

## Driving Out Evil Spirits

Jesus said, "These signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons" (Mark 16:17).

'He appointed twelve to go with Him, so that He might send them out to preach and to have authority to heal the sick and drive out demons' (Mark 3:14 & 15).

'There was a man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit and he shrieked: "Ahh! What have You to do with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are, the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked him saying, "Hush up, and come out of him!"

The unclean spirit convulsed the man, shouted and came out of him. They (in the synagogue) were all amazed. They kept asking one another, "What new teaching is this? With authority He commands the unclean spirits and they obey Him!" ... When it was evening they brought to Him all who were sick and those under the power of demons ... He cured many who were afflicted with various diseases; and He drove out many demons but would not allow the demons to talk because they knew Him ... He went throughout the whole of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons" (Mark 1:23 to 39).

'One of the crowd said, "Teacher, I brought my son to You for he has a dumb spirit. Wherever it lays hold of him, it throws him down and convulses him, and he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth, and he is wasting away."

Jesus said, "Bring him to Me." They brought the boy to Him, and when the spirit saw Him, at once it convulsed the boy, and he fell to the ground and kept rolling about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?"

He answered, "From the time he was a little boy. It has often thrown him both into fire and into water, intending to kill him. But if You can do anything, do have pity on us and help us."

Jesus said, "All things can be possible to him who believes!"

At once the father of the boy gave a cry and he said, "Lord, I believe!"

Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I charge you to come out of him and never enter him again."

After giving a cry and convulsing him, it came out; and the boy lay still. Jesus took his hand and lifted him up, and he stood. Jesus said, "This kind of evil spirit cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:17 to 29).

'The Lord chose seventy men and sent them out ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place where He was about to visit ... The seventy returned with joy saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!"

Jesus said to them, "I saw Satan falling like lightning from heaven. Behold! I have given you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and authority over all the power the enemy has and nothing shall in any way harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:1 & 10:17 to 20).

All Christians need to know why we need to drive out evil spirits and we all need to know how. The way to be delivered from demons, unclean spirits or evil spirits is demonstrated through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and the Book of Acts. What one prefers to call these evil beings is not as important as knowing how to be rid of them. This is a very neglected subject in the modern church. We need to be alert because there are a few people who go to the extreme regarding evil spirits. Some people believe evil spirits are everywhere and in everything. Some people choose not to believe they exist and behave as though they are not there. Some people refuse to believe Christians can have an evil spirit. The truth is; evil spirits are there but we need to have the correct balance in our approach and the correct attitude regarding them. When Jesus sent the seventy men out in pairs they came back rejoicing. What impressed them most was the fact that they had authority over evil spirits, but Jesus was careful not to allow them to boast over it, but to rejoice more in their salvation. We also need to have that same attitude.

The phrases casting out demons, driving out evil spirits, deliverance and exorcism are all the same thing and was one vital part of the ministry of Jesus. When we read about the people who had evil spirits, we notice several different things that happened: (1) It was not the people who cried out, but the spirit in the people. (2) Jesus spoke directly to the evil spirits when He cast them out, He did not speak to the people with the spirit. (3) The evil spirits immediately knew who Jesus was. (4) The evil spirits could see, hear, speak, feel fear and they screamed. They also had supernatural strength (Mark 5:3 & 4). It took the disciples over a year to discover what the evil spirits instinctively knew; that Jesus is the Son of God. Looking back at the above

verses in Mark, Jesus did not put the man with the spirit out of the synagogue; he put the evil spirit out of the man. The spirit didn't object to going to the synagogue, it objected to the power of the Son of God. The man with the evil spirit was a regular worshipper in the synagogue, paid his tithes, offered sacrifices and fellowshiped with other Jews, but he was still afflicted by the evil spirit. That proves that a Christian who goes to church and does all the 'right things' can have an evil spirit influencing their lives and they need deliverance. In many modern churches, if a person behaves badly the leadership ask the person to leave, but they do not deal with the evil spirit lurking inside the person. Jesus knew He was not dealing with the individual, He knew He was dealing with the spirit in the person. It was direct Spirit to spirit contact between Jesus and the people. That was something the population had not seen before. Jesus instantly became famous due to His deliverance ministry, so initially, Jesus was known amongst the Jews as the Man Who could cast out evil spirits. That was the first impact of His public ministry. Other aspects of His ministry appeared later, but the first thing that impressed the people was that He knew how to deal with evil spirits. The same evening as Jesus began His deliverance ministry, He began his healing ministry. Everything Jesus did in His ministry except only one, was already previewed in the Old Testament. Raising the dead, healing the sick, healing multitudes, making food out of nothing and being baptised in water were all done in the Old Testament, but casting out evil spirits was not done. That is why it is the distinctive mark that the Kingdom of God came to earth when Jesus came.

When a person is demon possessed, it means they are afflicted by evil spirits. It does not mean the demon owns the person, it means they are troubled by the demon in some way. There can be areas in our personalities where we act differently – not in full control. The power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus was more powerful than the evil spirits in the people. Notice the people came to be healed of their sicknesses, and in providing healing for them, Jesus cast out many evil spirits. Sometimes an evil spirit can be the cause of sickness either directly or indirectly, so to be delivered from sickness, some people need to be delivered from the evil spirit. Casting out demons was not something Jesus did occasionally; it was a regular ongoing part of His total ministry. Everywhere He preached He cast out evil spirits. Jesus never separated preaching, healing and deliverance. One of the weaknesses of the modern church is they have separated the three. As a result, many people who need deliverance do not get it, and many people who need healing miss out. Sometimes a spirit of unbelief prevents people from believing in healing by faith. 'Jesus did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief' (Matthew 13:58).

At the end of Jesus' ministry, His divine order never changed. 'Jesus said to the disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every person. He who believes and is baptised will be saved but he who does not believe will be condemned. These signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mark 16:15 to 18). The first of the five signs is deliverance. Healing is the fifth sign according to Jesus. Before healing is deliverance, baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, protection from snake bites, protection from poisoning, then comes healing. Jesus said: "Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). Amongst the 'all things' that Jesus taught them, was to cast out evil spirits. When we make disciples of believers they should cast out evil spirits, then in turn, when those disciples are taught, they should continue to do the things Jesus taught. If the modern church would obey the commands of Jesus, there would be far more maturity and spiritual growth in the church.

'There was a woman there who for eighteen years had a spirit of infirmity. She was bent forward and was unable to straighten herself up or look upward. When Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are healed of your infirmity!" Then He laid His hands on her, and instantly she stood up straight and glorified God' (Luke 13:11 to 13). This woman had an evil spirit of infirmity. Jesus did not pray for healing, He went straight to the matter and rebuked the spirit of infirmity. Notice Jesus said the devil had bound the woman in sickness for eighteen years. Her sickness was a direct result of an evil spirit. The distressing ailment appeared to be physical but the cause was spiritual. When the spirit went out, the woman was healed. This same type of ailment does happen in the world today so we know the cause, but how many Christians are prepared to deal with it?

We should always cast out demons the way Jesus did. We cannot improve on His method. Jesus never sent an evil spirit to the pit or to hell, as some Christians think they should. Both Jesus and the evil spirits knew there is an appointed time for their destruction. 'Behold they shrieked, "What have You to do with us Jesus Son of God? Have You come to torment us before the appointed time?" (Matthew 8:29). When we cast out a spirit, it will continue to roam around looking for a body to possess. 'When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it roams through (spiritually) dry places (or people) in search of rest' (Luke 11:24). When people

think they have seen a ghost, they have actually encountered a roaming evil spirit. What we can do when we rebuke an evil spirit, is command the evil spirit to never enter that person again (Mark 9:25), but scripturally we cannot command it not to enter other people.

Jesus never sent anybody out to preach without equipping them to deal with evil spirits. In the same way, we should never send missionaries out until they are able to deal with evil spirits. It is not scriptural to preach or teach without equipping people so they can deal with evil spirits. Notice the first authority Jesus gave the disciples was not to heal the sick, but to cast out evil spirits. We should demonstrate the power of God with these signs following. Jesus is still doing the same today, but not as often in countries with the medical advances we have today. People with good doctors and hospitals do not need as much faith as those who do not have that privilege. In fact many modern Christians have more faith in their doctors than in Jesus' ability to heal, and many people undergo painful operations instead of seeking God for healing. Certainly the Lord can use doctors but we need to seek Him first. 'Seek first the Kingdom of God ...' (Matthew 6:33).

Jesus taught us there are two spiritual kingdoms and when we are involved in dealing with evil spirits, the two kingdoms clash and sometimes they clash violently. 'The Father has delivered us out of the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of the Son of His love' (Colossians 1:13). 'A blind and dumb man under the power of a demon was brought to Jesus and He cured him, so that the blind and dumb man both spoke and saw. The people were filled with awe and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" But the Pharisees said, "This Man drives out demons with the help of Beelzebul, the prince of demons." Knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom that is divided against itself is brought to desolation and no house divided against itself will stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he has become divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I drive out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? For this reason they shall be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out the demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you"' (Matt 12:22 to 28).

The single evidence that we are in the Kingdom of God is when we cast out evil spirits in the name of Jesus. When Christians refuse to do what Jesus commanded, we need to ask if they truly are in the Kingdom of God. That single act divides the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. The light defeats the darkness and the devil hates that. He does not want the reality of demons to be evident and he does not want people, especially Christians to know we have all authority over demons. That reveals the supremacy of God and the victory won on the cross. The devil has been suppressing this revelation for hundreds of years. He does not want his defeat to be known. There are three objectives that evil spirits have; (1) torment and torture of the mind and body (Matthew 4:24); (2) to stop people knowing Jesus as their Saviour and thus keeping people out of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:19) and (3) if we do come to know Jesus as our Saviour, then it tries to hinder us from serving Him effectively (1 Thessalonians 2:18). We need to distinguish between the carnal mind which is the flesh and an evil spirit. The flesh is the old 'us' that behaved in an unspiritual way before we came to know Jesus. We are to 'crucify' the flesh, but we cannot crucify an evil spirit. We cannot cast out the flesh, so we must know what we are dealing with and cast out the evil spirit. The Hebrew word for spirit, breath and wind is the same word. We cannot see the wind, we cannot see our breath unless the air is extremely cold, and we cannot see a spirit. What we can see is what the wind does – so too we can see what an evil spirit does. We know when the wind is blowing. Not because we can see it, but because we can see the effects of it. We do not normally see evil spirits unless God opens our spiritual eyes and shows us in the spirit, but we can see the destruction they do. Praise the Lord; Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. 'He who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed to destroy the works the devil' (1 John 3:8).

**What exactly do evil spirits do to people?** There are hundreds of different problems caused by evil spirits. There are so many negative things evil spirits do, we cannot possibly list everything. They cause havoc and compel people to do things they would not normally do, and they make people act in ways they sometimes cannot control. Tourette's syndrome is one example. Evil spirits can cause epilepsy, deafness, muteness, arthritis, asthma, crohn's or coeliac disease, tooth decay, stiffness and crippling, chronic back pain, insomnia, spina bifida and birth defects, miscarriage, stress, migraines, allergies, discouragement, mental illnesses, ADHD, depression, self-destruction, self-harm, suicide, materialism, chronic overeating or compulsive eating, alcoholism, illegal drug taking, sniffing glue and other things, jealousy, misery, emotional breakdowns, doubt, compromise, divorce, chronic fatigue, forgetfulness, confusion, guilt over past sins, phobias, unnatural and illogical fears, strange behaviours like kleptomania, schizophrenia, compulsive disorders, multiple personality disorders, rage, violent behaviour, addictions, compulsive lying, cursing, blasphemy, every form of the occult, divination, fortune telling and strange beliefs, they cause people to hear voices, they entice people to do evil. Any temptation that comes to us in words or 'voices' comes from an evil

spirit. They harass; they give us a bad day; they make life difficult. They can cause a bunch of children playing happily to suddenly start fighting for no apparent reason. They can cause a normally mild mannered person to become enraged over the slightest thing. People with a vicious tongue may have an evil spirit. They torment spiritually; they torment with fear; they torment with illnesses. Jesus said if we do not forgive people, He would hand us over to the tormentors (Matthew 18:34 & 35). If somebody is being tormented, they may need to forgive somebody. Resentful unforgiveness can be caused by a spirit of unforgiveness. People can choose to sin or not sin, but when a person is under the control of an evil spirit, sometimes they are being controlled or enslaved. Smokers and other addicts are under the power of an evil spirit. Evil spirits defile; they make us feel unclean. They may project unclean thoughts or images within our minds and dreams. We need to have a balanced outlook on evil spirits. For example, not all sickness is demonic and the same applies to epilepsy. Some epilepsy is demonic and some is not. It can be caused by an accident or difficult birth for example. Deafness and migraines are sometimes caused by evil spirits and sometimes there are other factors.

Evil spirits deceive and are behind all forms of religious deception. There are doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). All religions that stress salvation comes through good works are a false religion. The scriptures say all salvation comes through faith and belief in our Saviour. Good works only come as we walk obediently with God. All false religions are demonic. Christian science, Scientology, Islam, Bahai, Unity, Freemasonry, Mormonism, Armstrongism, Science fiction, Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age, Jehovah's Witnesses, exclusive or closed Brethren churches, theosophy, Zen, humanism, reincarnation, astrology, evolution, all eastern cults and heresies which are departures from scriptural doctrine are all doctrines of demons. False prophecies are sometimes from the devil. There are five ways we are guided by the Lord; He guides us through the scriptures, through the Holy Spirit speaking to us directly, through a vision, through divine prophecy and through a word of knowledge spoken by a genuine believer. If we are not walking in the Spirit and walking with the scriptures in our hearts, then we can be easily misled.

**How do evil spirits come into our lives in the first place?** The areas in which they operate are emotions, attitudes and health. Behind every negative emotion and attitude there is usually a corresponding evil spirit. That does not always mean we have the evil spirit, it means the evil spirit is trying to get us. The devil roams around like a roaring lion trying to devour people (1 Peter 5:8) but that does not mean he is able to devour everyone. Evil spirits sometimes operate in groups like a pack of wild dogs (Psalm 22:16 & 20). When an evil spirit gets in, it opens the door for the next spirit, through sins like unforgiveness, pride, rebellion, stubbornness, lust and sexual sin or involvement in the occult. Sometimes situations beyond our control open the way for evil spirits to come in. There are many people who are innocent of sin, but are suffering terribly because of the sins of other people, and through that an evil spirit enters into their lives and they are suffering. That is why deliverance is so important. Situations like severe disappointments, isolation and loneliness, rejection by parents, excessive criticism by a domineering parent or a child subjected to sexual sin of whatever type. Many outward problems are a cover for deeper issues. Before dealing with the outward behaviour, we should first deal with deeper issue. For example, when people are depressed they often do something for consolation – drink alcohol, eat too much, take legal or illegal drugs, go shopping and buy what they do not need, and some steal things they do not want. In that case we would need to deal with the spirit of depression before the behaviour is dealt with.

One of the strongest evil spirits we will ever encounter is a spirit of death. Death is a personality, not a condition. 'I (John, son of Zebedee) looked and behold, a pale horse came out and its rider's name was Death' (Revelation 6:8). A spirit of death comes to make us die. It is a murderer. It can come in through our being weary with life, through a serious illness or accident, while we are under anaesthetic, through rejection or physical abuse by our parents and feeling helpless in that situation. It comes in, in a moment of emotional or physical weakness. Some people die without any real reason, such as in sudden infant death or unexplained stillbirth or a seemingly healthy young person suffers sudden 'heart failure' when there was no history of heart problems. A freak accident where a person is killed can be caused by a spirit of death. Prenatal influences can bring a spirit of death to a person. When a woman is pregnant, it is not just a foetus in the womb; it is a living person who will grow to become an adult. Unborn babies are very sensitive to what their mothers feel and say about them. If a child is unwanted, the baby will sense it, so all a mother needs to say is, "I wish I wasn't pregnant." If she feels strongly enough that she does not want that baby, the child could be born with a spirit of rejection. That is amazingly common. Those people go through life feeling unwanted and unloved and are more likely to suicide. Adopted children sometimes feel rejected by their birth mother and some never recover from being given up.

**How can we be free of evil spirits?** Deliverance demands our will, not our emotions. We have to set our will against the thing that is bothering us and be prepared to let it go. However, if we enjoy that thing and treat it like a friend, then it will not come out. For example, there are some people who embrace their depression like a 'security blanket' and prefer to keep it. There are smokers who enjoy their addiction. There are Scientologists who love their religion more than they love God. As long as a person enjoys the company of their evil spirit, then it will remain with them. For those who desire to be set free, the New Testament tells us how to get rid of them. We need to know they need a body to operate. They cannot do anything without a flesh and blood body. They have a personality and character all of their own. If there is no Christian who is willing to deliver us from evil spirits, we are entitled to call on the name of the Lord ourselves. It is written, 'Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered' (Joel 2:32 & Acts 2:21). Once people realise they are dealing with an evil personality that is not themselves, then they are close to receiving deliverance. The rest is up to them to seek God for themselves and command that thing to go. It is written, 'Submit to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you' (James 4:7). We need to truly realise and accept into our hearts, minds and Spirits, that we have power and authority over all the power the devil has. Too many Christians believe we should be frightened of the devil and give him power over their lives. That is not scriptural. The Bible says we have the authority; all we need to do is exercise it.

There are certain conditions we need to adhere to before we seek deliverance and free ourselves of evil spirits. Firstly, we need to want to be free and be prepared to let the evil thing go. We need to put our trust and faith in the Lord – not in the person praying for us. We need to forgive everybody who has ever wronged us. Unforgiveness is the greatest barrier to healing and deliverance. It is a decision and an act of our will, not our emotions. We cannot seek healing or deliverance if we have bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness against anyone. We need to be humble. Pride is sin and is another barrier to healing and deliverance. We need to be honest. We need to call the problem by the correct Biblical name. For example, if the problem is an illness, we should call it what the Bible calls it. Deafness is caused by a deaf spirit and Jesus rebuked the deaf spirit. If the problem is behavioural, we need to name the cause. ADHD is a spirit of rebellion. The person with ADHD needs to set free from the spirit of rebellion. If the person has a problem with compulsive lying, then they need to free from the spirit of lies; lying is lying. It needs to be named as the Bible names it. If a person is seeking to be freed from a spirit of lust, call it spirit of lust, and so on. To be free we need to be completely honest with the Lord, for He is our Deliverer. We cannot lie to Him about a problem we have or we will not be delivered.

We need to verbally confess faith in Jesus because He is our High Priest. We often need to quote scripture and stand on it, or hold on to the promises written in the Bible to receive healing. We cannot pray to anyone but to God and we must mean what we say. We need to fully believe that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God and He is our High Priest forever. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead. We must look to the Lord – not to people because it is the Lord who delivers us; not our pastor, friend or spouse. We need to be determined. We need to confess any sin committed by ancestors because their sins can be generational, such as the sin of freemasonry for example. We are not guilty because of their sins, but are suffering because of their sins. To be delivered, we need to confess their sins as the Holy Spirit reveals their sin to us. We must accept personal responsibility for our sins, so we need to repent of them. God expects us to confess our sins, and only then He will forgive us (1 John 1:9). 'He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces his sins will find mercy' (Proverbs 28:13). We need to break every contact with the occult, confess and renounce it. If there are objects in our homes that are related to the occult, smash them or burn them – don't give them away, for to give them away will cause the receiver to sin by having them. Hate even a garment used for sin. Break every contact with sin, whatever the sin.

**How do we actually expel an evil spirit?** There are a few ways. Evil spirits can be expelled or cast out by blowing. At first natural breath will come out, but if you go on, eventually, a demon will come out. At that point, do not go on praying. Do not even speak in tongues because that will hold it in. Do not stop blowing when the first demon goes, go on until you know within yourself you are free. Some people have many demons. 'Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, "Legion," for many demons had entered him' (Luke 8:30). Sometimes evil spirits are expelled by shaking the hands as though trying to shake a ring off a finger, as in the case of compulsive stealing or a spirit of lust. It comes out through the hands or fingers. Sometimes, as with mental or emotional problems, the spirit exits through the top of the head. Sometimes the spirit exits while people are laughing, crying, sighing, yawning, groaning, trembling, lying on the floor or in the waters of baptism and sometimes there is no outward sign whatsoever, just a feeling of peace and a change in behaviour. All these events are completely painless and are more humorous than frightening. It is

the thought of needing deliverance that is frightening, not the event itself. Sometimes prayer and fasting is needed before a person can be delivered.

If people want to be set free, here is an example of a prayer for deliverance. 'Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and the only way to God. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. I now confess to You any sins which You have made me aware of, or sins committed by my ancestors. Lord I repent of all sins I have ever committed and I turn from them. I turn to You Lord Jesus, for mercy and forgiveness. If I have been involved with the occult, I repent and I renounce it and I sever myself from it through the blood of Jesus. If I have occult objects in my possession I commit myself to get rid of them. We come against every occult spirit and every form of witchcraft. Lord I forgive any person who has ever wronged me, offended me or hurt me in any way; I forgive them just as I want you to forgive me. Lord to the best of my ability I have met Your conditions and I now claim Your promise: Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered. I'm calling on You now, in the name of Jesus, deliver me from all evil spirits. I hate them. They are not my friends, they are my enemies and I command them to go from me now, in the mighty name of Jesus. Cover me Lord with the blood of Jesus. We come against every evil spirit in the name of Jesus. Every evil spirit is defeated by the name and the blood of Jesus. Deliver me Lord Jesus, and set me free, in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen'.

**How to keep our deliverance.** Some people don't 'feel' delivered. Deliverance is an act of our will not an emotion so sometimes the emotions are not stirred up. Deliverance is not always instant. It could take place an hour or even a week after the initial prayer. The lack of 'feeling' delivered, could also be because the person has not yet been delivered, or it could be because they are so carnal it wasn't a demon in the first place, or it could be that they have allowed themselves to be defiled once again. It could be a lack of repentance. Repentance is not an emotion it is decision of the will, so we need to consciously turn our backs on sin. The first thing Jesus told the people to do when he began His ministry was to repent (Matthew 4:17) and that has not changed. All through the New Testament, the first requirement of God from the sinner is repentance, and it was God Who made the rules. All we have to do is follow them. We need to yield and submit every area of our life to the Lordship of Jesus and make Him the Lord of our life.

If we fall back into the same sin, then the evil spirits can return and make us seven times worse off than we were before if there is nothing to fill the vacancy left by deliverance. That is why baptism in the Holy Spirit is so important. He fills the void left behind by the exiting evil spirits. If we are delivered and do not yield those areas to the Lordship of Jesus, we really can end up seven times worse off. When Jesus is Lord, nothing can come near us. 'When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it roams through dry places in search of rest; and finding none it says, "I will go back to my house from which I came." When it arrives it finds the place swept and in order. It goes and brings seven other spirits, more evil than itself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first' (Luke 11:24 to 26). To avoid that, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and keep on speaking, praying and worshipping in tongues (Ephesians 5:18 to 20). We need to live by the Word of God and not by our feelings. We are not saved because we feel saved. We are saved by faith in the blood of Jesus. That takes faith and we receive our faith by reading and studying the Word of God. People who are not baptised in the Holy Spirit often do not believe in the devil, or they do not believe the devil could be the cause of their problems so they do not get the relief they often desperately need. People who are baptised in the Holy Spirit know by revelation our enemy the devil, is real. Some people do not realise they are under the influence of demons until they are baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit. Ideally, the sequence should be they will cast out demons and then they will speak with tongues, but that sequence does not always follow. Many professing Christians today, never cast out demons. When Jesus was baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit, He was almost immediately challenged face to face with the devil. There is no scripture that says He had trouble with the devil before he was baptised. In dealing with the devil, Jesus always used the Word of God; the Sword of the Spirit. Every time, Jesus used the prefix – "It is written" and we must do the same. We must get fully acquainted with the Word of God. Jesus had the scriptures deeply embedded in his heart so he could quote the correct verse for each occasion.

After being delivered, we need to put on the whole armour of God. 'Put on the whole armour of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; for we are not wrestling with flesh and blood but against the evil principalities and powers, the world rulers of the darkness of this time, the evil spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere. Therefore put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done all, to stand in your place. Stand therefore, having the belt of truth around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet in preparation of the Gospel of peace. Lift up over all the shield of saving faith, with which you can quench all

the fiery darts of the wicked one. Take the helmet of salvation and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God' (Ephesians 6:11 to 17). We have to take the armour of God and use it; He does not drop it on us. It is an act of our will to exercise the armour of God every day. Every believer will have an evil day; one of testing, pressure, persecution or some other intense problem. Through much affliction we enter the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). The belt of truth means to be honest in all things. Do not lie, be honest in all things. For example, if a cashier accidentally gives too much change, be honest and return it. Speak the truth and behave honestly all the time. The breastplate of righteousness is just that – righteousness. We need to conduct ourselves as the holy people of God that we are, through the blood of Jesus. We need to share the Gospel of peace with unsaved people. We need to exercise the shield of faith – the shield of divine protection that faith in God gives us. The fiery darts are the difficulties we face; sometimes caused by the lies of others spoken to bring us down. The helmet protects the mind or thought life. We must submit our thoughts to the Lord and cover our minds with the blood of Jesus. All the thoughts of doubt or unbelief are in the mind. Sinful thoughts are held in the mind and evil thoughts are as evil as evil deeds. The helmet is the hope of salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Deliverance sets us free, then we have to cultivate that freedom in God. We need to train our minds to be optimistic and hopeful. Faith is for the present. Hope is for the future. Then lastly we need to be steeped in the Word of God; to soak our minds in the Sword of the Spirit.

We can put on the Garment of praise to defeat the spirit of heaviness or depression (Isaiah 61:3). The spirit of depression does not like staying around praise and worship. The more we praise the Lord, the less depressed we feel. We need to cultivate right relations with others, especially our families. We need to be careful and guard against returning to bitterness and unforgiveness. We have to keep that in check, and replace the negative emotions with the positive. We need to cultivate right fellowships with fellow believers. Light cannot fellowship with darkness. Bad friends cause bad character so we need to keep our hearts clean. We need to make Jesus our foundation and centre and not become preoccupied by evil spirits. We must realise that at the cross, the devil was cast out. The exciting and encouraging results of healing and deliverance are written in the scriptures to build our faith.

'When Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are healed of your infirmity!" Then He laid His hands on her, and instantly she stood up straight' (Luke 13:12 & 13).

'They brought to Jesus a man paralysed by illness, lying on a litter; and when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralysed man, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven ... Get up! Pick up your litter and go home." He got up and went home' (Matthew 9:2 to 7).

'A woman who had suffered from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His garment. She kept saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I shall be healed." Jesus turned around and seeing her He said, "Take courage, daughter! Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be healed of your illness." At once the woman was healed' (Matthew 9:20 to 22; Mark 5:34).

'A dumb man under the power of a demon was brought to Jesus. When the demon was driven out, the dumb man spoke' (Matthew 9:32 & 33).

'Multitudes came to Him bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute and many others, and they put them down at His feet and He healed them. The crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel' (Matthew 15:30 & 31).

'There came some from Jairus' house who said, "Your daughter has died." Jesus said to Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear; only believe ... The little girl is not dead but is sleeping." He went in to where the little girl was lying down. Taking her hand He said to her, "Talitha cumi" (Little girl, arise). Instantly the girl got up and started walking around. She was twelve years old. They were utterly astonished. Jesus told them to give her something to eat' (Mark 5:35 to 43).

'People went out to see what had occurred, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind' (Luke 8:35).

May everyone who is seeking spiritual, emotional, mental or physical healing, be encouraged by these Biblical testimonies and be healed and delivered.

Amen and God bless you.

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