

Spiritual Warfare Part 8—Deliverance

With Chip Ingram

The great majority of teaching in the Bible has to do with alertness, preparation, defense, and being proactive to prevent demonic influence from breaking our fellowship with Christ or thwarting God's program for our lives. However, what are we to do when the enemy gets a foothold in our lives, or in the lives of people we know and love?

The Ministry of Deliverance

Its Validity

- Jesus regularly exercised this ministry: Mark 1:27, 39
- The apostles regularly exercised this ministry: Luke 10
- The early church regularly exercised this ministry: Acts 16
 - Justin Martyr (c. 100-165)
 - Tertullian (c. 160-225)
 - Origen (c. 185-254)
 - Athanasius (c. 296-373)
- The New Testament writers provide clear direction concerning this ministry. James 4:7-10

Its Problems

- _____ and fanaticism tend to negatively color this ministry.
- _____ concerning demon possession versus oppression of believers cloud the ministry's validity.
- _____ and _____ have caused many to simply ignore this ministry.
- Those who engage in this ministry are often tempted by _____ or become so singularly focused they fall into theological error.
- Assigning _____ of all one's problems to demonic influence verses assuming personal responsibility and using biblical common sense call this ministry into question.

The Causes of Demonic Influence

- Yielding to sin: John 8:34-36; Hebrews 12:1
 - _____ a sin, become a _____ to sin.
 - Potential Slavery to _____.
- Spiritual rebellion: 1 Samuel 15:23

- Strongholds in current Christian culture
 - Unforgiveness: Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:32
 - Unforgiveness leads to: _____
 - Money: 1 Timothy 6:10; 2 Timothy 4:10
 - “If God doesn’t have your money, He doesn’t have your _____.”
 - “ If you can’t trust Him with your money how can you trust Him with _____?”
 - Sexual Sin: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Hebrews 13:4
 - With what are you influenced in regard to relationships?
 - “Every command in the scriptures is for your own _____.”
- Participation in the occult: Deuteronomy 18:10-11
- Unresolved anger and bitterness: Ephesians 4:26-27
 - These emotions “Give _____ a _____.”
- Association with those involved in satanic activity: 2 Corinthians 6:14-16
 - What is the “norm” for many movies and games? _____

New Testament Evidence of Demonic Influence:

Don’t think: _____, _____ or _____ .

Must use discernment! (1 Corinthians 12:10)

- Severe sickness: Matthew 12:22
- Divination (telling the future): Acts 16:16
- Unusual physical strength: Mark 5:3
- Split personality: Mark 5:6-7
- Resistance to spiritual help: Mark 5:7
- Other voices from within: Mark 5:9

The Cure for Demonic Influence

- Victory is through the cross of Christ: Colossians 2:14-15
- Victory is in the name of Jesus: Matthew 10:1; Acts 5:16
- Victory is in the power of the Holy Spirit: 1 John 4:4 (Read 1 John 4:1-6)

Specific Steps for Deliverance from Demonic Influence

1. For unbelievers, accept Christ. John 1:12
2. Confess sins: 1 John 1:9; James 4:6-7.
3. Renounce the works of the devil: 2 Corinthians 4:2
4. Destroy occult objects: Acts 19:17-20; 2 Chronicles 14:2-5; 23:17.
 - a. (Destroy anything that leads you into sin!)
5. Break friendships with those involved in the occult: 2 Corinthians 6:14-16
6. Rest in Christ's deliverance: Colossians 1:13; Colossians 2:14-15
7. Meditate on and apply God's Word: Ephesians 6:17
8. Engage in corporate prayer: Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 18:19.
9. If necessary, exorcism in the name of Christ: Acts 16:16-18
 - a. By a spiritually qualified counselor: Galatians 5
 - b. Who maintains humility: James 4:7
 - c. Who wears spiritual armor: Ephesians 6:12
 - d. Who knows the Word of God: Matthew 4:4
 - e. Who is supported by prayers of believers: Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 18:19.

Think It Over

1. What first came to mind when you heard deliverance ministry? What extremes have you seen or experienced that caused you to question its validity?

2. Believers must choose between two opposite responses to the reality of the supernatural world:
 - a. To respond in fear, living life on your terms, pretending the enemy does not exist.
 - b. To engage the enemy in victory because you are a child of the living God and want to make a difference.

What will you choose? What does it look like to trust God in this?

8. Write out the verses regarding the “Cure for Demonic Influence”.
Victory is. . .

- Through the Cross of Christ: Colossians 2:14-15

- In the name of Jesus: Matthew 10:1; Acts 5:16

- In the Power of the Holy Spirit: 1 John 4:4

Live in Out

Putting on spiritual armor involves time, commitment, and intentionality. Below are a few ideas that could help you in your application of God’s Word. Pick one, or think of another and commit to following through.

Media Fast: Take a seven-to-fourteen-day break from all media. Spend that time reading the Bible and in prayer.

Spiritual Warfare Review: Read through all the verses in the Spiritual Warfare study guide, and write out the ones that God impresses on your heart.

Make a Prayer “Target” List: This can include specific people or specific situations. What scripture can you use to direct your prayer? What truths in God’s word can you wield as a spiritual sword?

*Jesus “disarmed principalities and powers.
He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them.
Colossians 2:17*

Pray: Lord fill me with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I may have a walk worthy of you as my Lord: pleasing you in all my ways, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of you, my God. Strengthen me mightily to fight the good fight of faith according to your glorious power. Give me your patience in order to endure long suffering with joy. I praise you for delivering me from the power of sin, from the kingdom of darkness, and from slavery—giving me an inheritance with the saints in your Kingdom! (mostly from Colossians 1:9-12)