

SUPERNATURAL DELIVERANCE

GUILLERMO
MALDONADO



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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SUPERNATURAL DELIVERANCE:

Freedom for Your Soul, Mind, and Emotions

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THE REVELATION OF DELIVERANCE MINISTRY IN THE NOW

What is the most difficult problem you face? What issues in your life have you been struggling with for months—or even years? You may think you understand what you’ve been dealing with, but perhaps there is more to it than you have realized. Let me share with you my own journey of revelation into the ministry of deliverance that is available for every one of God’s children, enabling them to live a life of freedom and fruitfulness.

The Scriptures promise abundant life and peace, but I struggled with feelings of fear and rejection. I loved God, prayed, and fasted, but even though I read in the Bible that I was a new creation in Christ and that all things had been made new in me, I wasn't free in those areas. I could not overcome them. I was still dealing with negative influences from my past.

I was just starting my ministry in the church, yet I faced the reality that my life was contrary to what the Scriptures teach it should be. In addition, I noticed the same pattern in the leaders who were under my care. A few of them used tranquilizers and sleeping pills, while some suffered from recurring depression. Others lived in cycles of sin that they could not break, participating in various forms of immorality, such as pornography, promiscuity, or homosexuality. Some had recurrent illnesses. Still others were afflicted by and in bondage to fears, just as I was. Something was wrong!

Why Don't Many Believers Experience Abundant Life?

During this time, I would ask myself questions for which I had no answers, such as the following: Why were born-again Christians who loved God and served Him unable to live in freedom or to exercise self-control in some areas of their lives? How could believers, who have been empowered by God's Spirit, be powerless to overcome addictions to food, smoking, prescription pills, or illegal drugs? If Christians were new creations in Jesus Christ, why did they still battle mental strongholds of fear, anxiety, and compulsive desires? Why were they still in bondage to the mind-set of the world and to sexual immorality, even to extreme behaviors? If Christ had already set them free, why were they still holding on to grudges and bitterness, unable to forgive others who had hurt them? Why was it so difficult for them to obey God and to be free of rebellion against Him and His ways? Why did they succumb to escapism and crippling

feelings of guilt? Why did they experience nightmares and battle suicidal tendencies?

On the cross, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins and our sicknesses, and His work is complete. His sacrifice was a legal transaction in the spiritual realm that delivered us from our bondage to sin. Yet, in experience, in practice, neither my staff nor I had fully entered into that freedom. Something was binding our wills and keeping us from pleasing God in certain areas of our lives.

I would spend hours, days, and weeks counseling the members of my staff, trying to deliver them from these conditions of bondage and defeat, but I saw no improvement. These leaders were unable to enjoy an abundant life of righteousness, peace, and joy, which are all characteristics of the kingdom of God. (See Romans 14:17.) In addition, I noticed another symptom that worried me. As I continuously tried to help people become free of their persistent, entrenched issues, the leadership of the church—as well as the members—was failing to experience growth in Christ. Something was holding them back. (See Ecclesiastes 7:7.)

As I sought to understand what was happening, and as I searched for solutions to our needs, the Lord began to reveal the answer—it was *the precious ministry of deliverance*. This is a ministry that Jesus brought to earth for all believers to avail themselves of and to use on behalf of others. Deliverance ministry is twofold: (1) It releases believers from oppression and demonization in the areas in which they experience persistent struggles. (2) It sets free those who are demon possessed or otherwise in bondage to the power of the enemy.

The Reality of the Existence of Demons and Evil Spirits

It wasn't as if I hadn't previously believed in deliverance through the power of Jesus Christ. I knew that Jesus and the apostles had practiced deliverance, freeing people from Satan's grasp. However, I had believed in it from an intellectual point of view alone, because I had never

personally been delivered or ministered deliverance to others. I did not know how to access deliverance in the now—*today*. I hadn't yet received divine wisdom about the reality and origin of demonic bondage. As a result, I dealt with merely the "branches," or consequences, of people's problems, rather than with the root of them. Furthermore, I had tried to handle these matters directly with the people who were struggling—giving them advice and encouraging them to change their behavior. In reality, they were facing spiritual attack involving spiritual entities called "demons." Consequently, a spiritual response alone would be effective.

The Bible says, *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12). Another Bible version translates this verse as follows: *"For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world..."* (TLB).

When I realized the true spiritual nature of the problem, the Lord instructed me to "clean" my leadership and the members of my church. I hope the following illustration will help to explain what we needed to do. After a fisherman takes a catch of fish, the first thing he does is to "clean" them. In other words, he removes their innards to prevent them from smelling bad. Likewise, the leaders and members of my church needed to be cleansed of the demonic influence and oppression that were afflicting them.

And so, the leadership (including myself) and the members of my church received deliverance. We were freed from our burdens, and, from that day forward, everyone began to grow spiritually. A revival was released in the church, thanks to the fact that everyone had been set free!

In my case, I had been a fearful man, but God completely changed me so that I became bold when evangelizing and preaching. I had the courage to take giant steps of faith. As the blindfold fell from the spiritual eyes of my ministers and other leaders, they recognized—and were delivered from—their own issues. Their leadership improved, and their minds were opened to receive wisdom and knowledge from God.

*We often deal with merely the “branches,”
or consequences, of people’s problems rather
than with the root of their issues.*

Supernatural Deliverance

Perhaps you genuinely love God and are filled with the Holy Spirit, but you remain tied to the negative effects of your past, including emotional wounds and unforgiveness. Maybe you wrestle with mental strongholds, so that you continually deal with depression and/or feelings of rejection. Or, perhaps you struggle with sexual sin. Maybe you suffer from fears and phobias. It could be that you are experiencing hardness of heart, and you don’t understand why. You can be delivered from any of these conditions!

Many born-again Christians have come to our ministry with a precious heart for God. They were faithful followers, and they sought to please Him, but because of their lack of knowledge about deliverance, they were in bondage in certain areas of their lives. Among them was an evangelist who shared the following testimony.

“My name is John McCormack. I am from Ireland, and I have been a follower of Jesus as a missionary in China for over fifteen years, teaching in schools and universities and for business associations. Although I knew God and had preached the gospel of Jesus for three years, I was really hard inside; my heart held a lot of pain and discouragement. I was unable to cry and could not feel the presence of God, so I grew distant in my relationship with Him. My understanding of Christianity was in a box, where I rationalized all that I saw and questioned everything, especially the purpose of giving tithes and offerings. I would reason and doubt, saying that maybe God would do something—and maybe He wouldn’t. As an evangelist in China, I grew tired of talking to people

and saying, ‘Jesus loves you,’ ‘Jesus is real,’ or ‘Receive Jesus into your heart,’ only to see no tangible manifestation or anything happen in the mission field or at church services. This physically exhausted me. It was painful.

“One morning, while watching teaching videos of Apostle Renny McLean on his Web site, I saw among the suggested videos a teaching from a man named Apostle Guillermo Maldonado. I watched one of his sermons, and my life was instantly changed. What I heard about deliverance, about the power of the supernatural, and about the true love of God has expanded my understanding of how big God really is. I was introduced to the supernatural power of God, which instantly broke the paradigms that religion, intellectualism, and the culture I was in had established as my environment. That moment, in my room, I encountered God in such a way that the walls around my heart were spiritually broken, and I was delivered from my bondages. For the first time in years, I cried in God’s presence. The supernatural is much bigger than what I had believed it to be.

“Shortly after that encounter, I traveled to Miami, Florida, to receive ministry at Apostle Maldonado’s Supernatural Fivefold Ministry School. I went looking for further healing and deliverance. During that weekend, I became a transformed man; even my question of giving tithes and offerings was resolved. God set my mind free, teaching me that it’s not about me or about providing for myself or about other people providing for me—it’s about looking to God. I learned that I had to be still and know that He is God! God removed the veil from my eyes—from my religious ways of knowing Him—and gave me the revelation of the supernatural, the revelation of God’s power of deliverance and love. I am no longer the same man that I was before!”

Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?

Many Christians recognize that deliverance ministry is needed (or they at least acknowledge that it was needed in New Testament times) to release from bondage those who are demon possessed. Yet there is

much controversy over the question of whether a born-again Christian could ever be possessed by an evil spirit. How could a Christian be in a state of demonic bondage when the kingdom of God does not share territory with the kingdom of darkness?

If Jesus Christ completely paid the price of our salvation and deliverance when He died on the cross, if Christ dwells in our heart by faith, and if the Holy Spirit is our Counselor, shouldn't we be free of all demonic influence the instant we accept Jesus as Lord and receive God's Spirit?

Additionally, if Christ carried our sicknesses—as well as our sins—on the cross, why do we seem to inherit sicknesses and other types of bondage (such as arthritis or addictions) from our parents, grandparents, and other ancestors? Such sicknesses and bondages are often referred to as “generational curses.”

Let us address these important questions, so that we will understand the nature of deliverance ministry. First, can a believer be *possessed* by a demon? The answer is no, because a born-again Christian belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. The devil is no longer that person's lord and master. Jesus lives within the person's heart, or spirit, which is the throne of God on earth in those who have received His Son. In contrast, to be *possessed* by a demon means that your whole being is controlled by that evil spirit.

However, even though a Christian cannot be possessed by a demon, this does not mean that a believer might not have parts of his life that are being influenced by the power of a demonic spirit or that are inhabited by a demon. A demon can reside in any part of a believer except for his heart, or spirit. This is because there are certain areas of the believer's soul and body that he—knowingly or unknowingly—has yet to surrender to God. These vulnerable areas are not completely under Christ's lordship; they have not been fully redeemed. Consequently, the door has been left open for them to be “demonized.” To be demonized means to be under the influence of a demon, or to be under attack by a demon.

For instance, if someone harbors unforgiveness, he opens the door for a demon to reside in his emotions, a situation that may also have

an effect on his body. I recently ministered to a man who had been deeply hurt due to a betrayal. He had held unforgiveness in his heart, and he'd suffered from terrible arthritis pain. I led him in forgiveness, and then I rebuked the oppression in his emotions. He was instantly healed of the arthritis.

Two Greek nouns denoting a “demon,” or a wicked or impure spirit, are *daimon* and *daimonion*. “Wicked spirits,” “impure spirits,” “evil spirits,” and “demons” are interchangeable terms. In English versions of the New Testament, the Greek verb *daimonizomai* has been translated (among other variations) as “*demon-possessed*,” “*possessed with a devil*,” or “*possessed by a demon*.” (See, for example, Matthew 4:24 NIV, NKJV; Matthew 9:32 KJV; John 10:21 NIV.) However, I believe these are erroneous translations that cause many people to be confused about the activity of demons. Instead, I believe *daimonizomai* refers to demonization. A person does not need to be actually demon possessed to require deliverance from demonic attack.

In my experience, most Christians *do* need deliverance—and not just one time. Deliverance ministry is a feature of the kingdom of God that Christ came to release to us. In fact, I believe Jesus provided the marvelous ministry of deliverance as “daily bread” for His people. That means it is available to us all the time, whenever we need it.

A born-again believer cannot be possessed by a demon, but he can be influenced and/or attacked by one.

What Is Deliverance?

Deliverance is a term that is rarely used in the church today. It refers to the permanent removal of demonic spirits—unseen, evil entities without physical bodies—that deceive, influence, enslave, bind, torment,

and sicken people. In the New Testament, we read, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). When Jesus brought the kingdom of God to earth, He demonstrated that the ministry of deliverance always accompanies the presence of the kingdom. Deliverance is a manifestation that God’s kingdom has arrived in people’s lives and in the life of their communities, cultures, and nations. When we minister deliverance, we establish the kingdom of God in and among human beings. In chapter 2 of this book, we’ll further explore the relationship between the kingdom and deliverance.

When most believers manifest a problem in their minds, wills, and/or emotions, their spiritual leaders merely counsel them, rather than discerning where there may be a demonic origin to the problem and setting people free by either casting out the demons or rebuking the influence of the demons in their lives.

*Counseling, psychiatry, and psychology
have replaced the ministry of deliverance
in the church.*

Demonic spirits are the main cause of many emotional, spiritual, and physical problems with which people struggle. Until we discern this reality, we will continue to offer people solely counseling, psychology, and/or psychiatry in an attempt to patch up their wounds and ease their emotional pain. Yet we will fail to deal with the underlying cause of their problems. This approach is like removing a spider web from your home without killing the spider, or cutting off the branches of an invasive tree in your yard but never pulling up its trunk and roots. You will merely be beating the air without achieving any results.

Most believers love Christ but, for lack of knowledge, are still living in captivity. I have taken the time to investigate the need for deliverance among God's people, and I have concluded that approximately 80 percent of those in the church need deliverance, because they have one or more areas that are oppressed or enslaved by wicked spirits.

*The enemy's greatest stronghold is
man's ignorance of his deceitful ways.*

The Importance and Necessity of Deliverance

Many people assume that after they have been born again and filled by the Holy Spirit, there is no possible way for them to be influenced by a demon. Such an idea is completely false. In fact, their belief in this lie is what keeps many of them in bondage. I have seen, heard, and experienced the need for deliverance in born-again Christians. I know that even after a person is saved, he must often also be set free. A good analogy is the experience of Lazarus (the brother of Mary and Martha), whom Jesus raised from the dead. When Lazarus was resurrected, he received new life; however, in order to live that life, he still needed to be released from the grave clothes that had been wrapped around him for his burial. (See John 11:43–44.)

To disguise his activities and attacks, Satan has made sure that most people today see deliverance as a superstitious practice—a medieval idea that only the ignorant hold to. The trap of this deception is that it makes many people believe that the devil doesn't exist. Some people believe that the devil is real but that *they* are exempt from his schemes—he couldn't possibly be exerting a negative effect on their lives. As a result,

when the subject of deliverance is discussed, many people become offended by it, fearful of it, or defensive about it.

To better understand why deliverance is needed, we must recognize the nature of human beings and how they were created. The apostle Paul wrote, “*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). It takes spirit, soul, and body to make a whole person. Since each part of our makeup is unique, it needs to be individually treated, healed, and/or set free when it is demonized.

- ✦ The *spirit* is the inner man, or the “spiritual man.” It is where God comes to dwell when we are born again—it is the seat of His presence.
- ✦ The *soul* is the seat of our will, with which we make decisions. The emotions and the mind (intellect) are aspects of the soul, also.
- ✦ The *body* is the dwelling place of the spirit and the soul, and the means by which these two unseen parts of our being express themselves in the visible world as they manifest their uniqueness and their desires.

*Man is a spirit with a soul who
dwells in a physical body.*

When we were born again, it was our spirit—not our soul or our body—that was instantly regenerated. In order for God to “*sanctify [us] completely,*” our body often still needs to be healed, and our soul still needs to be renewed and set free from the effects of sin and Satan. In other words, the salvation and the transformation that took place in our spirit were immediate, forming a new creation (see 2 Corinthians

5:17)—but our soul is still corrupted by the sinful nature and needs to be progressively released and transformed.

Revelation for Deliverance Ministry

To understand the two-fold nature of deliverance ministry, we must receive revelation that enables us to do the following:

I. Discern the Difference Between Demonization and Demon Possession

Let us be clear about the distinction between demonization and demon possession. To be demonized means to be under the influence of, or under attack by, a demon. To be possessed by a demon means to be totally under the control of that demon in your spirit, soul, and body. For example, if you own, or “possess,” a house, it belongs to you, and you have full authority and control over it.

We have noted that a believer cannot be possessed by a demon, because a born-again Christian belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the devil is no longer that person’s lord and master. Most of the time, if a believer is told that he is possessed by a demon, his reaction is anger, because he knows that Christ lives within him. However, there may be areas in a believer’s life that are still under the influence of an evil spirit, because they have not been surrendered to the Lord’s control. This, as we have discussed, is called “demonization.”

For example, consider the following verse: *“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’”* (Matthew 15:22). In this case, we should understand the term “*demon-possessed*” to mean being under the influence of a demon, rather than actual demon possession.

At one point, Jesus was presented with a man who was “*mute and demon-possessed*” (Matthew 9:32). The verb used in this verse indicates that the man was demonized, and the evidence of that demonization

was that he was mute. The instant the demon was cast out, the man recovered his ability to speak. The man had not been possessed by a demon; rather, a specific area of his life had been under the influence of the wicked spirit.

Many of the people living in Palestine whom Christ set free from demonic oppression believed in the Lord Jehovah; they were waiting for the Messiah, the promised Redeemer. Unless they were Roman government officials or soldiers, most of them were farmers, fishermen, or businessmen—not criminals, lunatics, witches, or others whom you might ordinarily expect to be under the influence of Satan or subjected to his oppression. In fact, the Jews were forbidden to practice witchcraft or to engage in any aspect of the occult. In the Old Testament, such practices were punishable by death. (See Deuteronomy 18.) This means that, in Jesus' day, even some religious people who believed in the Lord were demonized.

Accordingly, when we encounter someone today who needs deliverance, we shouldn't assume that the person must be a criminal, a witch, a sorcerer, a prostitute, or an idol worshipper, like *"certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons"* (Luke 8:2). Although there are people who are involved in such things and who allow Satan to influence and control them, there are also millions of "ordinary" people—such as educators, lawyers, doctors, artists, accountants, and secretaries—who need deliverance from the oppression of wicked spirits, just as the common people in the days of Christ needed to be set free from Satan's power. As I wrote earlier, I believe that the majority of the people in the church need deliverance from demonization; this is about the same percentage as need healing.

Again, demonization is not the same as demon possession, which refers to total dominion by an evil spirit. This takes place when someone is invaded and controlled by that evil spirit—when the individual's spirit, soul, and body are completely dominated by the demon (or demons). In the fifth chapter of Mark, there is an account of a man who was demon possessed. He did terrible things, against even his own body.

A man with an unclean spirit...had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

(Mark 5:2–5)

This man was possessed, and not just by one demon but by a group of demons called “Legion.” (See Mark 5:9.) When the demons that controlled the man’s life saw Jesus and heard Him command them to come out of the man, they began to shout, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me” (Mark 5:7). Some people have told me that, before they visited my church, they hated me. Although they did not know me (I had never even spoken with them), and although I had never done anything to hurt them, they hated me. If they saw me up close, they wanted to hurt me. When people hate others for no reason, it is evidence of the presence of a demon. This may be why some people become angry at deliverance ministries and denounce them.

Anything that is anti-natural and compulsive is demonic.

The greatest characteristic of demonic activity in a person is that the individual finds no rest for his soul.

When Jesus set people free from Satan’s power, the first thing they wanted to do was to tell their family members and friends about what had happened to them. Note what the man who had been possessed by the legion did after he received his deliverance: “He departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled” (Mark 5:20). This is how many people responded after Christ liberated them.

However, notice how the onlookers reacted when Christ delivered the man. They were so astounded that, instead of glorifying God that this man had recovered his self-control and no longer had to live in chains or be possessed by the demons that had tortured him, they preferred to react to the situation by “casting” Jesus out of the city! *“They were afraid....Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region”* (Mark 5:15, 17).

These people refused to confront the reality of divine deliverance face-to-face. A similar situation occurs today. Some people feel no shame in consulting fortune-tellers, practicing outlandish occult rituals, or binding themselves with everything that Satan offers them; but when they have the opportunity to be set free from demonic oppression or possession, or to see others freed from evil spirits, they feel ashamed and/or become afraid. Christ instructed the man whom He had delivered to go and tell others everything he had received from God. He didn’t tell him to keep it a secret. (See Mark 5:19.) Yet, today, after some people are set free, they feel too embarrassed about their former problems to share their testimonies with others. Consequently, many of them go back to the same condition—or to an even worse one—with which they were previously afflicted.

We must preach deliverance in the same way that Christ preached it. We must demonstrate the truth of the Scriptures and remove the stigma of deliverance, as well as the fear that prevents people from seeking it and receiving it. If the generation currently in leadership would do this, the next generation would follow its example, because young people today are tired of merely protecting their reputations and satisfying religious decorum. They want to know the true God, and they want to experience spiritual reality and freedom.

2. Discern Between the Effects of Demonic Attack and the Actions of the “Flesh”

When we minister to other people (as well as when we examine our own lives), it is essential for us to discern which negative behaviors and

actions are prompted by demonic attacks, and which come from the “flesh” (see, for example, Galatians 5:16 NKJV, KJV), with regard to how they operate in our lives. The flesh does not refer to our physical bodies but to the corruption of sin working within us to pervert our thoughts, desires, and motivations.

Discerning between the work of demons and the fleshly nature is important because there have been two extremes in the Christian world regarding the existence and activities of demons. In the past, many people who ministered deliverance seemed to see a demon behind every bush. Other Christians completely dismissed the idea of demons, attributing every problem to the fleshly nature. Not all problems are demonic; neither are they all a result of the flesh. We need to recognize that either source can incite negative behavior, and then we must learn to identify the correct one in each situation.

Dealing with Demonic Attack

Demons work to destroy people’s lives. As we read earlier in Ephesians 6:12 (TLB), demons are evil entities “*without bodies*,” so they desire to work through the bodies of human beings as a way to operate on the physical earth. Yet they are able to function outside human bodies, as well as inside them. Furthermore, demons have personalities, and they exhibit some characteristics similar to human beings. For example, they are self-aware, they have a will, they feel emotions, they have knowledge, and they even have the ability to think and to speak (using human instruments). In addition, as followers of Satan, their consciences are seared.

Throughout the Scriptures, we see evidence of the above characteristics of demons. A demon will tempt, deceive, enslave, torment, push, and corrupt a human being to do its will. The will of every demon responds to the will of its lord—Satan. Please understand that the will of Satan never includes the well-being of any man, woman, or child. He always wants to usurp people’s authority in order to destroy humanity, as well as the earth. He wants to mock God and to

annihilate everything that God loves, especially His most precious creation—human beings.

Demons try to keep people from recognizing and knowing the truth about Jesus Christ. They attempt to stop God’s children from fulfilling their purpose and calling. They endeavor to prevent believers from serving Christ, placing obstacles to block them from becoming instruments of God who move in the power of the supernatural. Demons work to thwart believers from living an abundant life in Christ. The solution to such demonic attack and oppression is deliverance.

Dealing with the Flesh

The impulses of the flesh were set in motion in all human beings by the fall of humanity. This occurred when our first parents, Adam and Eve, listened to the lies of Satan and disobeyed God. (See Genesis 3.) Some synonyms for the flesh are the “*sinful nature*” (see, for example, Romans 7:18 NIV, TLB), the “*old man*” (see, for example, Romans 6:6), the “*carnal self*” (see, for example, Romans 7:14), the “*Adamic nature*” (see 1 Corinthians 15:22), and the “*former you*.” In a later chapter, we will further explore the inner conflict between spirit and flesh, and we will learn how to have victory over the flesh.

When a sinful behavior is related to a carnal desire—rather than to demonic attack—the solution is to “die to self.” We *can* “crucify” the flesh and cause it to be in submission to Christ. It will require daily death to self, but it is possible to exercise dominion over sinful desires.

The flesh is corrupt in itself, but it also attracts demons—just as the flesh of a carcass attracts vultures. Many people allow the sinful nature to become enthroned in their lives, so that they exclusively or primarily live to satisfy their fleshly desires. Such a lifestyle produces sin, complacency, and an eager pursuit of worldly delights, which are only temporary and ultimately lead to death. In contrast, when someone wholeheartedly pursues the life of the Spirit, he will experience peace and joy—not only on earth but also for all eternity.

*The remedy for the flesh is to “crucify” it,
but the cure for demons is to cast
out the evil spirit(s).*

For those who are living according to the sinful nature, godly counsel about “crucifying” the flesh can be effective in helping them to live in line with the Spirit—if they heed that counsel. However, when demons are involved, something else is needed. Demons cannot be “counseled”; they must be cast out. The treatment used for the flesh will not bring the same results with demons. Many people are unknowingly trying to “cast out” the flesh and “crucify” demons! That will never work. The demon who was “counseled” will merely gloat, because it knows it is wasting your time. It will further establish its presence in the life of the person it is oppressing, while using that person to mock you.

For example, if you tell someone who is under the influence of a demon in the area of sexuality—perhaps manifesting in adultery—to deny the flesh, that individual will usually become frustrated, because his efforts will prove futile. Perhaps, for a little while, the person may be able to control the negative impulse. However, the instant that resolve disappears, he will fall into sin once more. People must first be set free from demonic control before they can learn to exercise self-discipline.

How can you discern whether you are fighting against your flesh or against a demon? Generally, if you are fighting a demon, you will not be able to exercise self-control, no matter how hard you try. You will be wrestling a compulsive desire that goes beyond your strength and your desire to please God and to show respect to your family. If you have prayed and fasted but continue to fall into the same sin, you are probably dealing with a demon that has somehow found an entrance to oppress the affected area of your life.

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (Proverbs 16:32)

When the protective walls of our spirits are down, we are defenseless. Prayer, fasting, and self-denial will raise them back up again and strengthen us so we can rule over our flesh and keep the enemy away. Some people provide no protection for their spirits at all; therefore, they lose the ability to govern them, and they end up giving way and allowing wicked spirits to come into their lives.

Demons enter a person's life when the protective walls of his spirit are down.

3. Recognize That Deliverance Is Part of the Finished Work of the Cross and the Resurrection

Deliverance is part of the finished work of the cross and the resurrection, in which Jesus won the war against sin, sickness, and death. The war is already over! All we need in order to enter into that victory is to appropriate (apply) Christ's perfect work in our lives by faith. Suppose a millionaire wrote you a check for a large sum as a gift. The only thing left for you to do in order to obtain that money would be to cash the check. If you never cashed it, you would not be able to do anything with the money that was given to you. On the other hand, if you were to cash it, the money would be yours to use. In a similar way, when Christ defeated the enemy through His death on the cross and His resurrection, He provided for every human need, including material provision, financial resources, good health, and deliverance from Satan. The next step for you is to apply the benefits of that victory by receiving it and "depositing" it—making it effective in your own life.

4. Understand That Deliverance Is “the Children’s Bread”—the Provision of Our Heavenly Father

Jesus Christ once described deliverance as “*the children’s bread*” (Matthew 15:26); this term refers to a family’s daily meals. Jesus never said that deliverance was available for only a few special children. He said it was for *the* children. If you are a child of God—having believed in Christ and received Him as the Lord and Savior of your life—and if you need deliverance, then all you have to do is to take the bread that Christ offers you.

If you are struggling with fear, anxiety, rage, resentment, hate, or jealousy, you can be set free. If you are battling doubt, unbelief, procrastination, or depression, you can be released from your burden. If you are in bondage to your tongue, so that you habitually speak lies, slander, gossip, or blasphemy, you can repent and receive freedom. If you continually succumb to sexual immorality, involving yourself in pornography, adultery, homosexuality, fornication, or masturbation, you can be delivered. If you are enslaved by uncontrolled appetites, wrestling with an addiction to pills, alcohol, or nicotine, you can take the children’s bread and be set free. You can be delivered—even right now!

Several years ago, Pastor Samson Paul from Bangalore, India, attended a convention held in Orlando, Florida. After the event, he asked where he could find a good church, and a friend took him to our congregation in Miami, King Jesus International Ministry. “It was a four-hour drive, but it was worth it,” Pastor Samson says. That Sunday, he attended two of our services, and he grew interested in one of my messages about the resurrection and the supernatural power of God.

Ever since that day, he has remained connected to our ministry and has implemented in his church in India everything he has learned about supernatural power. He has boldly established baptisms and deliverances, and great miracles have taken place. After only a year and a half, his church grew from 4,500 members to 6,000 members, and he has opened seven daughter churches. Even some nonbelievers seek out Pastor Samson because they desire to receive a miracle. All this is

taking place in one of the most pagan of nations. The following are two testimonies from Pastor Samson.

There was a “haunted house” in Pastor Samson’s town. Any family who bought the house always ended up with problems. Family members experienced bankruptcy, discord, divorce, and/or despair, having no peace. At one point, a husband and wife purchased the home, completely oblivious to its history. While the wife was cleaning the house, she was possessed by what seemed to be the spirit of an eighty-eight-year-old man who had died there and who did not want anyone else to live in his house. This couple went to Pastor Samson’s church looking for help, and, while the pastor was preaching, the woman began to manifest the evil spirit in a horrible way. People say that her eyes popped out and that her face became enlarged. When Pastor Samson mentioned the name of Jesus, the woman said that she knew Jesus. Her deliverance was very strong. She rolled around on the floor while making strange noises and foaming at the mouth, but the power of God set her free. The family moved to another house, and everything returned to normal.

Another testimony involves a woman who had terminal cancer and was in a coma in the hospital. To make matters worse, she was blind and deaf; she was essentially existing in a vegetative state. The doctors said there was nothing they could do for her, and they declared that she would die at any time. One day, while Pastor Samson and his wife were visiting the hospital, the pastor felt that they should pray for this woman. He did not dare pray in the hospital, but God had placed great compassion in his heart for the patients at that facility who were sick and without hope. He felt the love and compassion of God for them, and he began to pray. He declared the love of God for the comatose woman and cast out the spirit of death from her body. Suddenly, she began to react. Tears flowed from her eyes, and everyone realized that she could hear what people around her were saying. The pastor continued to pray, and, two weeks later, the woman miraculously began to see. Eventually, she was released from the hospital. Now, she is totally healed, to the glory of God.

Prayer of Deliverance

I would now like to lead you in a prayer of deliverance. Before you pray, it is important for you to understand that, without true repentance, there can be no deliverance. Repentance is not an emotion; rather, it is a change of mind-set. It is a voluntary decision to stop sinning and disobeying God. It means turning your back on sin, evil, the desires of the flesh, worldly attitudes, and anything else that displeases God, with the conviction that all these things are wrong and are harmful to your relationship with your heavenly Father. That includes any negative covenants, or “secret vows,” which you have made with yourself, such as declaring, “I will *never* trust men again,” or “I will *always* hate her for what she did to me.” Repentance involves making a decision to submit to God, without reservation, with the belief that it is the right thing to do. If you repent of your sinful thoughts and sinful practices, please repeat this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come before Your presence with a humble heart. I recognize that I have sinned against You, and I repent of my wrongdoing. I confess my transgressions right now. I also forgive all those who have offended me, and I break any ties I have had with the occult and with secret vows. I ask You to forgive me and to cleanse me. Remove all sin from me—all iniquity and transgression—by the power of the blood of Jesus, which He shed on the cross on my behalf. Now, I receive Your forgiveness, and I apply the complete work of the cross and the resurrection to my life. I order every demon that has tormented me and influenced my life to leave, right now, and I declare myself free, in the name of Jesus. Amen!