not change, you will not come to Him one day and find Him in a *good mood*, and approach

Him the next day and find Him *angry* and *hostile*. **He is not a God of mercy on Monday and a God of unforgiveness on Tuesday.** He has given us this promise in Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord, I do not change."

**There is one thing that you can always count on – God will always champion the cause of His children.** He will *bare His right arm* to them that *bow the knee to Him*. Like Paul, we, too, *must make up our minds that we're going to stand steadfast, no matter what comes or what goes.*

Secondly, according to 2 Timothy 2:3, we must "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." It's in the hard places of life where we either *overcome* or *fail*.

**What good is it to talk about faith and how much faith you have if you never have a battle?** If you never have a battle, you can never experience a victory!

**Everybody is talking about how to be victorious.** Well, the only way to get to be victorious is to go out and get involved in the *fight* or the *game*. You can talk about your *faith* and thank God for that *but you have to take that faith and get in the faith fight.* **You're the one who has to take the initiative by acting on God's Word.** But, you see, God is the One who is the power behind your actions as you fight the good fight of faith!

**Often in the natural you're responsible for carrying out in your own strength the tasks that you start.** For example, in a game or sport, you take the initiative whenever you're in an offensive position. Then you draw on *your own skills, ability, and training* for the power you need to perform. **In other words, you get out and play ball.** And you're the one who supplies the energy to play and win! But in the *fight of faith*, *all you have to do is supply God with the vessel yourself.* The *strength* and the *power* to *endure adversity* and come out *victoriously* come from on High.

Now I want to focus on two factors that can help us to maintain our strength in the Lord: *faith* and *love*. I stand before you to proclaim that *I want God to do something in me to take tribulation and turn it into triumph* so I can be a witness that "greater is He that is in (me) than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

**Listen to me church, if we do not have something better than the world has, then we have nothing to preach about.** I believe we *do* have something better than the world, and *we should climb to the housetops and shout it aloud*. Listen to me Church - *No power of the enemy can defeat us as we fulfill the words of Jesus as recorded in John 15:7*, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you."

**Remember, the same power that spoke the sun, moon, and stars into existence...**

**The same power that spoke forth the dry land, forests, the mountains, and created the rivers and the oceans...**

**The same power that spoke into creation all the animals, the birds, the fish, and all forms of life...**

**The same power that spoke man into creation from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him...**

**The same power of the Word is in us!** The Word, which in the beginning *was* God; the Word, which *was* and *is* God, the Word which *created all things* became flesh – is *now* the *Living Word* that dwells (taken up residence, lives day-day, and moment-by-moment) within us.

**Faith is vitally important.** Without faith we would never make it anywhere or do anything for God, as seen in Hebrews 11:6 where we have been told "without faith it is impossible to please him (God)..." And in I John 5:4 we have been told, "For whatsoever is born of God

overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith." And then our text reads, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

**Faith is one of our strengths.** But our faith isn't in ourselves. Our faith is in God's mighty power.

Listen to the word of Jesus in John 14:12, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." **Glory to God, I want to see the "greater works"!** I want to see the move of God in my *life*, in my *church* and in my *nation*! I want to see the power of God in demonstration in our *worship services*! I want to see people *get delivered* and *set free* from the power of Satan!

**We're talking more about faith and power today than ever before.** And we say the Church has more *power* than it has ever had. But if this is true, *why aren't the same works Jesus did*, and even greater works, *being done today*?

**I believe it is because we have put too much emphasis on the wrong subject!** We've talked more about what *we* can do and not enough about what *Jesus* can do. We ought to be magnifying and lifting up Jesus like the Word of God says do.

**Love is another one of our strengths.** Child of God, one of the reasons the *power of God is not operating*, as it should in our *lives* and in our *churches* is the fact that we fall short of God's standard in our *love walk*!

**In our last study we looked at some ways to determine the need for deliverance.** As we continue in this study, we are going to look at some *steps to deliverance*. These steps are very simple, yet they are extremely important for us to follow.

**1. Honesty.** In Psalm 32:5, David gives us the example of honesty, "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin." And, then, in Psalm 139:23-24, we have this very familiar Scripture, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." **One must be honest with himself and with God if he expects to receive God's blessing of deliverance. A lack of honesty keeps areas of one's life in darkness. Demon spirits thrive on such darkness.** Honesty helps bring them into the light. Any sin not confessed or repented of gives the demon a "legal right" to remain. Ask God to help you see yourself as He sees you and to bring to light anything that is not of Him.

**2. Humility.** Humility involves recognition that one is dependent on God and His provisions for *deliverance*. James 4:6-7 says this about humility, "God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and, he will flee from you." *Humility* is not something that *God does in your life*; *humility* is an *act of the will* before God.

**3. Repentance.** The word "**repentance**" carries with it the idea of *turning away from something*. But, before there can be a turning away, there must be an agreement, as seen in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess (agree) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." *Repentance*, then, is a *turning away from all that hinders spiritual growth, all which hinders our ministry, and all that hinders our fellowship with the Lord*.

**4. Renunciation.** We must be careful right here, because *repentance* and *renunciation* are very closely related. *Repentance* is the turning away from that which hinders us in our walk with God. *Renunciation* is the *forsaking of that which hinders our walk with God*.

A good example of renunciation is found in Acts 19:18-19, "And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together and burned them before all men; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver." **A good present day example would be this: If a person has repented of fortune telling, they would follow by destroying all of their books that has to do with astrology. If a person has repented of their involvement in a cult religion, then they would follow by destroying all of their books that instruct them in that cult.**

In other words, renunciation means a clean break with Satan and all his works.

**5. Forgiveness.** *Forgiveness* is another area that we need to look at in relationship to our subject matter of *deliverance*. Because of the blood of Jesus Christ, and our faith in Him as our Lord and Savior, we live in a state of forgiveness. We also must realize that we need to constantly be aware of those things in our lives that God considers to be "sin," and "agree" with God about what they really are.

**But, when it comes to deliverance, forgiveness not only involves ourselves, it also involves all others who have ever wronged us in any way.** The *willingness to forgive* is absolutely essential to *deliverance*. As long as you hoard an unforgiving spirit, then you have an "open door" for *demonic activity* in your life.

**6. Prayer.** There is a great truth in Joel 2:32 that says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered." Our greatest weapon in this area of *deliverance* is that of *prayer*: ask God to deliver you and set you free in the name of Jesus.

**7. Warfare.** In our previous studies, we have seen that *prayer* and *warfare* are *two separate and distinct activities*. *Prayer is toward God* and *warfare is toward the enemy*. Remember, Ephesians 6:10-12

reminds us that our warfare is not against “flesh and blood,” but against *demon power as they are directed by Satan*.

Therefore, we are to use the weapons of submission to God, the blood of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and our testimony as a believer. Identify the spirits, address them directly by name in a commanding voice, and in faith command them to go in the name of Jesus.

Enter the battle with determination and assurance of victory. Christ cannot fail! He is the Deliverer, according to Psalm 18:2, “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.”

If you have never been saved, why not today?

**Please stand for prayer.**

Father,

Your Word is true. Give me the courage to stand in power against the schemes of Satan. Help me to embrace the assurance of Your Word that reminds me – I am more than a conqueror through Christ Who loves me. In Jesus name. Amen.