

Booklet 9

Mark 16:17



Holding
Your

Deliverance

By Win Worley

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Walking in Freedom after Deliverance

Have you been delivered from unclean spirits? Praise the Lord!

Deliverance is a valid ministry of the Holy Spirit's anointing in the Church today. The Body of Christ is engaged in spiritual warfare with the powers of evil. *"For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."* (**Ephesians 6:12**).

Walking in the Spirit after a deliverance is essential in order to keep a person free. The fact is that Satan is determined to rob us of our freedom and every other good thing we have from God. We must learn to stand our ground by means of the weapons that are at our disposal. (**Eph 6:17**)

It may be that the unclean spirits from which you are now free had been with you for a very long time. In such cases you can expect several weeks up to a year after deliverance for the Lord to gradually heal your mind and emotions. The Holy Spirit is always gentle and does not give us more than we can handle at one point in time. But no matter how long it takes, He always finishes the work He has begun in us. Regardless of what happens, remember that Jesus in fact won victory for you nearly two thousand years ago. Satan can only try to get you to doubt this truth or convince you to give up your freedom voluntarily. Do not be defeated by negative thoughts, emotions or circumstances. *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."* (**Romans 8:37**)

In order to avoid the enemy's snares it helps to recognize some of his strategy. Four typical methods of attack encountered by people after deliverance can be outlined as follows:

(1) The Scriptures say that Satan is the father of lies. Even though they are now outside of you, unclean spirits may still talk to you. Do not accept thoughts, ideas or guidance as coming from the Lord unless

it lines up with Scripture, gives you peace and is a part of normal christian behavior. The Holy Spirit never contradicts the Bible, never creates chaos within us and never tells us to do strange things. Typical lies from the enemy's routine might sound like this: "You haven't been delivered;" "It wasn't real;" "It wasn't complete;" "You can't keep your freedom;" "The demons are still inside you;" or that God demands that you do such and such a thing "or else." Don't believe it. Make your stand on the Word of God. *"He whom the Son sets free is free indeed."* (**John 8:36**)

(2) One meaning for the word "Satan" is "accuser." You may find yourself feeling guilty for having had unclean spirits or for your past sins. Remember that all your sins and failings are under the cleansing of Jesus' blood and God has put them out of memory. On the other hand you may be told that you are too weak to resist the devil, you are failing God or you are just a lousy person. The trick behind these lies and the ones discussed above is getting you to focus on yourself instead of Jesus. No matter what we are or have been, Jesus is perfect and He loves us. Remember that your strength comes not from your own faithfulness but rather from your faithful Lord. *"But I for my part rely on your love, Yahweh; let my heart rejoice in your saving help"* (**Psalms 13:5**). Relax in God's fun salvation for you. The name "Jesus" actually means "God-Saves" and not "Man-must-save-himself."

(3) The enemy may try to intimidate you with demonstrations of his power. Do not be frightened if things seem to go wrong for you for a while or if some symptoms from before deliverance seem to reappear. Remember that if Satan was as powerful as he claims to be, he would have swept us all away a long time ago. The reason that we are still here is that his power is in fact very limited. There is only one all-powerful person and He is the same God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. In other words, we're on the winning side.

(4) You may find yourself tempted with old habits or behavior that do not fit in with Christian life. The devil has a way of making the old times seem rosy to us just like he tricked the Israelites in the desert into missing the "leeks and onions" that they had left behind in Egypt. Of course Satan forgot to mention the misery and slavery that went along with those tasty onions. Do not become nostalgic about the past

but keep your eyes on the future as you prepare to enter God's promised land for you. Jesus did not come to take good things away from you but rather to bring you real life. *"I came that they might have life and have it in abundance."* (**John 10:10**). Put your trust in Jesus and you will have the desire of your heart. (**Psalm 37**)

Recognizing the enemy's strategy is helpful but it does not win the battle for us. It is more important that you learn and practice some positive principles that will enable you to gain ground quickly and hold it. The following five points are easy to remember and will help you tremendously: **(1) Focus your attention on Jesus.** Jesus' blood is the most powerful protection in the universe. Moreover, Jesus came and shed His very blood because He loves you. Confess the fact that Jesus loves you and repeat the following prayer every morning both in your heart and out loud: *"Lord, I cover my mind, emotions, body, soul and spirit with the precious Blood of Jesus."* Talk to Jesus every day sharing the good things and the bad with him. You can be sure He will not leave you. *"And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony "* (**Revelation 12:11**). **(2) Allow the Holy Spirit to have his way with you.** Pray in tongues at least 15 minutes a day. Let the Holy Spirit show you negative attitudes, habits, feelings and behavior that need to be changed. The Holy Spirit is God's power given in order for you to become like Jesus. He will show you things through the Bible, through other people and through your experiences. *"Pray all the time asking for what you need, praying in the Spirit on every possible occasion."* (**Ephesians 6:18**). *"But when the Spirit of Truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking from himself but will say only what he has learned; and he will tell you of things to come."* (**John 16:13**.)

(3) Immerse yourself in the Scriptures. The bible is the written Word of God. The Word of God is a living thing that works in us even when we may not understand or comprehend fully what we are reading. Read as much as you can but not less than five chapters from the New Testament Gospels each day. If, however, your mental state at present makes this impossible, then, concentrate on memorizing a verse from Scripture each day, constantly repeating it to yourself until the Lord has healed your mind further. Select verses that seem to

apply to you and you may begin with some of the verses quoted in this article. *"If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free."* (**John 8:31**)

(4) Tell the devil and his unclean spirits in Jesus' name to go away and leave you alone. Make it clear that you intend to follow Jesus no matter what. Above all, do not argue with the enemy and entertain his thoughts because you cannot defeat him that way. Instead, clear your mind by gently praising Jesus. *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* (**James 4:7**)

(5) Hang on to other Christians. The Christian walk is not a solo performance. You will need other people in a Christian fellowship to support you and edify your faith. This is nothing to be ashamed of but rather is God's preferred way. Jesus ministers through his body. *"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."* (**Galatians 6:2**)

If you practice these five **FAITH** principles, your post-deliverance problems will be minimal and your progress steady. Remember that God will not abandon you and do not be discouraged by any failures. Thank the Father for sending Jesus and anointing him with the Holy Spirit to bring us out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. *"He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 'the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' And he closed the book and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed upon him as he began to say to them 'today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'"* (**Luke 4:17-21**)¹

Deliverance: A Walk, Not an Event

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee. They that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee." (Isaiah 41:10-13)

Demons are enemies who interfere, to a greater or lesser degree, with the right exercise of human faculties (mental, physical or soulish, including emotions, desire or feelings). In so doing they achieve at least three ends: They defy God's will and purpose for man, they afflict their victims and satisfy themselves, and they particularly block or hinder the exercise of these faculties for the highest end for which they were made: fellow-ship with and service to the living God.

Yet for all their fierce determination, these are enemies who are vulnerable and can be completely routed! In the very place where their presence once seemed so dominant and cruel, they can be weakened and then driven out so that they are no more found in that place. That is the great, initial object of deliverance -- complete expulsion of evil spirits and the restoration of an individual's faculties to his own volitional use so that they may be rightly exercised.

I say initial object because deliverance is a whole walk in the Lord, not an isolated event. It is by the character of his daily walk that an individual is able to maintain his deliverance once it has been fully obtained. We are not set free so that we may enjoy ourselves, though it is certain that we will enjoy life far more after deliverance but that we may fully and freely worship, follow after and serve the Lord. Any lesser, purely self-interested motive is not the right basis for proceeding with the ministry of deliverance. This does not mean, of course, that a person must be disinterested or somehow detached from an intense longing to be free. The opposite is true. Deliverance must be earnestly desired and sought at all costs. There can be no standing on ideas of propriety, or on false religious concepts,

"pioucity" or any other hindering attitude if deliverance is to be effected.

Once it has been started, deliverance may not come all at once. Derek Prince points out that, "It is important to realize that deliverance is normally a process ... It may be brief, or long and drawn out... intense and dramatic, or it may be quiet and scarcely perceptible. But whenever a person is delivered from a demon, there is some definite experience or reaction. Where there is no definite experience or reduction, it is questionable whether deliverance has really been effected ... "² In some cases, there will be only an out breathing, but there should be definite relief experienced in the person when the demons leave. In other words -- no difference, no deliverance!

In a sense, a person with a demon is similar to a spring of water which is choked and clogged with leaves and other debris. This cuts the flow to a mere trickle and discolors the water as well. When the spring is cleaned out and gobs of trash removed, several things happen. For a time the spring is cloudy, muddy, and disturbed. Soon, however, as the water flow increases in volume, the vacancy left by the trash is filled in and finally the spring overflows. This flushes out the remaining bits of foreign matter, which are carried away by the flow, and the bubbling spring which has been set free clarifies itself. After the cloudiness disappears, other bits and pieces of half buried leaves and twigs can be easily spotted and removed.

A clearing from demons operated in a similar fashion. An initial clean out of spirits will break up Satan's major hold on the life and it can be drastic and spectacular in effect. Yet it is not surprising or unusual for the individual to find other spirits, perhaps inactive or hindered in their work, still clinging on, burrowed in. They should be dealt with as they are discovered, and also expelled in Jesus' name.

Another illustration may be helpful. Removing a demon can be likened to getting the "core" from a boil. Until the boil is "ripe" the complete "core" cannot be removed. In the case of demon exorcism, it is necessary for the tormented one to be totally committed to renunciation of the demons and all of their manifestations.

Psalm 139:21-23 expresses the necessary heart attitude of those seeking freedom: "*O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate you?*"

Shouldn't I be grieved with them? Yes, I hate them, for your enemies are my enemies too. Search me, O God, and know my hart, test my thoughts" (Living Bible).

As Derek Prince often remarks, "God will deliver you from your enemies, never from your friends." You must declare God's enemies (the demons) to be your enemies and then you have a right to claim **Joel 2:32**. Until a person is desperate for deliverance, it will not come. No one who comes casually or out of idle curiosity need expect help from the Lord.

Slaves who love their chains can never be free. But for those who groan under their bondage and are seeking with all their hearts for freedom, Jesus breaks every fetter!

In the case of major surgery in a hospital, often a patient has not one, but a series of operations, with time allowed between operations for recuperation. In like manner, believers with deep seated "nests" of demons may be cleaned up in stages and progressively freed of demons. I have witnessed many deliverances which were halted deliberately by the Lord, and the subject filled with peace and joy and blessing. Later on, perhaps days, weeks, or even months later, other spirits would manifest and be dealt with.

Why should this be? Perhaps it is a combination of things. It would be terribly hard on the individual physically to remove all of them at once. People who have demons cast out are physically exhausted by the experience. Also, there must be an ability to withstand the attempts of the demons to return to the clean house bringing seven worse spirits with them (**Luke 11:25**).

The loving hand of God measures out the amount of pressure which we are capable of bearing, with His help (**I Peter 5:7**). If He is careful to see that we are never overloaded and crushed by the enemy in the matter of temptation (**I Corinthians 10:13**), does it not follow logically that He would also operate on this same principle in the matter of demon expulsion? Jesus told His disciples, "*I have yet many things to say to you, but ye cannot bear them now*" (**John 16:12**). A hand of infinite patience and compassionate understanding measures our capabilities against our trials. May God give to us this same

tenderhearted love and a compassion with those tormented ones to whom we minister.

In **Exodus 23:29, 30** God says plainly of the enemies of God's people: *"I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beasts of the field multiply against thee. by little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land."* Although He is talking to Israel about their physical land and possessing it, the parallel is quite obvious in the matter of Christian becoming free of demonic "beasts" (**I Corinthians 15:32**).

By blinding many believers, including sincere and dedicated ones, to the reality of demonic operations, Satan has prevented their uniting to attack his strongholds to free the captives who have already been redeemed from sin through salvation of the soul. Too often the body and mind remain in bondage to the demonic.

The land was given to Israel, but she had to go up actively and aggressively against the "giants in the land" and *possess* her inheritance.

She was not to do this on her own but by acting in concert with the mighty God. Believers are so charged with the responsibility for following Joshua (the Old Testament form of the name of Jesus) across the river by supernatural power and engaging the demonic foe. All of the inhabitants (trespassers and interlopers) in the land were to be rooted out and destroyed utterly. Even so, every demonic enemy within is to be hunted down and expelled. **Incomplete obedience in this matter led Israel to experience defeat and weakness.**

So it will be with believers. Any demon left to dwell within will be the source of misery and defeat to his host. God speed the day when the walls of partition will break by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that believers may join against the common foe, not in an ecumenical super-church, but in Spirit and in truth.

Developing strength takes time. Learning the Scriptures that are effective in turning back particular demons is crucial to victory and the successful holding of the deliverance gained. I believe God tests people to see how faithful they will be to serve the Lord and the

church of Jesus Christ before He completes the work. God does not clean a person up and fill him with fire to toot his whistle and ring his bell. He intends for him to pull freight for the Lord Jesus.

As important as it is, the casting out of demons is not a shortcut to sanctification. Robert Frost points out that, "Some people, in blaming demons for everything, fail to see they are avoiding their responsibility to face themselves before the Lord. It is easier to obtain 'instant holiness' through an exorcism than it is to submit daily to the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit that we might take up our cross and follow Jesus. The prayer chair of deliverance can never substitute for the day-by-day ministry of the cross in our lives."³ "Some individuals are so bound they may almost have lost their will to the power of the enemy. God can set them free by the prayer of faith and the authority of Jesus' name ... such a release however, can be maintained only if they choose to remain free ... "⁴

Although it is God's will to bless His creatures, He did not create a race of robots, but beings with the power to choose and to will. He never violates the human will, but respects it. Satan, on the other hand, works constantly to subvert, trick and in every way to coerce the human will into submission to his will so that he may work his destructive purposes upon men. The Lord calls for a willing, intelligent yielding to and cooperation with the Holy Spirit Who teaches us from the Word of God to walk in God's ways. The devil drives; the Holy Spirit leads. Satan threatens, blusters and bullies; the Holy Spirit reassures, loves and gently reproveth. There is strength in surrender, if that surrender is to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even then, it is not a blind, mindless move of abject slavery, but a loving and thoughtful submission to the Lord of all creation, Jesus Christ. It is not in vain that the Word declares, "*come now and let us reason together ...* " for our God is one of reason and His ways make good sense. Only the devil insists on a blind, unquestioning obedience, and the blotting out and enslaving of the human personality. God works in and through the human personality to reproduce the image of His dear Son.

The individual who is a victim of demons must exercise his will, as far as he has power to do so, toward God and against evil Spirits. Even

the Gadarene demoniac, in his violent and extremely tortured state, rushed toward Jesus for help: "*no man could bind him, no, not with chains ... But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him*" (**Mark 5:3, 6**).

Demons do not possess unlimited or purely arbitrary power to afflict humans. If they did, life would be a living hell for everybody. Attention must be paid not only to the *fact* of occupation but to the cause as well. There is some antecedent cause in virtually every case. The cause may rest in some evil indulged in by the victim, but that is not invariably the case, since family causes or curses supply a basis for demonic activity, too.

Mrs. Penn-Lewis states: "When the spirits of evil see their hold coming to an end, they never let go until the cause is fully removed, and they continue to attack if the thing they have attacked abut still exists in any degree."

That is why it "is essential that believers should understand the value of the act of refusal," the writer points out. "Evil spirits have gained by the believer giving them ground, right of way, use of their faculties, etc., and they lose when this is all withdrawn from them."⁵ We must withdraw from the enemy all ground which they can use to work against us. Although they are a defeated foe in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, they will put up a determined fight to prevent the areas of the life they have controlled from being taken back and surrendered to Jesus Christ.

When a believer begins to see that he has a right to determine the choice and that he does not have to accept the maneuvering of Satan, then the battle really begins. It helps if he will verbally assert his resistance to Satan and his emissaries, stating that he refuses the will of Satan and accepts the will of God for his life, before he knows what either Satan or God has planned for him.

This works well in practice. One of our young men was having real difficulties in certain areas of his life. He was determined to verbally claim the will of God and reject the will and plans of Satan for his life. He did this many times during the course of the day and had amazing results. It really worked and relieved the pressures of temptations.

After about a month of this, a demon surfaced at one of our services and began to angrily rant at me. He was furious because I had explained this procedure from the pulpit and "this stupid fool" had picked it up. The evil spirit was so thoroughly upset that he sneeringly complained. "All I hear all day long is, 'I reject you and you traps and snares for me Satan. I accept your will Lord. I love You and want only You.' I hate it, I hate it!"

It is important for the victim of demonic activity to resist false accusations made against him. Remember that one of the adversary's favorite tactics is slander. He does this directly, through insinuations in the mind. He also uses human instruments to push his lies and half-truths on the person under attack. Be sure that the accusation is justified, and is not from lying spirits before accepting it. If indeed guilty, **I John 1:9** provides God's remedy, and the sin must be confessed and forsaken and God's full and free forgiveness gratefully accepted.

If, following sincere repentance and confession, the guilt and feeling of condemnation continues to nag at a person, it becomes obvious that it is a false charge from the enemy and not from the Lord. The Holy Spirit, charged with the ministry of conviction of sin, never nags nor does He persecute the sinner. When a sin is genuinely confessed and forsaken, it is forgiven and will never be charged to the believer again. The devil is the only one who will continually haunt the individual with tormenting fears about a lack for forgiveness. Ask God for enlightenment as to the hidden causes of the pressures (**John 3:21**). As in the nets and snares of Satan, it is possible to reject the source of the attack even when you do not know the cause, and to ask that God destroy the root of the upsetting thing.

"If the believer accepts the self-depreciation suggested to him and created by evil spirits, it brings an atmosphere of hopelessness and weakness about him and he conveys to others a spirit of darkness and heaviness, sadness and grief. His spirit is easily crushed, wounded and depressed ... An abnormal sense of suffering is one of the chief symptoms of deception."⁶

The same writer pinpoints "passivity" as essentially a failure or refusal to actively exercise the will "in control over spirit, soul and body" as a

chief cause of demonic inroads upon an individual. Such passivity may even be a counterfeit, though not recognized as such, of surrender to God. As the passivity has come about gradually, it can only end gradually as it is detected and destroyed. The full cooperation of the man is necessary for its removal and this is the cause of the long period needed for his deliverance."⁷

How wisely it is said that, "The ground given which caused any faculty to fall into bondage to the enemy, must be found out and given up; and then refused persistently, in a steady resistance to the spirits of evil in their hold of it, remembering that the powers of darkness fight against the loss of any part of their kingdom in man, as much as many earthy government would fight to protect its own territory."⁸

To avoid regression after deliverance, the individual must commit himself completely to the Lord Jesus. He should study the Word of God and pray, and seek regular fellowship with a group of believers, preferably in a local church under the direction of a God-called pastor and men who meet the Scriptural qualifications for elders (**I Timothy 3:1-7**). Nothing less than this will meet the need. A church that is not strong or knowledgeable enough to set a person free from demonic powers is seldom strong enough to nurture and "grow him up" in the Lord after he has received his deliverance. A knowledge of the truth is the primary safeguard for the believer, and a vibrant and spiritually alive local church that grounds its teaching solidly in the Word of God will help supply that continually.

If a church has no real earmarks of the New Testament pattern, except for its loud proclamation of adherence to form, ceremony, traditions, creeds, and man-made and man promoted programs and activities, it cannot supply the strong undergirding a believer needs. Sadly, there are some places that, like Sardis, have a name or reputation of being alive, but actually are dead as far as God is concerned (**Revelation 3:1**). Are the methods of a particular church like those of the New Testament? Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit in evidence and exercised according to Scriptural order? Do you see the overflowing love (agape) feasts of the believers, the praise and thanksgiving and the other signs of a church that is vital, alive and glowing with life? There needs to be some genuine mark of the New

Testament church if you are going to invest your time and money in it. Why should a delivered one go back into the rut of conventionality, tradition and a form of godliness which denies the power thereof?

Several times I have witnessed persons who were gloriously delivered, who left rejoicing and eager to share the good news in the churches in which they had been members. It makes little difference whether it is a legalistic, fundamental church, or a liberal and ritualistic church, the result is rarely good. Their testimony was ignored or rebuffed. They learned to their sorrow that their happiness was not shared by their friends. Sometimes there is anger and resentment because they received such help outside of the accepted channels. I have even known some who have had their faith undermined to such an extent that they have lost out, and it is indeed true that their last state is worse than the former. Someone will surely answer to the Lord for this.

One of the big problems in many churches, even those not frozen with liberalism and formalism, is that "evangelistic pushes" have packed the churches with persons pressured in **without** a genuine salvation experience. Let preachers who have substituted programs for the power of God, fall on their faces before the Lord, confessing their unbelief, their pride in things which God does not value, and just be willing to become what God wants them to be, no matter what. How I pray that God will remove the blinders from pastors concerning deliverance and stir them to help their people to move actively forward into this neglected area of God's liberating truth!

Danger: Backlash

As hornets will attack anyone who disturbs their nest, so demons will viciously attack those who dare to invade the kingdom of Satan to free the captives. This is not stated to frighten or dismay, only as a sober word of warning and caution. Engaging with the powers of the spirit world is not a game; it is a deadly serious undertaking. We learned the hard way about the danger from malevolent demon spirits to the workers, physically, mentally and spiritually.

It is most foolhardy to underestimate the enemy and his ability to counterattack. And counterattack he will, the severity of his blows

being proportionate to the damage inflicted on his forces by the awakened believers. The more damage that is dealt to the kingdom of the prince of this world, the more severe you may expect his efforts at retaliation to be.

Keep in mind that the fighting that takes place in this contest will not be fought according to any rules with which you are likely to be familiar. Satan will stoop to any tactic to repel you and other workers who come against him and his kingdom. He is the original rule breaker, and he will not hesitate to exploit any weakness you have. No slackness in your spiritual life will be overlooked in an effort to gain some advantage over you.

Remember the example of Elijah who engaged in warfare at a higher level against the ruling powers of darkness. He came to the absolute peak of victory over the false prophets on Mount Carmel, putting them to open shame, but a short time later he was so totally demoralized by a threat from wicked Jezebel that he prayed to die! (**I Kings 19:1-4**). If we are not careful, while we are praising and thanking God for victory, Satan will slip in upon us (by working of his hosts) and seek to deal dreadful and hurtful blows to body, mind or spirit. These can reduce our rejoicing to shambles in short order.

In this battle, no quarter is asked or given. It is all-out, total warfare. Woe to the unprepared!

Christians certainly have the ability to obtain thoroughly adequate protection, but they are sometimes unfamiliar with the power available to them and how to effectively channel it. Enemy forces know all about the power they possess and how to extract the maximum advantage from it. They will try to seize on our every weakness, ignorance or carelessness to their advantage. Workers must not be frightened off by fiery trials, for they are certain to come (**I Peter 4:12**). We are promised blessings **with** persecutions (**Mark 10:30**).

All of the raging mischief and overt hatred of the enemy is a sure sign that his interests are being seriously affected and overthrown. Yet, in the beginning, the recoil and counterattacks of the devil and his hosts can seem to be terribly harsh. Lucifer is a firm believer that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; he responds quickly to the

first evidence of any real attack on his evil kingdom. In concept, he would believe in shooting a plane while it is on the ground attempting to take off, rather than waiting until it is airborne. We venture into this kind of work by being borne along by the power of the Holy Spirit (Greek *Haggais Pneumos* -- Holy Wind) and we are lifted far above the limitations of our human flesh and frailties. We go aloft as eagles do, borne upon the wind.

Away with foolish pride and the self-sufficiency of mere mortal man. It will not avail here. Only spiritually enlightened minds and humble hearts, filled with God-given compassion for the tormented captives, can hope to stand before the rage of this crafty and virulent foe.

When you begin to cast out demons, there will be severe repercussions as Satan mounts the offensive, seeking any vulnerable areas in the total being of the believer. If personal harassment will not deter the believer from pursuing spiritual warfare, the devil will broaden the scope of his offensive and attack through your family and other professing believers.

I, my family, and our church workers who became involved in deliverance were all subjected to severe, repeated and bizarre attacks when we first launched into casting out demons. And we still periodically have weird attacks. Apparitions; physical pains and sickness; the sound of foot-steps; nightmares **while awake** as well as during sleep; black figures bounding all over the bed pummeling you, ghostly hands touching; voices whispering; painting hot breath on the face; waves of icy air moving across and around you; growling, roaring, snorting, bellowing, and so forth. I do not exaggerate. All of these and more have been used in Satan's program of harassment. Cold, raw terror to induce fear is one of his favorite approaches. Fear throws a person off balance, paralyzes his defenses, and makes him more susceptible to the attacks. This fear does not come from the Lord, but from the devil for the Bible declares "*God has not given us the spirit of fear ...*" (**II Timothy 1:7**).

Dreams can be divine, in which the person is left normal, calm, quiet, reasonable, and with an open, clear mind. Satanic dreams are noted for their mystery, absurdity, emptiness, folly, and leave the person elated or dazed, confused and unreasonable. Sleeplessness, too, can

be a source of distress. "Insomnia may be the work of evil spirits, adapting their workings to the overwrought condition of the person, so as to hide their attacks under cover. Believers who are open to the supernatural world should specially guard their nights by prayer."⁹

If any of this happens to you, coolly, calmly, even with hair prickling on your neck and chills coursing through your body, you must take the offensive, using the name of Jesus as your shield and battering ram. Pray and praise Him for His blood, eternal life, salvation full and free, and claim His protection from the hosts of darkness. Rebuke Satan and his hosts and take authority over them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as a believer priest (**Revelation 1:6; 5:10**). Command the spirits to leave you (**1 John 4:4**). You may have to repeat this several times. Be persistent for they will be reluctant to obey. They also sometimes linger to see if you really believe what you are saying.

I have awakened, usually between 3 and 4 a.m., to find myself held in a vice-like grip by icy hands: my hands, feet, mouth and throat all held tightly, so that I could neither move nor make a sound; and I assure you that I was not dreaming but was wide awake. My body prickled with fear from head to toe.

One rule you must follow: Never panic. Refuse to stampede. Pray in the name of Jesus, pleading the blood and thanking God for Jesus and salvation in your mind, even if your throat and voice temporarily will not function. Take authority over the spirit forces, rebuking them in the name of Jesus. They will release you and retreat as you prove that you are not going to let them gain a foothold of fear from which to harass you.

As your faith and confidence builds in the sufficiency of the Savior ("*If thou canst believe, all things are possible*" **Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23; 10:27**), the praise of Jesus Christ and a love for Him will erect a shield which spiritual forces are unable to overcome (**Psalms 22:3-5**). Such attacks will continue until Satan is convinced that you will persevere in the warfare, no matter what he throws against you. So do not accept a premature "truce."

His next tactic is to shift his pressure point, seeking any weakness. He will accelerate his war with you, pressing you in areas of your

personal, family, business, and spiritual life to destroy you. This can literally crowd you to Christ for fellowship and protection. This end result explains why God permits him to harass you so, to drive you to Himself, thus frustrating the "destroyer" in his plans. When men stand faithful, the enemy never wins.

But you must recognize how Satan deploys his troops in an all-out attempt to convince you to turn back from your course. By crushing pressure, harassment, depression, oppression, and all sorts of crippling attacks, he will come at you. Your only recourse in the midst of this bombardment will be to claim with the Psalmist: *"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler ... There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling, for he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways"* (**Psalm 91:2-6, 10-11**).

The pressures of the enemy are arranged to stop you from pursuing real spiritual warfare. So no matter what area of your life is under attack, it is all part of a cunningly devised strategy to stop you from rescuing the oppressed. Count the cost (**Luke 14:28**), then determine by God's grace that you will go on. Decide whether the deliverance of many lives from Satan's bondage is worth the effort, the misunderstanding, and hatred that will surely be your lot (**John 5:18, 24; 17:14**).

Ministers and the godly people may line up in horror against you in this undertaking. It is contrary to their experience and their expectation. They are seemingly impervious to the fact that the deliverance ministry is definitely spelled out in example, precept and command in the Bible, and is desperately needed in these last days. Keep in mind that these truths are spiritually discerned (**I Corinthians 2:14-15, 3:1**). Until the Holy Spirit breaks through prejudice, fears, and ignorance, blinded minds will not comprehend and understand. Indeed, some of those who attack you will think they do God a service! Some opponents will fall into the sad category of those whom Paul calls enemies of the cross (**Philippians 3:18**). Do not waste time

trying to categorize the attackers. Ignore them and press on with Jesus Christ.

We need not fear the enemy, but we had certainly better respect him. We need not cower before him, but it is gross stupidity to misjudge the foe. Deliverance is not some Sunday school picnic to be approached lightheartedly as an exciting lark, but is a deadly serious and dangerous business, raw open warfare with the forces of hell. I repeat, in this battle no quarter is asked or given. It is all out, total warfare. Woe to the unprepared!

Since the entire wisdom and cunning of Satan is arrayed against us, the only way we can possibly meet the enemy is by the appropriation of supernatural power and wisdom from Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. No victory is possible without the authority and power of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:19-21; Philippians 2:9,10**). He alone is capable of overcoming Satan and gave us this assurance: "*I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy ... and nothing by any means shall hurt you*" (**Luke 10:19, 20**).

Keep in mind that you are not exempt from attacks in the areas of your former weaknesses and bondage. Watch as well as pray. Demons are extremely sensitive in such matters and know well when they are approached by one who has been delivered from their kindred spirits. They express a particularly virulent hatred for and fear of that individual.

Do demons attempt a comeback after expulsion? Yes, in every case I know of. It is wise also to remember that physical weakness makes it more difficult to resist the attacks of the evil one. Even when victory seems secure, the demons will often attempt to return. God does not free an individual to walk away in carelessness or rebellion, but to live in joyful obedience to Him.

Check yourself and gird on the armor tightly before you enter the fray, for there will be no time once the battle is joined. Woe to the one who enters the conflict lightheartedly or rashly, with some pieces of the armor askew or missing. Be clean before the Lord (**I John 1:9**).

Demons can ask some embarrassing questions of the workers if they choose. They can spot a phony immediately.

"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies--the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty Satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up" (Ephesians 6:11-13, Living Bible).

Although I generally do not utilize form prayers, feeling that they all too often degenerate into ritualistic mouthings, I here include Michael Harper's suggested prayer for one preparing for spiritual warfare. It does contain all of the elements you need to pray about in this type of work. Rote repetition will not be of value (**Matthew 6:7**), but as a reminder of essentials, this may be helpful:

"Lord Jesus, I claim by faith not the protection of Your armor, that I may stand against Satan and all his hosts, and in the name of Jesus overcome them. I take Your truth to counter the lies and errors of a cunning enemy. I take Your righteousness to overcome the evil thought and accusations of Satan. I take the equipment of the gospel of peace and forsake the safety and comforts of life in order to wage war with the enemy. Above all, I take Your faith to bar the way to doubts and unbelief entering my mind. I take Your salvation and trust You to protect my body, soul and spirit from Satan's varied attacks. I take Your word and pray the Holy Spirit will enable me to use it effectively against the enemy to sever every bondage and deliver every captive of Satan. In the strong and all conquering name of Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen."¹⁰

In a prolonged deliverance session (which may stretch into hours) our body and mind will become fatigued and incredibly weary. The struggle with spiritual forces will easily be one of the most draining and exhausting exercises you will ever experience. This can be dangerous for you personally. If you relax your spiritual guards and shields, even briefly, know that a cunning and incredibly vicious intelligence is

monitoring the whole affair, whose aim is to determine when to order an attack on the attackers.

Often the question is posed: "Why the long drawn-out sessions of battle with the enemy?" Some piously remark that there is no record of Jesus or the others in Scripture going through such a struggle. "Why not just speak the word and command them to leave?"

It may be that we will someday attain the spiritual level (and perhaps some have) where we can consistently do this. If the demons will flee without a commotion, fine! I have witnessed hundreds leave with little or no fuss and manifestation, but others, the deep-rooted ones, more powerful (especially the ones associated with lust, the occult, rejection and pride) seem to burrow in and put up a strong battle before leaving. Jesus said that some demons can be cast out only with prayer and fasting (**Mark 9:29**).

It is possible that we are not yet ready for such absolute power (and I speak of my own group) lest our foolish hearts be puffed up with pride. Those who say you should never argue with or otherwise engage the enemy in a pitched battle merely indicate to me that they have not gone very far into the business of spiritual warfare. We have had many individuals come to us, still unrelieved from problems. They had been confidently patted on the head elsewhere and told that it was done, and to *claim the victory by faith*. When we prayed with them, fierce and vicious demons answered us and began to talk and argue before being thrown out. They were not removed by bland smiles and form prayers, but by spiritual battle.

When dealing with a person through whom you expect demonic response, it is wise first to bind the strong man (**Matthew 12:29**) before beginning to pray. A prayer similar to this may prove useful: "Satan, I rebuke you in Jesus' name and command you and all free demons around us to be bound and prevented from interfering or intervening in the deliverance of this person. I claim the promise that whatever I bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, in Jesus' name." This can often reduce the violence of the deliverance, although the personality, power grip of the demon on the life involved influences this also.

Keep in mind that a ruler spirit may have a legion or more of demons under his control. If you successfully bind the commander, you will hinder all those under his command from functioning. To illustrate, a controlling demon we dealt with (a spirit of Mind Control) had command of entire legions that were under his direct control. Under his supervision were other rulers: Hate, Pride, Martial Arts (Karate, Judo, Jujitsu), each having many subordinate spirits. By binding the controlling demon we were then able to attack the others. The pressure on Mind Control became so intense that, in order to gain relief, he ordered Hate, Pride, and Martial Arts to leave with their spirits. They were furious but had to obey. Screaming, protesting, and spewing out obscenities, they reluctantly left. ... Then, as we badgered Mind Control with questions and prayers, he was forced to release a part of his own supporting force of many legions. When the Holy Spirit confused him and made his mind reel (in answer to prayer) he often would answer questions, in violation of his determination neither to talk with me nor to divulge any information. When this happened, he would stiffen with awful agony, groaning convulsively. His hatred for me knew no bounds and was like a physical force stabbing at my forehead, a pressure similar to being prodded by a broomstick. Through the victim's gritted teeth he explained that in punishment for blundering and yielding before a mortal's attack, Satan had subtracted a portion of his forces from him and sent them out into the world.

He had worked, he boasted, to gamer power to himself and his authority was indeed impressive, but Satan has no mercy on the embattled demons when they fail. Even when Satan's promised reinforcements fail to appear, he still severely chastises those who do not win. There are no excuses for failure among Satan's hosts!

Toward the end of the session under severe spiritual pressure, the demon slipped and revealed more information and Lucifer subtracted six legions in punishment. He groaned with awful pain when this happened. At the end of the session, only 27 of his 45 legions remained. All this was made possible by binding the ruler spirit.

In deliverance, the best approach is always to press for the expulsion of the demon. However, if, due to the weariness of the workers, physical exhaustion, shortness of time, or other factors, an alternative

course must be pursued, you may take authority and bind the manifesting demons. If you have to close the session before the deliverance is completed, make every effort to bind all demons still present in the person. In doing so it is good to list the demons who have revealed their names.

In one case, a young man came to the house for help but could stay only a short time because of his work. Demons manifested themselves and some were cast out. The more resistant ones I bound, praying, "Satan, I come against you and the spirits of (naming certain ones) and I command that they be bound in the name of Jesus. By binding I mean that you are not to harass, torment, or manifest in any way in this man until you are called out in deliverance. Further, I forbid you to communicate with your rulers, your princes, each other or this man. You are to sit in silence and be alone (demons hate being alone). I command this to be so, and order it to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I claim the promise that whatever I bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven. Be bound in Jesus' name!" Again, some demons will resist this binding savagely, but keep insisting and praying for their binding. They will submit. When they do, the person will "surface" and aside from being exhausted from the struggle, should feel peaceful and calm.

In this particular case I had overlooked some evil spirits that had been discovered but not cast out. Not being bound, they attacked the man that night with severe pains in the stomach and legs, causing something akin to near paralysis in the limbs of his body. He came back and I discovered that the bound spirits were still bound, seething with rage and frustration, I bound the loose demons causing the trouble; the pains and all symptoms immediately ceased. He came later for deliverance, and we sent them all out in Jesus' name.

Let us face an awful fact. Many Christians are just plain lazy. They do not come down from the "rafters of righteousness" to become involved in anything so undignified, and carries as much reproach from the world, as does battle with demonic spirits. Indignantly they draw back from an encounter which might rumple their carefully pressed clothes and rob them of sleep and their religious lethargy.

There are times when I almost wish it was as simple as the critics say. They claim that there is no such thing as spiritual warfare for Christians, or that the demons obediently and instantly hop out when some supercharged Christian appears on the scene. No account have I read, written by anyone who has even **actually** dealt with demons, will fail to "clue you in" that there is a real war here. There is no "nice" way to clean out a septic tank and in deliverance, we are, in a sense, pumping out the demonic sewage and filth accumulated in persons who need help. To people who raise their hands in horror at the fact that deliverances take place regularly in our church services, I reply that Jesus and his followers performed deliverances in the public streets and at least ours are inside a building!

Although I have not had the years of experience that he has, I understand Dr. Koch's statement: "As a result of my work among the occultly oppressed and the possessed, I am sometimes stretched to the very limits of my physical, mental and spiritual powers. If it were not for the fact that the Lord has held His hand over me in the past, I would have been ruined long ago. *'For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her'*" (**Zechariah 2:5**).

You may be sure that after hours of bitter struggling, straining every physical, mental and spiritual muscle you own, you will have very little pride in your own ability left. You will also have no doubts about Who and what turned the victory against the supernatural foe. There is no need to explain to a "combat soldier" in these struggles that without the mighty power of the name and the blood of Jesus Christ, His protecting angels, and the strengthening enabling of the Holy Spirit, we would be utterly helpless and easily wiped out. If these mighty lords of darkness could really get at the workers, they would tear them to pieces.

After the combat, you are extremely conscious that the power that came through was not of you. You are the pipe, not the water; the instrument, not the surgeon. So it is always, in order that glory and honor and praise be given to the Lord Jesus Who alone is worthy (**Revelation 4:11**). The religious crowd will leave you, but be not dismayed. They have always shied away from anyone who follows the

Lord too closely. Among them you will find those who will ardently persecute, rather than to concede that their position may be wrong.¹²

The Way of Victory

To hold deliverance after it has been achieved, use the Word of God! Deliverance is a walk, a way of life, not an isolated incident in the life of the believer. God does not set you free to "do your own thing," but to serve the Lord Jesus Christ out of a pure heart fervently. Remember your inheritance in Christ and the shared power and glory that is yours as a joint heir with the Son of God. Listed below are some helpful Scriptures to meditate on:

Ephesians 1:19-22; Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:57, 58; Isaiah 41:10; I Samuel 2:9; Psalm 56:13; Psalm 116:8; Jude 24; Proverbs 19:10; Psalm 35:1-9; Revelation 12:11, and many more.

When you are troubled in any area, you will find that the Bible has an answer and a passage which will defeat that enemy. For example, the following verses have been found helpful to those who are troubled by spirits of insomnia, sleeplessness and nightmares: **Psalm 3:5;4:8; Ezekiel 34:25; Proverbs 6:20-22;3:24; Ecclesiastes 5:12; and Psalm 127:2.**

If you become troubled by the seeming slowness of deliverance in your life, read and think on: **Ezekiel 34:25-31; Deuteronomy 7:20-24; and Exodus 7:20-24.**¹³

Holding Your Deliverance

Testimony

After Pastor Worley cast out spirits of sinus trouble and migraine headaches, I had three glorious weeks of freedom from any pain. After years of almost constant suffering, this was an incredible change.

Suddenly, one morning I awoke shocked to find I had all the symptoms of sinus and migraine. Dismayed and puzzled, before I confessed anything, I began to wait on the Lord and pray. The Holy Spirit began to show me that Satan was trying to put the symptoms back on me and convince me that I had not been delivered. I had been

going through a stress-filled situation for a couple of days and perhaps this had given an advantage to the enemy. When I realized what was happening, I took authority over Satan and his demons and commanded them to leave me in Jesus' name. Immediately the terrible symptoms relaxed and then ceased entirely!

Later the same morning this happened, I received a letter from Pastor Worley warning that the devil would use this very tactic but that I must resist him and refuse to accept his attacks. This was a word of knowledge and confirmation for me, especially since the letter was written a week before the attack!

I believe that, according to **Mark 11:23**, many times what we say or confess with our lips can be more important than what we believe. The word "believe" occurs only once in the verse while "say" is repeated three times. The last part of the passage is: " ... *he shall have whatsoever he saith.*" After believing I had been delivered and Satan hit me with the fiery darts of his lying symptoms, it became hard to accept that God had healed me. Had I given in and begun to believe that perhaps I was mistaken, that I was not healed, I would have soon had the whole package back. James put it plainly when he instructed believers to submit to the Lord, **then** resist the devil. The submitted, resisting child of God may expect Satan to flee from him. (**James 4:7**) We must learn to hold the delivered areas against the onslaughts of a determined foe. (**Joshua 1: 7-9; Deuteronomy 28**).¹³

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John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

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