

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Freedom Encounters (Revised 1/23)

As you consider our response to the following questions that are asked most often, please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. Most Christians desire to be true to the truth. We certainly do! In the fear of God, we dread the potential of sharing information that could lead to deception. However, we have found that in the realm of evil supernaturalism, deception can be very prevalent. Without meaning to, most of us have been misled by deception at certain instances in our lifetime. We have all had to repent and change our frame of mind, beliefs, and perspectives. At times this certainly can be a most humbling experience!

In reviewing the following information, we respectfully ask you to judge your own belief paradigm by applying the following simple questions as a guideline to assess any ministry or set of beliefs:

1. **Is it anti-biblical?** Does it contradict the Word of God or violate Biblical Principles? Since everything is not written in the *logos* between the covers of the Bible, we must also be open to a *rhema* word to increase our understanding.
2. **Does the Lord Jesus Christ receive the glory**, or does man?
3. Is there **Godly fruit that remains** from the work?
4. Does the ministry **treat people compassionately and with love**?
5. Does it **conform to the known will of God**?
6. Does it **bless** those touched by the event (deliverance/healing)?
7. Does it measurably **advance the Kingdom of God** on earth?
8. Is it affirmed by at least **2-3 credible witnesses**?

Of course, most of you reading this document for the first time would not know the growth and acceptance of the deliverance model that we teach and train, but we can assure you that when a person receives freedom from bondage(s), #7 is tangible.

Now, for our questions:

1. **How can a Christian have a demon and be demon-possessed?! When a person accepts Christ, the Holy Spirit comes in, so how can the Holy Spirit and a demon inhabit the same body? Any demon present must leave when one accepts Christ, isn't that right?**

This is a valid question, and the first one most people ask. The fact is, the content of the question (or objection) is often based upon religious tradition, rather than the Word of God. There is also a lack of understanding about terms.

The Greek term for "having a demon" is *daimonizomai*, or "one who is demonized." In its strictest sense, the word, *daimonizomai*, means that one or more demons can inhabit the person's flesh, not the spirit. When one accepts Christ, the Bible teaches us the person becomes a born-again possession of God for eternity. But what is it that spends eternity with the Lord? Is it the natural body? No -- it is our spirit person! A person who does not believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God is classified as demon possessed. That's why we use the correct biblical term, "demonized," when we find demons inhabiting the body of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's examine a quote from former professor Dr. Merrill Unger's book, What Demons Can Do to Saints, p. 60, which says, "The claim that the Holy Spirit could not dwell in the same body with an evil spirit overlooks an important theological observation. It might with equal cogency (validity) be asked how the Holy Spirit can dwell in our bodies, which are still possessed of the old nature and therefore subject to sin. Yet He does..." Please review the following Scriptures. They point to believers in both the Old and New Testaments being demonized: 2 Cor. 11:3-4; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:5-11; 1 Sam. 16:14, 18:10-11, and 19:9-10; Lk. 13:10-17; Acts 5:1-3; 2 Cor. 12:7-8. There are more verses, but these are a good start.

When people receive Christ, they usually accept him as Savior. Even though most people call Him, "Lord," it is likely that they do not consider what the Lordship of Christ would mean. But over time, they learn what it means to make Jesus Lord, as they are exposed to the troublesome issues of life in this world. Only then do they yield right of way in their hearts. This explains why all demons do not just magically leave one's body at the moment of the new birth. Since Satan and demons inhabit darkness, any demons that are involved in non-surrendered areas in one's life still have a right to stay there until they are cast out by the authority of Christ.

The issue of how demons enter a person is rather extensive. We have found that most come in at conception through the bloodline, because parents were unaware there were demons to be removed. Transferring generational issues were not stopped at birth obviously, so the demons must be removed as "squatters" later in life. The Bible speaks of the sins of the fathers being visited upon future generations, and we teach about it. We point out how these sins gave demons legal rights, going back further than four generations if they have not been stopped by enforcing the blood of Jesus. Christ.

The presence of sin in our lives (involvement in the occult, sexual sin, drugs, alcohol, wrong attitudes, and dozens of other areas) opens opportunity for demonic involvement. The enemy wants to inhabit and control flesh of mankind. That's why the Word says that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God and to give no place to the devil. (Eph. 4:27) There are those who are not demonized, of course, but most people inherited demons at birth, and they need to be removed by some means -- either by casting them out or driving them out by repentance and holy living. Most parents do not know about these things. If they do learn, it is usually much later in life, and by then, it is too late to protect their children from inheriting demons, curses, spells, ties, etc. that have been passed down through the bloodlines of both parents.

We believe the Last Days written in the Bible are becoming obvious when we observe the condition of the world, This means Christians in particular, will be special targets for the enemy to invade. Christians represent the devil's doom (Rev. 12:11), and Satan will stop at nothing to make us impotent and unable to fulfill the call of God. This is why we minister to demonized Christians that have a substantial number of demons that were inherited. Think of it — how many demons would it take to neutralize an unbeliever? Not many, would it? However, when you are focusing on a Spirit-filled believer who walks in authority and has a tremendous call on his life, wouldn't it require many more demons to thwart that person's walk? Because of the days we live in, the war has intensified. Satan knows he has been defeated, but he works to take as many people with him as he can. A believer who is free from internal demonic harassment is a major threat to his plans, and he will seek to penetrate that person's life with as many enemy forces as possible. Of course, he conveniently ignores one very special verse: "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." 1Jn. 4:4

The term, "oppression" describes a believer, who is devoid of demons and devices, which is receiving attacks from outside his or her body. If we must live in this fallen world, we can expect to receive attacks from the enemy to one degree or another.

[2. Do we have a right to speak to demons? Isn't that divination or medium-ship?](#)

We will answer the question on divination at question #5 below. Let's address the first part by going to Mark 5, where the Lord is dealing with the demoniac. Jesus himself spoke to a demon named Legion. In fact, he did it more than once. It is important to note that he did not have to! Yet, he *chose* to. When you look at verse eight and in Luke 8:29, you will notice that he told the demon to leave once before but the demon departed. He told the spirit to leave *twice*. Didn't Jesus operate under the full anointing of the Christ? Of course, so why do you suppose this demon was *allowed* to stay behind?

I believe he did it for several reasons, one of those reasons being to show that it is acceptable to speak to a demon. Also, he shows us in subsequent verses the following considerations:

- They inflict pain and torment (vv. 3-5).
- Demons have names (v. 9). (Jesus asked his name. Do you think he did not *know* the demon's name by Holy Spirit?)
- There is more than one demon. At first, Jesus spoke of the demon as one (v. 9, 15), but later we discover that there are "many" demons.
- They are territorial in nature (v. 10).
- They prefer indwelling flesh (v.12).
- When Jesus granted a favor to the demon, he spoke to the demon again (v.13).

There are more lessons, but these points give you some good ideas. If the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to demons (knowing all things) why shouldn't we do so under His authority, and by the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

The Lord gave us a framework for deliverance, because there is no reference in the Word that describes a defined, precise step-by-step method. The Bible does not specify how to prepare sermons, how to be 'slain in the Spirit,' receive offerings, serve communion, teach Sunday School, set up Bible Schools/Seminaries, or numerous other things that are viewed as acceptable in today's church activities.

The Word does not say, "You shall not speak to demons," which is a point often ignored by critics. We found that Scriptures most often used to support a different point of view are usually taken out of context. When Jesus told spirits to be quiet in some verses, it was because the time had not come for others to know that He was the Christ, the Chosen One, -- especially in the synagogue (Mk. 1, Lk. 4). We find later, when His identity was common knowledge, He did not make the same demand, as recorded in Mk 5.

One of the reasons people object to confronting the demonic is because they have heard that it involves a lot of screaming, profanity, and disturbing physical manifestations. As we teach and minister deliverance under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, none of these behaviors are allowed. Most often people do not really know, have never studied the issue, and repeat what they have heard from others.

[3. Another question we commonly receive is, "Why speak to them? Satan is the Father of Lies, isn't he? They are liars!"](#)

This is also a valid question because there is no doubt that demons and Satan lie. Scripture is replete with passages making this very clear. However, unless we know the truth, how can a lie be identified? Most people are amazed to discover that when we examine statements made by demons, each response speaks a true or a neutral statement. We found this to be an amazing revelation! But then -- how could Satan transform himself into an angel of light unless he knew about the light and how to appropriate the appearance of it?

And please consider 1 Jn. 4:1-3 -- we are commanded to test the spirits (note the repetitive use of small "s"). Yet, we meet few people who test any spirit. People often believe every thought that comes to their mind without question. 1 Thess. 5:21 says that we are to "test everything." Yet, how many of us do that? Why would the Word of God command us to test the spirits unless there is a Spirit (Holy Spirit) that speaks truth and other spirits that speak lies? If every word from the mouth of a spirit were false, there would be no need to test them! They like to include some truth when they speak to our minds, because it is easier to deceive us that way.

When we teach the 'Deliverance Procedures Seminar,' we train students how to test the spirits according to this scripture, so that we know that the facts received are 100% true. Ninety-five percent true is not enough. We must know that a demonic spirit is confessing true facts before Him who IS TRUTH. The only way to know is that demons cannot confess a lie as true when standing at the Throne of Almighty God before the Spirit of Truth -- who is the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who came in the flesh! In a deliverance session, if a demon is required to share anything by the Lord, we always require the demon to make a confession of truth each time.

If we thought for one moment that the Holy Spirit would not make sure that we receive the truth, we could not pray deliverance for anyone! The Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth who came in the flesh – THAT Jesus -- will not allow a demon to confess a lie as true in His magnificent name, no matter how long they take. As soon as they change a false answer to make it a true, the confession can be made correctly. People who are afraid they will receive lies are usually those who have never learned how to test the spirits. They are afraid of being deceived, which we fully understand. In the model of deliverance prayer we minister, the demons are put on the “witness stand before God the Father, Jesus the Judge, and the Holy Spirit of Truth.” When the spirits are being questioned, it is the Spirit of Truth who requires them to confess the facts of their evil deeds and their confession glorifies the Lord.

Another point to be made here is the fact that demons have usurped the various names, of the Lord, but use them in lower case. We've confronted demons with names like *jesus*, *jesus christ*, *lord*, *lord jesus*, *lord jesus christ*, and even *lord jesus christ of nazareth*. They have done this to thwart deliverance, but there is no demon with the name, title and origin -- “Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth *Who Came in the Flesh*.” Why? Because His name is preeminent, and He is TRUTH! And there is no other Jesus who can claim each of these attributes that were prophesied in the Bible by the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, we would never be able to test the spirits!

Finally, we suspect many Christians do not want to speak to demons because of their fear of the devil and the spiritual realm they cannot see, feel, or touch. Yet, Lk. 10:19 says, “...I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means harm you.” We have total authority over the demonic realm, and there is no prohibition about speaking to them.

[4. Why do you question demons during the deliverance process? Why just not just cast them all out immediately?](#)

There are several reasons why we do this, and we have developed the following handout that we give to people before they receive deliverance prayer. A few of these items may repeat some of the information shared above, but there is also additional information that may be of interest to you.

- a) In studying the Bible, we found that Scripture does not forbid speaking to demons. Most of our religious instruction teaches that it is forbidden, but no one has ever been able to show us any reference that supports this conclusion. In fact, the stories written in Mk. 5, Matt. 8, and Lk. 8, record clear instances of the Lord Jesus Christ speaking to demons, and he did not avoid doing it. Many call this practice “divination,” but Jesus obviously did not agree (see another frequently asked question regarding this topic).
- b) Eph. 6: 12-13 says we are wrestling with the enemy, and we are to “take up” the armor -- not just put it on. Years ago, when praying about this issue, the Holy Spirit communicated that the prayer minister is contending with those who have contended with God’s child (Is. 49:25, Ps. 35:1). Holy Spirit wants to uncover the enemy’s schemes and how they have sought to promote what we call the “Principle of Reversal,” which is enticing a person to think and do exactly the opposite of what they were called to do by our Lord and Savior Jesus.
- c) During the time of prayer, demons stand before the throne of God bound up like prisoners of war (P.O.W). The Heavenly Father is the Judge, Jesus is the Prosecuting Attorney, the person praying is like the Attorney for the Plaintiff, and the Holy Spirit has commanded the Head Demon: "You will tell the truth and nothing but the truth, so help you Me!" In our deliverance prayer sessions, the Head Demon is commanded to speak only what the Lord Jesus Christ requires him to share -- nothing more and nothing less.
- d) Each disclosure that the Head Demon is required to reveal humiliates and weakens the demons. As the authority of Christ forces them to bring to light what they have done to torment God’s people, they become weakened by confessing the things that have been hidden in darkness. Demons usually begin a deliverance session strong and arrogant, only to leave like weaklings. Often they become so discouraged that they will even ask permission to leave before the deliverance prayer session is over!

e) People usually say, "But you can't talk to demons, because they're liars." Yes, demons are liars and Satan is the "father of lies," as Scripture says. It is important to discover that demons know the truth, because they recognized the Lord Jesus Christ, who IS TRUTH. We must grasp this important and differentiating fact -- the truth is not IN them, but they do know it. Therefore, they can be commanded, by the absolute authority of Christ Jesus, to reveal the true facts about what they have done.

In our deliverance prayer, it is the Spirit of Truth Himself who forces the Head Demon spirit to speak the truth as they stand bound before the throne of Almighty God. After the demon has stated all the information that the Lord Jesus Christ requires, the demon must confess that what he has spoken is the absolute truth in the name of Him who is truth. If the demon has lied, he cannot confess that the facts revealed about the person's life are true, in the name of the "Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth who came in the flesh." Please review 1 Jn. 4:1-14 to find the scriptural basis for this vital part of this confession of truth. We have seen it thousands of times -- if a lie has been spoken, they will make a mistake in that confession every time, until they change their answer to align with truth.

f) The information the Lord Jesus Christ requires the Head Demon to reveal also removes false guilt and beliefs, as well as shame from the person receiving ministry. While this knowledge does not remove their sin (only the blood of Christ does this), it most often provides a powerful clarification of confusing and shameful events or circumstances. A lifetime of pain, shame and discouragement regarding unwanted habits and reoccurring negative behaviors is usually explained, as the person learns of the hurtful role the enemy has played in originating and fueling them.

Believers often struggle with the flesh and the world, but they also struggle with the demonic realm. We have not been taught that demons can be present in the body and plant thoughts and images in the mind (usually put there in the form of curses and spells). Demons can also program a person to react and respond in fleshly ways without having time to even think about changing behaviors. We call it the "turbo effect" to the flesh. Couples who fall into painful, explosive fights, only to suffer extreme remorse afterwards, are unable to explain how the situation got out of control. They had help!

The same lack of knowledge is often applicable to pastors and leaders in the Body of Christ – even those who have been to Bible School or Seminary. It is not their fault that these schools do not equip them to take authority over the demonic realm. It remains a shortcoming in our Bible Schools today.

When people learn that most of their negative thoughts, addictions, and behaviors have involved the enemies of God fully or partly, it sends that false guilt to the Abyss where it belongs. They feel such a tremendous sense of relief and joy they otherwise would never have experienced, since no one has taught them how the demonic realm continuously operates to torment God's children.

g) In this deliverance prayer, a person learns for the first time how to differentiate between their own thoughts, those of the enemy, and the voice of the Holy Spirit. The Head Demon is asked a broad question to determine how they have hindered and opposed the Call of God on the person's life. Once the demons have responded to this inquiry and another simple question, they are cast out. Then we ask Holy Spirit to respond to several questions. Lord told us that most of His children Have not learned how to hear His voice, and He wants them to learn to know His voice.

h) Another reason we interrogate demons is to help people understand how the enemy works so that they can help others who are suffering. As people learn how the enemy worked to harm their lives, they can help others understand that the enemy is partly responsible for what has plagued them also. Those who have experienced this deliverance prayer are often actively helping others to identify the enemy as a source of their suffering and oppression so that they may seek ministry help.

i) I was taught this method of prayer in 1970 by George Birch, my mentor, who served as a missionary with Inland China Mission, the forerunner of Overseas Missionary Fellowship. I have met many deliverance ministers who question demons, and I have read documents as far back as the 1500s where religious leaders, most of them Roman Catholic, asked demons specific questions. This is not a new or unique phenomenon.

5. Is your ministry approach considered to be divination or medium-ship in the Bible?

This is one of the least understood aspects of the Word. The answer is “No” because of Bible examples. Divination is soothsaying in its widest sense -- the unveiling of hidden things present and future. Those who practiced divination in biblical times used omens and other means to achieve a prophecy or foretold event, things like arrows, livers, mirrors, cards, palm lines, runic letters and stones, pendulums, etc. Actual items were always used. If it were based just upon a casual conversation, we would have to accuse the Lord Jesus of practicing it -- especially when one considers what happened in Mk. 5!

In the Old Testament, there were Canaanite charmers, wizards, augurs, necromancers, dowzers, etc. The most famous and obvious reference was when Saul consulted the witch at Endor, that (see 1 Sam. 28:7+). Consulting the dead was clearly forbidden by God in the Scripture. Verses found in Deut. 18:10-12, Hos. 4:12, Gen. 44:5, Ezek. 21:21-23, and numerous others, all clearly point out that the use of mediums (one who *meditates* between invisible spirits) and other means such as those mentioned, was for the purpose of finding out future events from powers other than God Almighty. Sorcerers were proponents of witchcraft and magic, along with attempting to use drugs, potions, spells and enchantments, accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers. The Greek word for sorcery is “*Pharmakeia*,” where we get our word, “pharmacy.” Today the means have changed little, but all three approaches may use tarot cards, fortune tellers, crystal balls, palm reading, tea leaves, pendulums (still), and astrological forecasts.

Satan counterfeits many things which cause confusion in Christian circles:

- *Clairvoyance* for words of knowledge.
- *Divination* for the gift of prophecy (especially when a word relates to a future event for the church.)
- *Medium-ship* for prophecy/words of wisdom/words of knowledge/divine healing, and false tongues for the true gift of tongues.

Today, if you were to access the Occultopedia, you would find the definition of *divination* as:

“The art of foretelling the future, finding the lost, involving the conscious or unconscious use of spirit beings -- using, in part, visions, trances, dreams, and possession (by a spirit).” A medium is “forming a relationship with a spirit who aids in contacting other spirits.” Sorcery, they say, includes either “black magic or magical practice involving the summoning, binding and commanding of entities (demons).”

If you consult the Skeptics Dictionary, you will find that *divination* is synonymous with fortune-telling, and is defined as “The attempt to foretell the future or discover occult knowledge by interpreting omens or by using paranormal or supernatural powers.” Then it goes on to list forty-one items that have been used in divination. Of course, the obvious problem here is that demons do not know the future!

The Dictionary of Witchcraft defines *divination* as “the art of extending one’s perception to obtain hidden knowledge through magical means.”

Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words says of *divination*: “(those associated with divination in scripture have this in common): that under the influence of evil spirits, they are deceived into seeking the spirits of the dead or are actually allured into consultation with the powers of darkness.”

Some have questioned if the term, *channeling*, could be used to describe what happens in deliverance. The word *channeling* is often synonymous with *mediums* today and is not in Scripture. Again, to quote those who practice it on a regular scale, it is described as:

- a) “Moving your astral self aside to allow another entity (demon) complete or partial control over your body.
- b) Allowing demons to borrow your body to speak to others about distance prophecy, what the after life is like, the structure of other dimensions, or words of wisdom.
- c) The process by which a medium can communicate information from spirits, ditties, and demons through entering

a state of trance.”

It is important here to point out what scripture says in Lk. 11:1-20. It is not possible for a deliverance minister to cast out demons using *divination*, for the devil cannot cast out the devil.

Finally, we need to distinguish between “medium-ship” and “mediator-ship.”

A mediator is one who acts between two parties to reconcile them. Moses was a prime example of a mediator. Scripture calls our role of mediator “ambassadorship.” (2 Cor. 5:20).

A medium is no arbiter between God and man, but only an intermediary between a demon and fallen man. Godly deliverance seeks to bring The Most High God and the person closer together, and to break down all walls of the enemy, which have kept the believer from close communion in the past.

As one can see, just speaking to a demon is not divination. That is a supposition based upon tradition, not the Word of God. I have never met a person who could scripturally support this opinion.

[6. What is an Alter? Are they demons? Are they evil? Do they even exist?](#)

The term “Alter” is short for “altered state,” or what many have come to understand as “multiple personalities.” MPD, or multiple personality disorder (currently called DID, Dissociative Identity Disorder), is just that -- a disorder. It is not a mental illness. It is not a disease. It is not evil. Alters usually have a separate name, age, personality, gifting, and problems, just like the Core Person. They are not inherently evil, although a demonized alter may indeed act like it and perform evil deeds. They do not do so on purpose!

We believe that the God of all creation creates the altered state or “part” to assist a person in coping with trauma in their lives. It is His blessing, because the Alter becomes an emotional assist to the person who is traumatized and a coping mechanism for survival. They are not demons but are a part of a human being that became separated, usually by traumatic events. God alone has the power to restore and reunify, or “integrate” these parts, within a person.

Simply put, Alters come from a division in the mind. There is much scientific data that explains how it happens, but a person “checks out,” as we say, when the going gets too rough. Another “personality or alternate part is created to handle the situation and carries the pain until they are cleansed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and brought together into the Core Person they are helping to protect. Alters usually have their own life history, feelings, thoughts, and beliefs.

Ken has prayed for over a thousand MPD (DID) clients and the work of our teammates have extended that number greatly. The Lord has shared with us His powerful way to set them free and integrate them in minutes, as opposed to months and years like most therapists teach and practice. We can say with all certainty that Alters do exist, and they are wonderful creations of God. We’ve never met one that we didn’t like, and in some cases, our clients have had numerous Alters. Yet, God has miraculously put them together in minutes, hours, or in the worst cases, weeks.

[7. Would God use His Arch Enemy -- the Devil and demons -- to help us grow in faith?](#)

God is always working to bring about GOOD! We need to look no further than the Lord Jesus Himself. After 40 days of fasting in the Wilderness, didn’t He respond verbally to the temptations and even travel with Satan to view the Temple? It was not until He passed every temptation by Satan that Jesus received anointing from Holy Spirit to minister in powerful miracles.

Another example is the young man who was having sexual relations with his mother and was turned over “to Satan for the destruction of his flesh that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:5). In 2 Corinthians 2, we find this man has been restored.

Still another example is Job. Didn’t God test Job by allowing Satan to afflict him in every way but physical death? Through these experiences, God became much, much bigger omnipotent to Job, and his reverential fear for the Most High was indeed

purified. He also received the intended plan of God at the end: a double portion blessing on his life.

Remember too, that Satan asked to sift Peter like wheat (Lk. 22:31). The Lord went on to tell Peter that He had prayed for him that his faith would not fail, and that when he had turned back, he would strengthen his brothers.

Look at Eph. 6 again. Why would the Lord speak to us about putting on armor unless we were required to “stand against the wiles of the devil” (v.11)? Paul goes on to write in v. 13, “Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” We are told that Satan is seeking someone to devour -- not exactly a passive stance! What’s devoured must die!

And in Jn. 10:10a, we are told that Satan came to “steal, kill and destroy.” Who wants to be devoured, killed or stolen from? No one! The Lord has shared with us the following points to convey this truth: “If I created Lucifer to reflect the glory of the Lord, knowing that iniquity would be found in him, what was the purpose of that? I created calamity (Is. 45:7). What was the purpose of that? I create darkness. I create light. What is the purpose for the Scripture that says, through the mouth of Paul, that it was given to us to suffer with Him (Phil 1:29)? What was the purpose of that?” We hope you get the point. . .

If the Lord would not have us learn how to deal with Satan and his cadre, he would not have created them and given us the tools in Christ Jesus (spiritual armor) to fight them successfully. He wants to create a victorious, strong remnant of warriors in these last moments. No soldier ever learned how to battle an enemy without practice or without struggle. And doesn’t Jas. 4:7b tell us to *resist* (active, not passive verb) the devil so he will flee? If we do not fulfill the other requirements in those verses, we are unable to resist.

There are also Scriptures that relate to an aspect of personal growth, or at least testing of one's faith, from the perspective of involvement with spirits. When we read Judges 9:23 and 1 Kings 22:19, we discover how the LORD and His hosts use spirits to bring about His will. Even Satan is used in 1 Chron. 21:1, with the results recorded in 2 Sam. 24:1, to accomplish testing.

The Lord Jesus Christ wants us to be overcomers and to exercise our spiritual muscle. Has anyone ever known a muscle to become stronger without resistance? It is the same with our spiritual muscle. When we battle spirits, whether in a demonized or oppressed state, our spiritual muscle grows. Haven’t we all people who have led an easy life in the Church? Were they insufferable and unable to empathize with your pain? There is also a spiritual application to that phrase, “no pain, and no gain.” When a client is set free of demonization, it is amazing how quickly they can grow to become a gifted, anointed person of God! Their spiritual muscles become lean, strong, and full of power and authority. When they are battle tested, they come to know their enemy and can discern his presence much more quickly by the Spirit’s leading. They also develop compassion from the Father’s heart when they work with others in the Body of Christ.

These other scriptures also help to explain the benefits of testing from the enemy:

Matt. 4:1-11 and 16:18, 1 Jn. 2:13-14, 3:8, and 4:4, 1 Pet. 5:8-11, Heb. 2:14-15, 2 Cor. 11:2-4, 1 Tim. 3:6-7, and of course, Jas. 4:1-8. There are more, but this is a good beginning to consider.

[8. What is this talk about “Territorial” spirits and doing battle with them? Do you really believe there are such spirits and if you go to war with them, is that not dangerous?](#)

Let me answer the second question first. Battling Territorial spirits is not for lightweight believers or intercessors. As led ONLY by Holy Spirit -- is for seasoned veterans of spiritual warfare, ones who have been given a call from God to territorial intercession --ones whose lives are indicative of a mature believer, are trained in battle already, and have the anointed power in prayer to overcome. *They should never even consider doing it alone. Never!*

Let’s talk about “Territorial” spirits for a moment.

Rom. 16:20 says, “the God of peace will crush Satan under *your* feet shortly.” Those are *my* feet and *your* feet, right? With the divinely empowered weapons he has given me, I have been given the authority to conquer Satan’s kingdom daily. The fact is that the blood of Jesus and the authority of His name are offensive weapons, not defensive ones. Warfare always

entails battle, doesn't it? Ever go into a war with a defensive plan only? Obviously not!

But who are we battling in Eph. 6? Against "principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and wicked in high places" -- denoting higher ranking spirits who rebelled against the Kingdom of God than the generational spirits we most often cast out of people. Some versions speak of *world* forces of darkness and spiritual forces in the *heavenly realms*. These are types of fallen spirits spoken of who rule over territories or realms of control involving the human condition on earth. We are participants in this heavenly wrestling match. Just as Joshua fought to destroy the enemies of God in the natural realm, we are called to tear down, pull down, destroy and throw down (Jer.1).

Paul spoke of every knee bowing before Christ, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth (Phil 2:10). Other "Territorial" spirits (those not relegated to indwelling men) are mentioned in Col. 2:10 and 15 and 1:16. After the resurrection of Jesus, Paul referred to Satan as the "god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4). Paul and Silas confronted the Territorial spirit, Python, which inhabited the slave girl in Acts 16, Diana, a goddess and Territorial spirit over Ephesus, and Bar-Jesus the sorcerer (a "son of the devil").

We are told to cast down every argument and every high thing (Greek is "*hypsoma*," meaning that it reflects astrological ideas and hence denotes cosmic powers directed against God). We are told to pull these down with spiritual weapons. No one casts down or pulls down something that is not "up." Or without concerted effort -- these verses in 2 Cor. 10:3-5 are not passive.

We are also to take captivity captive, bind the strongman to plunder his goods and tear down the authority and rule of the evil one. In Eph. 6:13, it says to "withstand," and in Strong's 436 it means to vigorously oppose, bravely resist, standing face-to-face against an adversary, standing our ground." Of course, "standing your ground" goes back to the Roman army at this time whereby they were required to be on the offensive -- thus, the cleats on their shoes. If they turned around, and retreated even a few steps, they were killed by their own leadership or fellow soldiers. "Standing" was a purely offensive stature and technique. This is the reason they were so feared. It is supposed to be same for the believers' army.

And, of course, we read in Daniel. Ten about the prince of Persia, a demon assigned to that nation, going to war with the Lord's angels (verse 13-20), only to have to return to go to battle with the prince of Greece. Territorial spirits are real, and the Lord has graciously given us an opportunity to teach about Satan's realm, its infrastructure, and how a trained, mature group of believers, led by the Holy Spirit, can bring it down over a specific territory.

Many believers do not understand and accept their God-given dominion over the enemy. Few understand that when the regional demonic powers are removed, people experience increased freedom to grow in the grace and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church must be educated to know, receive, and accept their inherited authority, sovereignty, and freedom in all areas of their lives. Lk. 10:19-20 speaks of trampling, of power over the enemy, spirits being subject to us. In Matt. 16:18 & nineteen, declares we have been given the keys to bind and loose things in heaven and upon earth.

The question arises: if Jesus paid the ultimate price and defeated the principalities and powers on the cross (Col. 1:13-14, 2:10 & 15), is there anything left for us to do? Yes -- we are here to fulfill purposes of King Jesus!! As Ed Murphy, noted author on spiritual warfare aptly stated, "While our enemies are yet defeated, they are not dead, not even sickly." Jesus is King of Kings and yet there are those who are spiritual captives of Satan who comes to steal, kill and destroy.

Human action does not nullify the power of the blood, the cross, and resurrection, but human inaction makes it ineffective on earth. God has given us weapons of warfare for the pulling down of these strongholds and the casting down of every argument (human attitude and action) and every high thing (the Greek word is "*hypsoma*" again). 2 Cor. 10:3-5 We are encouraged to pull these down with spiritual weapons. No one casts down or pulls down without concerted effort -- it is not a passive behavior. In the meantime, we praise God that Jesus secured the ultimate victory over the enemy forces and has delegated His power and authority to everyone who has received Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and King!

SUMMARY

When all is considered, we must remember that in His day, Jesus was making known the hidden mysteries, which are not so hidden anymore. He was considered very unusual by many, weird by others and insane by still more. He contradicted tradition and the law at every turn. It is obvious that today Jesus Christ is ignored by many, dismissed as a sad joke and not truly known by many in the organized Church because of religious traditions of men.

Deliverance ministry carries some of the same stigma, primarily due to a lack of knowledge and understanding. Centuries of neglect by the Church have left people afraid or ignorant in this realm. Yet, we have seen its positive acceptance grow among denominations and groups of believers everywhere in the world where God has sent us. We believe it will help usher in the final awakening within the Church that will establish the kingdom of God upon this earth with Jesus Christ on the throne.

In the meantime, the demonic realm plays an active role in keeping the Church ignorant of their legacy of divine rights. We want to help make sure that Hos. 4:6 does not come to pass and that we can join the Lord Jesus Christ in making a public spectacle of the ruling spirits, triumphing over them. We want to see all believers walking in the authority spoken of in Matt. 10:7-8. We present the ministry God has loaned us considering the following scriptures: Acts 5:34-35, 38-39; Mark 9:38-41, and Luke 11:17.

Thank you for taking the time to read, consider and pray about what we have written in response to common questions regarding our approach to the deliverance ministry. It is our fervent desire that every believer would receive the total freedom that our Lord Jesus Christ paid the price for us to have. We also hope that all believers will come to understand and exercise dominion over our common enemy, so that the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ will be established. Amen?

May the Lord richly bless you ~~ Ken and Sylvia Thornberg

