

Keeping it simple!

Too often as Christians we complicate the Word of God as we try to conform or restrict it to the personal theology that we have created for our comfort and convenience. By doing so, we complicate matters and rob the Gospel of its simplicity. Additionally, we are also in danger of being found guilty before God as those who twist Scripture by adding or subtracting from it. Deut 12:32 and Proverbs 30:5-6 state respectively;

“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.” NKJV

“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. ⁶ Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.” NKJV

The ministry of deliverance is often targeted for such Scripture twisting, neglect and confusion. What is deliverance ministry you might ask? In its simplest definition and as it relates to this study, it is the casting out of demons from a persons being by the finger of God (Luke 11:20).

The word deliverance comes from the Greek words *aphesis* pronounced “af-es-is” meaning, “freedom (fig) pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission” and *aphiemi* pronounced “af-ee-ay-mee meaning, “to send forth, cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up.” It also has a further definition of, “off i.e. away (from something near), in various senses of (place, time, or relation; lit or fig), out of, off, separation, departure, cessation, completion, reversal, etc. (Strong’s G859, 863, 575).

In pondering the definitions for the word deliverance we see that it means to receive pardon and forgiveness but also suggests freedom that comes through the sending away of something or the separation from something. In the interest of our discussion that *something* is demons.

Today’s church often shuns what the Lord faced and hides from what He confronted. It is time to step up to the plate and walk in the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This fullness includes deliverance ministry.

In Mark 16:14-20 we have the account of the Lord appearing to His disciples before His ascension with a reminder of their Kingdom responsibility to walk in the fullness of the Gospel. The account reads:

¹⁴ Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. ¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ **And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they^[b] will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.** ¹⁹ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.” NKJV

If you notice from reading the above text, the first thing the Lord said would follow those who believe would be the casting out of demons by the authority of His name. The ministry of deliverance meets with the Lord's divine approval which is evidenced by the fact that He attaches His name to it.

It is important to note that these were the Lord's last instructions to His disciples before His ascension. He placed emphasis on the casting out of demons by mentioning it first in order of importance as one of the signs that would follow the believer. In essence, what the Lord emphasized as important and fundamental to ecclesia ministry, the modern day church views as an afterthought or optional ministry.

How is it that we could so arrogantly minimize that which the Lord held important enough to mention in His last words to His disciples? Do we think about the fact that these were Jesus' last face to face instructions to His disciples whom He would not see again until they entered into heaven? A person's last remarks and instructions are generally an accumulation of principles, thoughts and ideas expressed previously and serve as a powerful reminder of what is expected of us in their absence. This point is proven throughout Bible history from servants such as Moses (Deuteronomy in its entirety), Joshua (Joshua 23), and Jacob (Genesis 49).

These men of God all did recaps of what they had previously taught the people, wanting to inculcate the principles in their hearts before they passed the baton of leadership to the next generation. Jesus was passing the baton of Kingdom responsibility to those He had appointed as leaders with the reminder of how they were to transact business on His behalf.

And these signs will follow those who believe...

Going back to our text, the word "**believe**" as used in Mark 16:17 is the Greek word *pisteuo* pronounced pist-yoo-o. It means, "to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to a person or thing), i.e. credit by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ), believe(r), commit (to trust), put in trust with" (Strong's G4100).

Another word that gives additional understanding to the word "believe" is the Greek word *pistis* which means, "persuasion, i.e. credence, moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation..." (Strong's G4102).

With these definitions in mind, when the Lord says that these signs will follow those who believe, He is stating that those who **believe** in Him and have trusted Him for their salvation will have these signs follow them. Now my very pointed question is how can we say that we are believers in Christ when we reject some of the hallmark and indisputable signs He said would follow us as believers? The truth of the matter is if we are not doing the work that Christ commanded us to do, our profession of salvation in Him should be questioned. Believers in Christ do the work of the Lord and this includes casting out demons. The Message Bible states it this way; "**These are some of the signs that will accompany believers...**"

If we say that we are believers in Christ, casting out demons should be a standard part of our church ministry. In the same manner that we make other services available to those in need

whether it be counseling, prayer for healing etc., deliverance needs to be an officially recognized service in the church.

Keeping it simple, the command given to the disciples who stood before Jesus at His ascension to (Go) has been passed down as an inherited responsibility to today's church. The words of our Savior need to be carefully pondered and understood. He said that these signs would follow those who believe! Are you a believer in the risen Christ? If so, support by participation the ministry of deliverance that the Lord instituted and loves.

What are devils, demons and unclean spirits?

If we are going to be casting out demons, it is important to know what we are really dealing with. The word demon is not used in the King James Version of the Bible. The words devils and unclean spirits are what one will find when doing a word search for demons. There are other spirits that operate in the kingdom of darkness but for the purpose of this study we will be focusing on demons. While the origin of demons is a bit ambiguous, there are some things that we know about them that give us insight into what we are encountering during deliverance ministry.

We will do a brief word study on the words that are used to give us further insight into the nature of these invisible enemies.

The word "devils" as used in the Old Testament has two definitions. The first is the Hebrew word *saiyr* pronounced saw-er. It means, "shaggy; as a noun, a he-goat, by analogy a faun, devil, goat, hairy, kid, rough, satyr" (Strong's H8163).

Please note that a faun is, "A god of fields and shepherds, usually represented as half goat and half man" (Wordlist.com).

A satyr is, "A sylvan demigod, part man and part goat, characterized by lasciviousness" (Wordlist.com).

The next definition for "devils" found in the Hebrew is the word *shed*, pronounced shade. It means, "a demon (as malignant): devil." In conjunction with this definition a further meaning to the word devil is the Hebrew word *shuwd* pronounced shood, which means, "to swell up, i.e. figuratively (by implication of insolence), to devastate:- waste" (Strong's H7700, H7736).

You may refer to Leviticus 17:7 and Deuteronomy 32:17 respectively to refer to the words in their contexts.

The New Testament word for devils is the Greek word *daimonion* pronounced dahee-mon-ee-on. It means, "a demonic being; by extension a deity, devil, god." *Daimon* pronounced dah-ee-mown is in addition to *daimonion* and it means, "to distribute fortunes, a demon or supernatural spirit (of a bad nature), devil" (Strong's G1140, G1142).

The definition for an unclean spirit is an obvious composition of two definitions. Unclean is the Greek word *akathartos* pronounced ak-ath-ar-tos meaning, "impure (morally lewd) or specifically demoniac, foul, unclean."

Spirit is the Greek word *pneuma* pronounced *pn-yoo-mah* meaning, “a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively a spirit, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc. or (superhuman) an angel, demon or (divine) God, Christ’s Spirit, the Holy Spirit, ghost, life, spirit (-ual, ually)” (Strong’s G169, G4151 respectively).

When combining all of the definitions from both the Old and New Testaments, we understand more clearly that we are dealing with otherworldly beings that are rooted in evil and debauchery. They are malevolent spirits whose intentions as evidenced in Scripture are to promulgate human suffering and depravity.

Derek Prince, a well known and respected minister of the Gospel, who understands God’s call to deliverance ministry describes demons as, “disembodied spirit beings that have an intense craving to occupy physical bodies” (They Shall Expel Demons, Pg 89).

He further states, “It is hard for us to entertain the idea of a person without a body. Nevertheless, even though demons have no bodies, they have all the normally accepted marks of personality: will, emotion, intellect, self-awareness and ability to speak...In the first three gospels and also in Acts, we see several examples of demons able to speak through the vocal organs of the persons they were occupying. They could answer questions and carry on conversation” (Pg. 89-90). Please see Matthew 12:44, James 2:19, Mark 1:24, Mark 5:9 for references.

Having this very brief information on what demons are will prove helpful as we continue to study and examine deliverance in Scripture.

Deliverance in the book of Mark

As I read through the book of Mark I found it replete with instances of Jesus confronting demons in people and then casting them out. In all honesty, I was astonished at how often Jesus and His disciples encountered those in need of deliverance from unclean spirits. In Mark 1:21-28 we have the first mentioned account of Jesus confronting demons in someone. Before I go on, I think it’s interesting to note that the book of Mark begins with Jesus casting out demons and ends with the command to continue to do this great work in His name.

Jesus meets the demonically afflicted:

²¹ Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority^[a] He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” ²⁸ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee. Mark 1:21-28 NKJV

I truly get excited when I read of how our Savior wielded His authority over the enemy, defeating him every time! There are many points that can be reviewed from this passage of Scripture, several of which we will cover;

If you noticed, Jesus was in the *synagogue* teaching when He encountered the demonically oppressed man. It's going to be important to remember this when we begin to discuss the targeted recipients of this powerful ministry.

As the Lord was teaching the people, the demons in the man began to respond. I have used the plural form purposefully as plural pronouns are used to identify the demons. Please note that Scripture indicates Jesus was teaching the people in a dimension of authority not seen before. I believe this authoritative teaching is what roused the demons in the man to cry out. The teaching and preaching of the unadulterated Word of God puts pressure on demons. They cannot resist the Word of the Lord.

Also note from this account that demons recognize the Lord and His authority to destroy them. The word destroy as used in this text means, "off i.e. away from something near, to destroy fully, (to perish or lose) literally or figuratively" (Strong's G622, G575).

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary the word lose means among other things, "to miss from one's possessions or from a customary or supposed place, part with especially in an unforeseen or accidental manner, to suffer loss through the death or removal of or final separation from (a person), to fail to keep control of or allegiance of."

These words and definitions describe deliverance ministry! When the demons encountered the Lord Jesus, they lost their stronghold and were separated from the man they had been afflicting. Their strength was broken asunder and they had to let their captive go! The people marveled at the Savior's authority to drive out the demons through a command.

Notice how the ministry of deliverance spread the fame of our Savior throughout all the region of Galilee. I am fully persuaded that as the ministry of deliverance is resurrected from the catacombs of ecclesial religiosity, the fame of our Savior will be promulgated to all who need freedom from oppression. It's time for the church to liberate the captives!

Mark chapter 1:32-34, continues with Jesus administering deliverance to the demonically afflicted. The Scripture reads:

³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. NKJV

The words are repetitive and emphatic! In two verses it is stated that the sick along with the demonically afflicted were brought before Jesus for deliverance. How can we as the church abdicate our responsibility to cast out demons when its significance in Scripture is so clear?

The Scripture states that the people were demon *possessed*. This bears clarifying so that there are no misunderstands as we cover other areas of deliverance where this information will be pertinent. The word possessed suggests total ownership which is not the scenario for many who are afflicted with demons. The Greek word for possessed as used in the text above is

daimonizomai pronounced da-hee-mon-id-zom-ahee which means, “to be exercised by a demon; have a (be vexed with, be possessed with) devil(s)” (Strong’s G1139).

The word exercised as used above is defined in Merriam-Webster as, “to cause anxiety, alarm, or indignation in, to drill.”

Keeping these definitions in mind, we understand that possessed as used in this text of Scripture is a reference to affliction, vexing, drilling, the cause of anxiety and oppression by demon spirits as well as possession (ownership) in *some* cases. I further note that the Strong’s definition states, “be vexed **with**, or to be possessed **with** devils.”

One of the definitions for the word with is the word *having* (Merriam-Webster) which indicates that a person may have a demon(s) and are not possessed (owned by) demons.

Peter Horrobin of Ellet Ministries concurs with this sentiment as he states;

“Both the Authorized Version and the New International Version of the Bible wrongfully translate the Greek word daimonizomai, meaning “demonized” or having a demon with the word possessed” (Healing through Deliverance, volume 1, Pg 287).

Who are the targeted recipients for deliverance?

The question that is often asked is, “Who are the prime recipients of deliverance ministry?” I believe Matthew 15:21-28 has the answer. The account reads;

²¹ Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” ²³ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” ²⁴ But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” ²⁶ But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw *it* to the little dogs.” ²⁷ And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour. NKJV

In reading this Scripture and others that I will share shortly, I firmly believe that the targeted recipients of deliverance ministry are Christians and their children who are minors under their care.

Much can be discussed and gleaned from the passage of Scripture we have just read. The area I would like to highlight is the fact that Jesus told this woman who was a Gentile that what she was asking for belonged to a specific type of people (the lost sheep of Israel). This speaks to the fact that some areas of ministry have prerequisites before administration can take place.

This Gentile woman received favor from the Lord and deliverance for her daughter when she worshiped Him and declared that she too was one who eats the *bread* even if its only crumbs made available to her.

The word worshipped as used in this text is the Greek word proskuneo pronounced pros-koo-neh-o meaning, “to kiss, like a dog licking his master’s hand, to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage, do reverence to, adore, worship” (Strong’s G4352).

The word fawn as used above can mean, “to show affection (especially of a dog)” (Merriam-Webster).

When this Gentile woman worshipped the Lord she was indicating that He was her Master and like a pet dog is devoted to its master she was a devotee to Him. Because she was not a Jew, she was not permitted to enjoy the fullness and depth of an intimate relationship with Christ as experienced by the Jews. However, she did not allow her nationality to stop her from pursuing a relationship with the Lord, which is evidenced by her eating the crumbs of the “*bread.*”

Crumbs is composed of two Greek words psichion pronounced psikh-ee-on and psallo pronounced psal-lo meaning, “a little bit or morsel, to rub or touch the surface” (Strong’s G5589, G5567).

Jesus is the Bread of Life and this woman was declaring that Christ was her Bread of Life even though she was not a Jew. She was only able to touch or rub the surface of a personal relationship with Christ but the Lord found her efforts faithful. Deliverance was granted to her daughter because of her faith in Jesus as Lord. This is what gave her access to deliverance ministry.

The Lord reserved deliverance for the lost sheep of Israel, referring to deliverance as the children’s bread. The Lord used the term bread which is quite significant when you consider that bread was a staple food for the Jews. The implication is deliverance is as essential to a Christian’s life in Christ as bread (food) is to the natural body.

The next Scripture references further testify that the ministry of deliverance was reserved for a certain type of people.

Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee and began ministering to the Jews throughout that area. Mark 1:39 states, “**And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.**” NKJV

Matthew 4:23-24 states;

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴ Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.” NKJV

We only need to look at the above Scriptural references to make some educated deductions about the nationality of the people who received healing and deliverance through Jesus. The word states that Christ went into “*their*” synagogues and preached. The word “*their*” is referring to the Jewish people. If we remember the Lord’s conversation with the Gentile woman, He told her that He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel.

The Word also states that He healed “*them*” of all kinds of diseases including the disease of demonic indwelling and affliction. Again, the word “them” is referring to the people of Israel. The Lord was preaching, teaching, healing, and casting out demons among the people of Israel not among the Gentiles.

The ministry of deliverance was conducted by our Savior in the *synagogue* with other areas of ministry, such as preaching, teaching and healing. A synagogue is an, “assemblage of persons (specifically a Jewish synagogue), by analogy a Christian church, assembly, congregation, synagogue” (Strong’s G4864).

In light of this, the question that must be asked is why the church is not offering this critical area of ministry to believers in Christ? We will certainly have to give an account to the Lord for our neglect and intolerance of this ministry.

Earlier in this lesson, I took the time to clarify the difference between being demonically indwelt and demonically possessed. This was done so that it is clearly understood that a Christian (someone who has surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ), cannot be demonically possessed or owned by the devil and his demons. A sinner or one who has not accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior can be indwelt and possessed (in some cases) by demons.

The Word of God in Colossians states, **“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption,^[e] the forgiveness of sins. NIV**

As Christians, we are removed from the kingdom of darkness and transplanted into the kingdom of God’s Son. However, the work of deliverance removes the kingdom of darkness from within us that gained access to us through various doorways of sin, which will be discussed later.

Can children be indwelt by demons?

Not only should Christians receive deliverance from demons but their minor children (those who are too young to make a decision for Christ) who are demonically afflicted should receive deliverance as well. This thought is supported by several Scriptures.

Mark 7:25-26

“For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.” NKJV

This account is the same one covered earlier in Matthew 15 with the Gentile woman seeking deliverance for her daughter. The reason I am using Mark in this instance is because it points out that the recipient of deliverance was a young child.

The word young used in this scripture is the Greek word *thugatrimon* pronounced *thoo-gat-ree-on* meaning, “little (young) daughter” (Strong’s G2365). There is no mistaking that this was a small child who had a demon dwelling on the inside of her.

Mark 9:17-21

¹⁷ Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” ¹⁹ He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” ²⁰ Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.” NKJV

These Scriptures vividly and unequivocally show us that our children can become victims of demonization. What is also noted from both of these accounts is the parents are the one's who recognized that their children had demons and sought the Lord for deliverance.

In today's society, people would become insulted and even outraged at the suggestion that their children may have demons. It is more acceptable to pin our children's behavioral problems or other issues on names like ADD, ADHD, Bipolar, etc.

By saying this, I am not suggesting that all behavioral or other problematic issues are caused by demons. What I am saying is as parent's we need to adopt the attitude of the parents seen in Scripture and seek the Lord for deliverance if this proves to be where the problem resides. These Bible day parents were able to recognize that their children's issues went beyond medical science and were spiritually based.

Demons are able to enter a child's life through the sins of their parents. As parents, the sins that we commit pass down to our children in what is known as a generational curse. They become guilty by association.

When we look at the words genes, genetics and generational we notice that they are linked. Genes are the vehicle in which the generational blessings or curses are passed through. We inherit the curses and sometimes the demons of our fathers and forefathers by virtue of the fact we come from the same gene pool. When Adam sinned we all sinned and that is because his genes are in us (Romans 5:12).

If a man and woman commit fornication and create a baby from that act, a demon of lust/perversion now has rights to invade the unborn child's life. The baby is now a carrier of demon spirits because of the sin of fornication committed by their parents. From the womb, we can become infected with demons. Fornication is just one way demons can enter the life of the unborn. There are also issues of rejection from the womb, a mothers drug use while pregnant, a child created through the act of rape, abuse while pregnant and the list goes on and on.

I have personally been a part of a deliverance case involving a child and know first hand that the enemy hates all of mankind, including children. The enemy delights in afflicting adults as well as children. He hopes that as parent's we are naïve and ignorant of spiritual things so that he can remain in position in the lives of our offspring.

Remember, the devil is an equal opportunity destroyer and children are fair game as far as he is concerned. The media often reports news of injurious and heinous crimes perpetrated against children therefore it should not surprise us that they are also targets for demonic invasion.

How can Christian's be indwelt by demons if the Holy Spirit dwells in us?

Many are incredulous when they learn that Christians can be indwelt by demons. The main argument against the need for deliverance for a Christian is the thought that the Holy Spirit and demons cannot dwell in the same temple. What we need to remember is we were not always saved. Before our union with Christ, we were either forcibly or willingly exposed ourselves to all sorts of vulgarities. There are always consequences for sin and this includes demonization.

Frank and Ida Mae Hammond have given what I consider to be the most accurate and biblically sound answer to the question of Christians being demonically indwelt. In their book *Children's Deliverance*, they state the following;

Some have questioned, "How can an evil spirit dwell in a person who has the Holy Spirit within him? The answer is made clear by remembering that "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit" 1 Cor. 6:19. The Temple in Jerusalem had three parts; Outer Court, Holy Place, and Holy of Holies. The presence of God dwelt solely in the Holy of Holies. The three compartments in the Temple correspond to man's tripartite being: body, soul and spirit. For the Christian, the human spirit corresponds to the Holy of Holies, which is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit desires us to submit every area of our temple to His control. Other temple areas include the mind, the emotions, the will and the physical body. Jesus found defilement in the Jerusalem temple; however, the money changers and the merchants with doves and cattle were not in the Holy of Holies, but in the outer courts of the temple. Jesus proceeded to "cast out" all who defiled the temple (Matt. 21:12) Pg 4."

Peter Horrobin of Ellel Ministries also gives further clarification of how such a phenomenon takes place. He states;

"The word that most graphically expresses our salvation is redeemed. The literal meaning of redeemed is "bought back." This implies that mankind once enjoyed a direct uninterrupted relationship with God, but that at the Fall mankind switched his allegiance to satan and the powers of darkness, and through the incarnation and the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God redeemed those who would believe and receive this salvation. Literally, He bought them back (repossessed them) and the price paid was the blood of His Son. A price was paid for our redemption.

So when we talk of possession we are talking about ownership, and a Christian can rightfully say, "I have been bought back from the hands of the enemy and God now possesses me." Possession and demonization are very different. If I buy a house, I possess the land it stands on, the structure of the building and any defects it may have as well! The fact that I possess the house, however, does not mean that it is now totally free from defects that originated during previous ownerships, including, for example, all the woodworm that may be resident in the roof timbers" (*Healing through Deliverance*, volume 1, Pg. 288).

I believe these are excellent explanations of how the Holy Spirit and demons can inhabit the same vessel.

How do demons gain access into a person's life?

One may ask the all important question, "How is it that demons gain access into a person's life?" As stated previously, the answer is simple; sin gives satan entry into a person's life. Some people have been infected by sin because of crimes committed against them i.e. molestation, rape, violence, generational curses (see Exodus 20:4-6) etc. Others have been open to demonization through their own sinful choices and decisions such as bitterness, unforgiveness, fornication, adultery, etc. These and other sins are open doors for demons to make their abode in a person's life.

Important to note is the sinful things we did before coming to Christ still carry both natural and spiritual consequences. I am reminded of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 that speaks about the curses that come by way of disobedience. If we have at any point lived in disobedience to the Word of God we have opened ourselves up to the curses that are activated by our disobedience and this includes demonization or the indwelling of demons.

Deuteronomy 28:15 states, **"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you"** NKJV.

Obey as used above can mean among other things to hear intelligently, consent, or to be content (Strong's H8085). If we are honest with ourselves, we will see that we have not consented or given permission to the law of God to operate in every area of our lives. I am sure that we will also see areas where we have not been content to live within the protective boundaries of the law (Word).

The word content means, "satisfied, pleased, gratified, and comforted" (Online Dictionary). Most of us at some point in our lives either before or even after conversion to Christ are guilty of finding comfort or gratification outside of the Lord and His Word. This is idolatry which is certainly an open door for demons to use as an access way to our lives (see 1 Corinthians 10:14-22).

Coming to Christ is the first step in bringing healing and deliverance to our spirit, soul and body. After coming to Christ, deliverance ministry may be necessary to set a person free from the bondage that hinders them from fully enjoying their salvation and fellowship with the Lord.

Why *man* should not initiate deliverance for the unsaved!

I believe the following Scripture will help shed some light into this statement;

²⁴ **"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'** ²⁵ **And when he comes, he finds *it* swept and put in order.** ²⁶ **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"** (Luke 11:24-26 NKJV).

This Scripture tells of someone experiencing deliverance and having nothing in their temple to keep the enemy out when he seeks to return. Deliverance is for those who have Christ dwelling on the inside of them Who not only helps to put the demons out but helps to keep them out.

There are instances when the Lord will deliver someone who is not born again. Some view Mark 5:1-20, the account of the demoniac, as a possible occurrence of such an instance. The Lord is sovereign and if He chooses to set someone free from demonic invasion before their confession of salvation in Him that is His call to make. Those who are deliverance ministers would be wise to closely follow the pattern found in scripture of ministering deliverance to those in the synagogue—Christians.

I believe the Scripture reference also highlights to Christians receiving deliverance the need to fill themselves with more of Christ through prayer, the Word, worship etc. After deliverance, the enemy will seek to return and recapture lost territory. We must not return to the former pattern or way of life that gave him a resting place in us to begin with. More of Jesus must be the cry and desire of a person set free from demonic oppression.

How do you know if you need deliverance?

As stated elsewhere in this lesson, there are doorways that give demons entry into our lives. Some doorways have been created by our own actions while others are created through crimes perpetrated against us. With this in mind, going over our personal history is a good place to look for demonic doorways. Also, taking an honest, introspective look at ourselves and identifying attitudes, actions or struggles we just can't seem to shake or achieve victory over can be signs of demonic activity.

This is in no way implying that there is a demon behind every action or attitude. Some of our issues and challenges come from a failure to discipline our minds and flesh. However, once a person is doing everything possible to obey the will of the Lord and still meets with strong internal opposition in doing so, demonization could very well be the source of the problems.

What steps should be taken if you realize you need deliverance?

If the Lord speaks to your heart stating that you are in need of deliverance, seek Him earnestly on who He desires to use to help set you free. Your local church may have a deliverance ministry that can help you and if not, they may be able to refer you to a reputable and proven deliverance ministry.

As with other ministries in the church, there are those who operate in misconduct and abuse of this precious and powerful ministry. The Lord will guide you to those who possess His heart and operate in His love for setting the captives free.

Christ is all powerful!

We are privileged and deeply honored to serve the Lord in the ministry of deliverance. Christ' majesty, power and authority are unquestionable! In deliverance ministry, we witness the power of His Word, name and blood defeat and annihilate the works of darkness in the lives

of His people. There is no greater joy than to see those who have been held captive by demons set free and transformed into powerful witnesses for Christ.

There is victory in Christ Jesus over the torment of the enemy through the ministry of deliverance.

Sincerely,

Apostle Jael J Hodge

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