

Deliverance – Part 2

Key Verse:

Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Exploring the Bible

I. Can Christians be demonized?

It has been popular to teach that once a person is saved and the Holy Spirit enters that person's life, the Holy Spirit will not tolerate any demonic presence in a life. Therefore, once a person is saved, there is no possibility of being demonized. All is good. But if this were the case, then the same argument could be made for sin in our lives. The Holy Spirit cannot tolerate sin therefore, once he enters our life and we are saved, we won't sin anymore. That would be nice, but we know that it doesn't work that way because the Bible makes it clear that sanctification (making our lives holy) is a process. Let's see what the Bible has to say.

Read *Matthew 15:21 – 28*

Question: What is not supposed to be tossed to the dogs (verse 26)?

Answer:

This Canaanite woman had come to Jesus seeking deliverance for her daughter from demonic possession. In his response to the woman, he calls deliverance "the children's bread." Deliverance belongs to the children of the kingdom and not the outsiders. That doesn't mean we can't cast out a demon and set someone free who is not a believer. There are examples of this all over the New Testament. But the ministry of deliverance from demonic oppression is primarily for the children of the kingdom because they have embraced the cross, and so therefore all that the cross offers in terms of freedom from every kind of oppression from the enemy is now ours to apply in our lives.

Read *2 Chronicles 29:3 – 7, 15 – 17*

Question: What did the priests carry out of the temple (verse 16)?

Answer:

Question: How many days did it take to reach the portico of the Lord (verse 17)?

Answer:

Question: How many additional days did it take to finish consecrating the temple (verse 17)?

Answer:

From previous lessons we have seen that the temple of the Old Testament was a foreshadowing of the new temple of God which is our own physical bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19). Here, the Old Testament temple had become so polluted and filled with the instruments of idolatrous worship that it took the priests 16 days to clean out and consecrate the temple for the Lord. All the time, in that temple, while all this idolatrous worship was going on there, the holy presence of God continued to reside in the most holy place of the temple. This is a picture of what a believer's life can look like if they have been involved in a lot of sinful and idolatrous practices before coming to the Lord. But the good news is that because of the cross, a believer's life, just like this temple, can be cleansed and purified of all the junk so that there is complete freedom.

II. What about those poor children?

Matthew 15:22 - And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."

Question: Who is suffering from demon possession?

Answer:

Luke 9:38 – 39 - And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him."

Question: Who is being oppressed by a demon in these verses?

Answer:

What is happening to these poor children? Earlier in this lesson, we talked about the fact that the devil can only gain access and operate where we have given him authority through our sin. But these children appear to be young enough that they could not have been involved in anything so wicked as to open the door to the terrible oppression that these two children are experiencing. The truth is, that once a door is opened by sin giving the enemy access into a person's life that door, that authority and access, does not get closed when that person dies. It gets passed generationally so that in many cases those who are innocent, such as these children, experience the ugly torment of the enemy. Both the Canaanites and the Jewish people had lived wicked and idolatrous lives for many generations. Many doors for the enemy had been opened through the wicked lives of their ancestors. But when Jesus came, he broke the generational hold and set these children free. Undoubtedly the people of Israel had been witnessing demonic oppression and possession as being quite commonplace. What astounded them and excited them was that now there was someone on the scene, namely Jesus, who exercised authority and power to set those people free who were oppressed.

III. How do I know if I'm demonized?

Some of you may have already been asking this question. Others may consider this a ridiculous question to ask. For some of you, there is no demonization. You have confronted issues in your life and have been set free by the power of the cross. But for others there are areas of struggle and defeat.

The first thing to be very clear on is this: don't let the enemy use this topic to bring condemnation into your life. Jesus never condemned anyone that was demonized in any way and neither should you nor should anyone else bring condemnation over this topic. The second point is in reference to our previous two lessons on forgiveness and strongholds. Unforgiveness is the door that the enemy uses most to get access into our life. If you have dealt with the issues of forgiveness, then you have cut off a big chunk of the enemy's access into your life. Strongholds are the areas in our life where the enemy has gained ground in our life. If you have identified strongholds in your life and begun the process of tearing them down, then you have cut off and eliminated even more areas from the enemy's access and operation.

If you still have an area of your life where it seems that no matter what you have done in dealing with forgiveness and strongholds, there still seems to be a problem in getting victory, then this could be an area of demonization. The enemy has some kind of hold in your life and continues to drive you into sinful actions in that area.

IV. Breaking the Power of the Enemy

So, how do I break the power of the enemy in my life if I sense that there might be an area in my life that has been demonized? Let's use the example of lying. Suppose that in your life, because of some past experiences, you have become a liar. You have come to Christ and many things in your life have changed. You recognize that lying is wrong and you have confessed the sin, but it seems that you continue to lie and are struggling to even recognize the truth in any given situation. As you have heard this lesson, the Holy Spirit has revealed that this is an area of your life that has been demonized and that he wants to set you free. There are three simple steps that you can take to break the enemy's power and send him on his way.

- Confess the sin that is at the root of this demonization and ask forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9). Confess the sin of lying and ask forgiveness and cleansing even though you have done it before.
- In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ break the hold in the power of darkness that has been operating in your life. Make a declaration something like this, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce lying and I break the hold in the power of this lying spirit off of my life!"
- In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ command the power of darkness to go. Make a declaration something like this, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you lying spirit to go!"

Practical Exercise

This is a heavy topic, but it is essential that we get our freedom so that we can move forward into the things of the kingdom. If you see an area of your life where you are struggling and you want personal prayer and ministry in that area, the leadership is here to help. Sometimes walking through it with someone else can be a source of strength and encouragement.