



H. A. MAXWELL WHYTE



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Demons and Deliverance Second Edition

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Preface

y first experience with the ministry of deliverance involved a man who had suffered from chronic asthma from birth. Before he came to us for prayer, he had been prayed for by the orthodox methods known to the church at that time, but nothing at all happened. When we changed from the prayer of petition to a prayer of forceful command, the results were astounding.

As soon as we *commanded* the asthma to leave in Jesus' name, the spirit of infirmity causing the asthmatic symptoms began to come out. In an hour and a half, he was completely and permanently healed.

To say that my wife and I were astonished is an understatement. We had not done this by knowledge of theology, for what does theology teach us about casting out demons? We did it experimentally, willing to try any method or system that would bring release to the afflicted.

This first clear-cut case of healing by deliverance brought us a glimmer of understanding on a subject about which we knew practically nothing. This formed a basis of experimentation, and during the next three decades we were to have some intensely interesting cases and many marvelous deliverances. God taught us progressively by His Holy Spirit as we were willing to tackle each case presented to us.

I took the simple position of knowing nothing—but I was willing to learn by successes and mistakes. We made many errors, but we saw some wonderful deliverances. Fortunately, I had not been taught that a Christian cannot "have" a demon. In fact, I had been taught *nothing* for or against demons: I was just plain ignorant.

More and more suffering people approached us over the years as news leaked out that we were involved in the "deliverance ministry." Most of them seemed to be completely, or at least partially, delivered. Some were untouched, even though we were willing to spend much time in trying to dislodge the demons that were troubling them. We rejoiced at the successes but continued to ask the Lord about the failures. The Lord gradually taught us, and our percentage of successes increased.

We learned many things, but there is so much more to know. The whole ministry of deliverance seems to be an inexhaustible well of God's love to set the captives free.

I would urge the reader to consider the author not as an expert, but merely as a servant of God whom the Lord has brought into a knowledge of this vital subject. Because of this ministry, thousands have been set free and are still being set free.

This is not a theoretical theology, but a practical, down-to-earth Bible approach to the needs of people—and it works!

—H. A. Maxwell Whyte

Part One: Dominion over Demons

hile I was preaching in the auditorium of the City Hall in Hamilton, Bermuda, a Scottish lady in the crowd listened intently to the message of healing and deliverance. Several months later she visited our church in Toronto and asked for prayer for her arthritis. I had been informed, however, that this lady regularly attended a spiritist church and had no connection whatsoever with the Christian faith. Her desperate need for healing, however, made her a sincere inquirer.

I explained that I must be frank and asked her if it was true that she was attending spiritist services and seances.

"Yes," she said, "and I have received so much benefit from the meetings. I have found God in a much closer way, and He has helped me so much."

I gently explained to her that all forms of the occult are expressly forbidden in the Scriptures. God said that all who participate in these activities will actually be cut off or severed from His presence—which was quite the opposite of her testimony about how close she felt to God.

"Would you like me to show you in the Bible where all forms of spiritism are expressly forbidden by God?" I asked.

"Yes, please show me." Her openness indicated that the Holy Spirit was at work. I turned to the following Bible passages:

Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord.

(Leviticus 19:31)

And the person who turns after mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.

(Leviticus 20:6)

And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. (Isaiah 8:19–20)

Those passages quickly convinced her. She immediately renounced all forms of occultism and necromancy. This woman had *no idea* that God had forbidden these practices, and she was very humble about the whole matter.

When I prayed for her, the Lord instantly healed her of all arthritis, stiffness, and pain, and she kept her healing. A week after her deliverance, she returned to the church and was mightily baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues. She

wrote to me regularly from Scotland, and her faith remained firm.

Weird Demonic Powers

Those who practice spiritism and the occult have produced amazing, verifiable signs and wonders. To deny their power is foolishness. Things can be made to appear and disappear.

Levitation of inanimate objects is a reality. Articles such as vases and drinking glasses can sail across a room and be dashed in pieces against a wall. Tables can be made to walk up walls, and voices, including "other tongues" can be heard through trumpets and other objects.

I remember speaking to a Jewish friend who had been in the company of several men in Newcastle, Australia, one of whom practiced the occult arts. He boasted that he could cause anything to appear in the room where they were sitting.

My friend immediately asked him to "materialize" a tuna fish out of the Southern Ocean. No sooner had the wish been made known, than a great, flapping, wet tuna was right in the middle of the room.

How did it get there? How can a fish appear out of nowhere? How are inanimate objects levitated, defying the natural laws of gravity? Are all these lying signs and wonders so much "hocus pocus," or are they real?

The answer, my friends, is that they are real, but they are not of God. They are brought about through demon powers. The demons, being invisible, carry the glasses, support the walking tables upon the walls, and transport such things as a tuna fish out of the sea into a room. They

have laws that we do not know and understand. Anyone who opens their lives, through disobedience to God's Holy Word, can become the servants of these same demon powers.

The two magicians in Pharaoh's court, Jannes and Jambres, like modern African witch doctors, had limited power—but power nonetheless. Moses' rod turned into a serpent, and theirs appeared to do likewise. (See Exodus 7:10–12.)

But we must remember that Satan has no power to create. Only God can and does create by His Word. Satan can create nothing except confusion and havoc by taking the things of God and prostituting them to his own ends.

We do not believe that Jannes and Jambres created serpents; we believe they merely used demon powers to transport them from the forests into Pharaoh's court. The serpent created by God then ate up the natural-born serpents, showing that God is greater than the devil and his demon powers.

Good and Bad Spirits?

Man communicates with demons, and he thinks it's merely a parlor game or harmless fun. Many people believe in "white magic" and "black magic" and distinguish between "good spirits" and "bad spirits." The truth is that many bad spirits pretend to be good in order to deceive. All demons are bad, even if they transform themselves into angels of light. (See 2 Corinthians 11:14.)

People have many misconceptions regarding spiritist mediums and what actually happens at seances. Regardless of what they claim, spiritist mediums do not communicate with the dead.

Instead, they communicate with demon spirits who imitate those who have died.

Imagine a person being inhabited by a demon for years. On his death, this demon roams around in a disembodied state looking for another person who will not resist his efforts to gain entrance. This demon knows many intimate things that happened in the life of the departed person. If some medium is willing to communicate with this familiar spirit, naturally the spirit can simulate the dead person and fool the assembled gullible gathering.

Many people also have misconceptions about haunted houses. Some think that the ghosts of departed people live in such houses, but this is not true.

Demons haunt houses and can cause thumps and bangs at any time of the night or day. These happenings are real, but a Christian need not fear them because he has the name of Jesus and His shed blood with which to expel these demon powers.

Increased Satanic Activity

I read recently that every American high school has its witch or witches. In the Bible, men who dabble in the occult are called wizards. Both male and female witches are possessed by a "familiar spirit" which is expressly forbidden by Scripture.

There shall not be found among you anyone...who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 18:10–12)

Spiritism is now openly practiced on every American campus. Witchcraft is widespread in Britain, and Brazil faces an epidemic of occultism. Why is there such an increase in satanic activity? Because people are departing from God and His Word, and the vacuum created in the human spirit is being filled by "other spirits."

A beautiful sixteen-year-old girl once approached me for prayer. She seemed the type you would meet at church, but Satan is an arch deceiver. This girl first told me that she had been on drugs. Then she confessed that she had also been acting as a witch at school. Apparently she had two demons.

I laid my hands upon her head, rebuked the demons, and commanded them to come out in Jesus' name.

Immediately they started to scream, for they realized their impotency before the name of Jesus and His shed blood. They screamed and choked her for nearly an hour. Many surprised Christian students began to intercede for her until she was completely delivered.

I asked her if she would like to be filled with the Holy Spirit. She readily agreed, and she was taught to plead and honor the blood of Jesus in prayer. Soon the Holy Spirit entered into her, and she began to speak in a beautiful unknown tongue! I marveled at the wonderful change that Jesus brought to her countenance.

In Need of Deliverance

I realize that some of these accounts may shock those "who are at ease in Zion" (Amos 6:1). While the bridegroom delayed, the church slumbered,

slept, and lost many of these great truths. (See Matthew 25:5.) Today, however, God is bringing deliverance. Precious secrets that were unknown for years are being revealed by the Spirit of God.

How many Christians are indeed wrestling against demon powers? How many are arrayed in their gospel armor? Our churches look more like social clubs than military barracks! We neither know our enemy, nor the weapons that God gives us to fight him. We don't want to fight the forces that oppose the kingdom of God; we prefer to dream about going to heaven.

Many people attending our churches today are themselves in need of deliverance. Many are bound and oppressed, and some of their peculiar mannerisms may be due to demonic influence.

One Sunday morning, I was ministering in a full gospel church in Brooklyn, New York. The pastor and his wife had recently graduated from a Bible school in Lima, New York. He was leading a song service, when suddenly a woman in the congregation began to sway from side to side with a look of contortion and agony spread across her face. She started to bump into those on either side of her, and it was obvious to me that she was in torment.

Turning to the pastor, I commented, "See that woman down there? That's a first-class case of a religious demon operating."

"What should we do?" the startled young pastor asked.

In a situation like that, the gifts of the Spirit are indispensable. The Lord impressed upon me to walk down the aisle and speak to the woman. At that point, however, I did not know what God

wanted me to say to her. I encouraged the pastor to continue the singing while I addressed the situation.

"Sister, you are tormented," I said to her.

"Yes," she replied, "I know."

Then I offered to pray for her during the time of ministry that followed the service. Before returning to the front, I told her to sit down and behave in the name of the Lord, which she did.

At the end of the service, my wife and I approached the lady and asked her if she wanted us to pray for her. She did, so I began to rebuke the religious demon in Jesus' name. Immediately, it started to scream with an unearthly sound. I quickly circled the sanctuary and closed every window. It was summertime, and the church members—not to mention their next door neighbors—were astonished at what was happening.

By the time I returned from this chore, my wife laid her hands on the woman's shoulders and held her from being hurled to the floor. The demons in this woman were greatly agitated. After about ten minutes of screaming and violent coughing, she was delivered.

After experiencing a glorious release from demonic bondage, she immediately asked, "Why hasn't anyone ever done this for me before?" What a pathetic question—and yet how appropriate. Why?

The ministry of deliverance, or casting out demons, has been neglected by the Christian church for a number of reasons. Many ministers and churches shy away from it because they fear

the unknown. God is restoring scriptural teaching on deliverance to equip people for this ministry in the latter days.

Many people lack knowledge of the nature and operation of demons. Most Christians know that angels are ministering spirits sent to those who are the heirs of salvation. (See Hebrews 1:14; Psalms 91:11.) Unfortunately, we often forget about the opposing spiritual forces in the world. Evil angels—those who fell from their previous high estate as the trusted servants of Jehovah—were defeated in their rebellion and cast out of heaven with Lucifer, the son of the morning, or Satan himself.

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

(Revelation 12:9, emphasis added)

The Bible also teaches that the Lord used these fallen angels to visit suffering upon those who deliberately disobeyed Him.

He [God] cast on them the fierceness of His anger, wrath, indignation, and trouble, by sending **angels of destruction** among them.

(Psalm 78:49, emphasis added)

The next verse implies that these evil angels caused a deadly plague that brought God's judgment. These fallen angels are "reserved in

everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6). At the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, Satan himself will be bound for one thousand years and cast into the bottomless pit. (See Revelation 20:1–3.)

When Satan was cast out of heaven with his legions, he was given authority over mankind and all creation. In fact, he is able to influence everything that has life. And he has a very definite effect on the very atmosphere that surrounds the earth. The apostle Paul called him the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2).

This beautiful, created being was at one time called Lucifer, which means "shining one." (See Isaiah 14:12.) He held the greatest position among the created angelic hosts but tried to usurp God's throne. Lucifer proudly made a five-fold declaration:

I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.

(Isaiah 14:13-14)

Lucifer did not lose his power or authority when he was cast out of heaven. By divine permission he uses it today among the earthly creation. His power, therefore, is second only to Jesus Christ and is infinitely greater than many people imagine.

In the end, however, Satan will meet a resounding defeat. That same passage of Scripture goes on to describe the judgment of Lucifer.

Yet you [Lucifer] shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?"

(Isaiah 14:15-17)

Wicked Spirits

Christians must remember that Satan is neither omnipresent nor omniscient. His power is limited. In order to carry on his insidious work of maintaining curses upon the world, he uses a great company of wicked spirits, or fallen angels, to do his bidding. Without a doubt these wicked spirits are governed by well-disciplined angelic orders of generals and captains.

We do not know the number of these wicked spirits. There seems little doubt that they are far more numerous than mankind. The poor demoniac of Gadara had a legion in him. We read in *Smith's Standard Bible Dictionary* that a legion consists of about 6,000 men and expresses any large number with the accessory ideas of order and subordination. (See Matthew 26:53; Mark 5:9.)

There seems little doubt that many accidents, misfortunes, quarrels, sicknesses, diseases, and unhappiness are the direct result of the individual work of one or more wicked spirits. Spirits are just as much *beings* as humans, except that they have no physical form. This is why they seek to indwell humans or animals (as in the case of the swine into which the Lord cast the legion from the

demoniac of Gadara). They may even seek to reenter a body when the spirit of that person ceases to resist their forces. (See Matthew 12:43, 45.)

Who Fills the Empty Space?

Dr. Lawrence Hammond, a born-again nuclear scientist, tells of an experience that changed his thinking about demonic power.

One sun-drenched day in voodoo-infested Haiti, an old hag violently attacked me. Her face was a horrible Halloween mask, her teeth fangs, her fingers clutching claws. Nobody had to tell me that she was oppressed by demons. Through the power of the blood of Jesus, and the authority of His name, the Holy Spirit enabled me to cast the demons out of her.

I had never heard of anyone practicing deliverance today. Furthermore, I knew that many Christians totally rejected the existence of demons. But face to face with the satanic power expressed through this violent woman, I learned—much to my amazement—that a Christian who believes he has received power over the enemy can cast out evil spirits in the name of Jesus.

But I had a lot to learn. For weeks I puzzled over how that woman could be so oppressed by demons.

As a scientist, I knew the emptiness of the atom, whose electrons are so small that only one millionth part of that atomic volume is occupied. I also knew that the human body is composed of such "empty" atoms, and that you and I are actually 999,999,999,999 parts empty space!

Lee Chesnut, former nuclear science lecturer and author of *The Atom Speaks and Echoes the Word of God*, pointed out that this emptiness must be filled with something: either the Spirit of God or the spirit of Satan. As he said, "You and I must decide between Satan and the Lord Jesus Christ, and which is to occupy and fill our lives."

Oppressed, Obsessed, or Afflicted

When evil spirits gain entrance into a person's body, we speak of *demon oppression*. These demons use the body of the afflicted person to work their wicked acts. Demons delight in actually controlling humans and speaking through them.

Demons can worry, tempt, or distract believers. This would be another example of *demon oppression*. They might cause us to get "out of victory," or lose our temper, a condition in which no Christian need ever be.

If evil spirits control a person's mind, this is called *demon obsession*. Someone who thinks he has committed the unpardonable sin is plagued by demon obsession. Upon questioning, however, he

is unable to tell you what constitutes the unpardonable sin!

Demons also cause many afflictions from which mankind suffers. The spirits described in the Scriptures are foul, wicked, evil, deaf, dumb, infirm, unclean, and seducing.

Many believe that cancer is nothing more than a work of evil spirits which, when cast out in the mighty name of Jesus, shrivel up and die. Who disputes the possibility that arthritis, tumors, deafness, and dumbness may not be the actual work of demons in portions of the body? We do not say that such a person is "demon possessed," but we do suggest that they are sorely afflicted by demons.

We believe that the primary cause of all sickness is spiritual. Symptoms may be treated by natural means, yet if we use the name of Jesus Christ and His shed blood as a weapon against Satan in faith, then certainly we will see manifestations of divine healing because the sickness is destroyed at the root.

Deal with Demons First

Are healing and deliverance the same? Jesus didn't think so. He distinctly differentiated between divine healing and deliverance from demons. Let's look at His last discourse to His disciples. He taught them to expect five signs to prove the ministry of the Word of God.

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they 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. (Mark 16:17–18)

The first sign was casting out demons in His name. This particular sign is mentioned *before* the sign of physical healing. We do not know whether this order is accidental, but we suspect that Jesus had a reason for listing deliverance first because He always dealt with primary issues first. If we first cast out demons, we would frequently have no need to pray for the sick; deliverance from the demon would bring all the healing needed.

It is interesting to note that the very first recorded act of public ministry by Jesus was to cast out a devil.

> Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destrou us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." (Mark 1:23-26)

Many in the church today are asking these same questions. What is deliverance? Is this some new doctrine? Is every believer called to deliver

people from evil spirits? Are there dangers in getting involved in deliverance?

This ministry raises many questions in the minds of Christians. Can a born-again Christian be oppressed by demon powers? Are physical and mental sicknesses caused by demons? Where has this ministry of deliverance been throughout the ages? Can a Christian cast demons out of himself? How does a person come under demon influence?

The time has come to answer the questions Christians are asking today. Not so we can formulate more doctrine and theology, but so we can start setting people free!

If this ministry was so important to Jesus, should it be any less important to us?