

Steps for Retaining Deliverance

Psalm 27:1-6

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. ³ Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. ⁴ One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. ⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.”

In our study of Deliverance we have seen that demons have to do with the fall of Lucifer. We read in Ezekiel 28:15 that he was perfect until iniquity was found in him. We read in Ezekiel 28:17 that he was lifted up because of his beauty.

We have also seen that in the beginning of time, even before man was made, Satan ruled and had a kingdom. For he said that he would exalt his throne (Isaiah 14:13-14). I believe Satan ruled upon this earth in a pre-Adamic kingdom because when God made man He told him to “Be fruitful and multiply and to replenish the earth” (Genesis 1:28).

In John 12:31 Jesus refers to Satan as “the prince of the world.” **The spirit of the world is a mirror of the devil’s character.** It can be summed up easily; *selfishness, ambition, greed, fear, pride and rebellion.* When you hear people say, “I have a right,” you should know where they are coming from. **They are opposed to God.** Ephesians 2:2 calls Satan “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience.” (Ephesians 5:11 shows us that

disobedience brings *darkness*.) 2 Corinthians 6:14 exclaims, “What communion does light have with darkness?” **None whatsoever!** They are opposites.

The devil is an oppressor. With his chains of *sickness*, *violence* and *depression* he holds people in *bondage*. With his *lies*, *deception* and *addiction* he keeps people in his deadly grip.

John 8:44 calls him “the father of lies.” **Whatever he tells you, the opposite is true.** He will tell you that you are going *bankrupt*, or you are going to get *cancer* and die. He will tell you *your situation is hopeless*, and *God has turned His back on you*. **He sows seeds of fear and apprehension in your life.** He lies about God.

And the thing that we need to understand is that demons have the same character that Satan demonstrates.

One of the things that we can be sure of is that demons are fallen angels that rebelled with Lucifer against the God of Glory. And they want to manifest themselves in the sense realm in this world. Working from the outside they can *oppress*. **You can sense their presence.** Even a child of God many times senses the opposition of the enemy. Working on the inside they can possess an individual.

In our last study we looked at the steps for deliverance. And in this study we are going to look at *seven steps for retaining deliverance*.

1. The first step is to put on the whole armor of God, as seen in Ephesians 6:10-18. The Christian's spiritual armor is listed for us (we will look at these in more detail in a later study): (1) Loins girt about with truth, (2) The breastplate of righteousness, (3) Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, (4) The shield of faith, (5) The helmet of salvation, (6) The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and (7) Praying in the Spirit. Pay special attention to the *"helmet of salvation"* for the guarding of your thought life. **Most demons seeking to destroy our fellowship with the Father attack us through our thought-life.** Become watchful of any thoughts that

could be considered *negative*; (thoughts of doubt and unbelief) they are from the enemy. Separate their thoughts from your own. Refuse the thoughts they give you and replace them with positive spiritual thoughts, as seen in Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

2. Confess positively. *Negative* confessions characterize demonic influence. *Positive* confession is faith expressed. Confess what God's Word says. Any other confession will open the door for the enemy.

Let me give you an example of what I mean right here. In Mark 5:25-34 we have the story of a woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years, and verse 28 gives us her confession, "For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." What she said was her *faith speaking*. I know it was, for Jesus said in verse 34, "Daughter, your faith has made you well."

When you speak your faith, you have what you say, as seen in Mark 11:23-24, "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Listen very carefully to the words of Jesus, "... and does not doubt in his heart...he shall have whatever he says." **Some people, think that just because they have made some type of "confession" that God is obligated to give them what they ask for, but my friend that is not right.** There is a great difference between believing with our *heads* and believing in our *hearts*. Listen, confession without faith is just foolish words that have no meaning!

3. Stay in the Scripture. Psalm 1:1-3 tells us that "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law

of the Lord; and in his law he meditates day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season; whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

Jesus withstood Satan's temptation by using Scripture. James 1:22-25 tells us that the *Word of God is a mirror to the soul*; Psalm 119:105 tells us that it is a *lamp unto the feet for guidance*; Ephesians 5:25-26 tells us that it is a *cleansing agent to the heart*; Hebrews 4:12 tells us that it is a *two-edged sword laying bare the heart*; 1 Peter 2:2 tells us that it is *food for the spirit*. No person can maintain deliverance apart from the Word of God as a primary factor in his heart.

4. Crucify the flesh. In Luke 9:23 Jesus tells us that we are going to follow Him; we must take up our cross and follow Him daily. We must break old habits and patterns set up in league with evil spirits. If fleshly *appetites*, *desires* and *lusts* are not brought to the cross, a way for demons to return will be left open according to Galatians 5:19-24.

5. Develop a life of continuous praise and prayer. Child of God, *praise silences the enemy*. Praise is the most worthwhile endeavor in *earth* and *heaven*. **Praise is something that occupies the full time of angels in heaven and in which heavenly citizens will engage in eternity.** One may be sure that time spent in praise will never prove to be time wasted but will, in fact, prove all else done in the light of it more worthwhile.

Praise is an expression of the heart that will result in more healing physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually than any other form of worship. *Praise* is manifested in expression of *thankfulness*, *adoration* and *joy* by *speaking*, *singing*, *shouting*, *dancing*, *leaping*, *playing musical instruments*, *clapping the hands*, etc., as seen in Psalm 34:1-3, "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name forever." Psalm 6:8 says, "Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows

day after day.” And in Psalm 71:8 says, "My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long." Psalm 119:164 says, "Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws." Psalm 147:1 says, "Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!" Child of God, it is no wonder *Satan is trying to steal praise from our Worship Services!*

6. Maintain a life of fellowship and spiritual ministry. It is when sheep wander from the flock they are most endangered. Find and fulfill your function within the body of Christ. Desire spiritual gifts and yield to their operation through you within the body of Christ. Keep yourself under the spiritual authority of Christ and church leadership.

7. Commit yourself totally to Christ. That simply means that we are to put Christ first in our lives!! Determine that every thought, word and action will reflect the very nature of Christ. Abide in Christ that the fruit of the Spirit might come forth in abundance. Demon spirits are enemies of the fruit of the Spirit. Faith and trust in God is the greatest weapon against Satan's lies!!

One of the great problems that I see in the church today is this: Our thinking is too small! If we grow spiritually, we will realize that God can keep us. He wants us to grow spiritually so we stand on our own two feet.

Child of God, we can put the devil on the run and keep him running. God has given us the power, the faith, and the promise in James 4:7, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

If you have never been saved, why not today?

Please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true. Therefore, by faith, I confess, “I am more than an conqueror through Christ who loves me.” In Jesus’ name. Amen.