

Prayer Ministry 2

DEMONS AND DELIVERANCE

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE OF THIS SESSION

We'll be covering the following topics, all related to deliverance:

- What are demons?
- Demonic possession and oppression
- Introduction to deliverance

This is a twenty-minute discussion of a subject that could be expanded to fill several weeks' worth of lectures and a lifetime gaining experience. It is therefore cursory and incomplete but hopefully a useful introduction.

SUBJECTS FOR LATER SESSIONS

The following subjects will be mentioned during this session but will be discussed in future sessions, so please hold any questions for then:

- Soul ties
- Generational iniquity / generational line
- Curses, pronouncements and inner vows

WHAT ARE DEMONS?

DEMON OR SPIRIT?

The Bible uses a number of terms for evil spirits. The terms demon, impure spirit, unclean spirit and evil spirit are all used in various contexts. I will refer only to demons but this covers all types.

WHAT ARE DEMONS?

Demons are disembodied spirits. They have no physical form to them whatsoever but belong to the spirit world. Their only manifestation is the disorders they cause.

Demons are intelligent beings and have the attributes of personality. They can talk, make requests, act in fear, reason, and attempt to persuade (Matthew 8:29,31). They are hateful and numerous (Mark 5:9-13), and some are worse than others (Matthew 12:43-45).

FROM WHERE DO THEY COME?

There are various theories put forward by commentators:

- Revelation 12:3-4 “*an enormous red dragon ... Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. ... The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient snake called the devil, or Satan, who Leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*”

This is said to show that demons are angels who fell with Satan.

- In ancient Jewish texts like the Dead Sea Scrolls, demons are said to be the disembodied spirits of dead Nephilim giants who perished at the time of the great flood.

Genesis 6:4 “*The Nephilim were on the earth in those days – and also afterwards – when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*”

I don't have a full and complete answer to the questions of what demons are and where they come from, but then I don't need one. What I need to know is this:

- Demons are servants of Satan
- They are subject to the Name of Jesus
- We have authority – more than that, we are *commissioned* - to cast them out

DEMONIC POSSESSION AND OPPRESSION

CAN A CHRISTIAN HAVE A DEMON?

The issue of whether or not a Christian can have a demon is a highly contentious one. There are probably as many sound Christian authors and teachers who say that a Christian cannot have a demon as there are that say a Christian can have a demon. Many scriptures are taken out of context or twisted to support one view or the other. We'll consider the biblical basis and also look at possession and oppression.

Biblical Basis

When we turn to the Bible for guidance, the issue is that we have a very short period of time in which the lives of Christians are documented. The book Acts of the Apostles was probably written between 70AD and 90AD, so probably 40 to 60 years after the death of Jesus. Its focus is primarily on the activities of the apostles (hence the title) and doesn't really cover the discipleship and lives of many individuals.

However, there are some clear references to followers of Jesus and Christians who were oppressed or misguided by demonic influences:

- In Matthew 16, Peter has just shown that he has received a true revelation of Jesus' identity (v 13-17) when he starts to rebuke Jesus for prophesying His death (v 22). In v23, "*Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! ’*". I don't imagine for one minute that Jesus was identifying Peter with Satan.
- In John 13, a short passage about the Last Supper, Jesus dips bread and passes it to Judas Iscariot. (v27) "*As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.*"
- In Acts 5, we read about Ananias and Sapphira who sold a piece of land and lied about how much they had received for it. Peter says (v3) "*Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have Lied to the Holy Spirit*"
- In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul says that he was given a thorn in his flesh: "*a messenger of Satan*" (v7). The Greek word for messenger in this context is "ἄγγελος" or "ángelos". This is the same word which is used in Matthew 1:20 "*But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream*" and Matthew 2:13 "*When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream*". Compare this with 1 John 1:5 "*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you*" where the word for message is "ἀγγελία" or "angelía". Further, the Orthodox Jewish Bible continues 2 Cor 12:7 "*a malach [messenger] of Hasatan [the adversary], for the purpose of using his fists on me*"

My understanding of this is that Paul's thorn in the flesh was not a physical ailment but was a spiritual problem. I'm not a bible scholar nor am I a student of ancient Greek or Hebrew, so I have to leave that one with you.

We are also warned against allowing entrance to demonic influences:

- Ephesians 4:26-7 "*In your anger do not sin': do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*"
- 1 Timothy 4:1 "*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*"

Possession or Oppression

A couple of definitions from the Merriam-Webster dictionary:

- Possession: “*the act of having or taking into control; domination by something (such as an evil spirit, a passion, or an idea); a psychological state in which an individual's normal personality is replaced by another*”
- Oppression: “*unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power; a sense of being weighed down in body or mind*”

There are definite differences for Christians and non-believers:

- The Bible contains accounts of non-believers who were demon-possessed (Matthew 8, 9, Acts 19)
- A Christian is ‘possessed’ by God (1 Cor 6:19-20: “*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.*”) and cannot therefore be possessed by a demon. However, a Christian can be oppressed by a demon.

SIGNS OF DEMONISATION

The following is a list of behaviours that could indicate a demonic oppression:

- Addictions
- Unnatural or excessive appetites
- Extremes of behaviour
- Personality issues (e.g. deceitful)
- Depression
- Escapism
- Auditory or visual hallucinations
- Hereditary illnesses
- Irrational fears and phobias
- Nightmares
- Occultic attraction
- Out of control tongue
- Sexual aberrations
- Suicidal tendencies

- Spiritual bondage

However, it may be that the observed behaviour is simply repeated sin. On one occasion of which I'm aware (not at Elim or Ellel), someone asked for prayer for a spirit of adultery. The person ministering discerned that the guest was really an unrepentant adulterer. Ministry was declined and the guest was advised to take time to consider his situation before God and make some lifestyle choices. This just emphasises our dependence on the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide.

HOW DO DEMONS GAIN ENTRANCE?

- Personal Sin

- There are always consequences to sin (Galatians 4:6-7: "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal Life.*")
- Sin can lead to demonic footholds being established in a person's life (Ephesians 4:27-27: "*'In your anger do not sin': do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*";
Romans 6:16: "*Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?*")

- Generational Line

Iniquity is passed down from generation to generation

Exodus 20:5: "*for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me*";

Exodus 34:6-7: "*The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.*";

Deuteronomy 27 and 28

- Sin committed against us
 - Where we're under (or have submitted to) ungodly covering
 - A consequence of our response to sins committed against us
- Accident and Trauma

A time of particular vulnerability when we may not be able to fully protect ourselves spiritually. Can originate from (not an exclusive list):

 - Accidents
 - Traumatic shock
 - Overwhelming sense of danger
 - Abuse
 - Deprivation

KINDRED SPIRITS

It is worth describing some examples of what could be termed 'Kindred spirits'.

Kindred spirits have an affinity for particular spirits in other people, and either attract or are attracted by related kindred spirits. Very often, kindred spirits work in couples, but may work between individuals in a team or a work situation.

Two examples are:

- Jezebel and Ahab Spirits

Jezebel spirits (named after Jezebel in 1 and 2 Kings) tend to afflict women but not exclusively so. A Jezebel spirit is manipulative and devious, and always finds a way to pass the blame for their wrong-doings onto someone else.

Jezebel spirits seek out Ahab spirits. Ahab spirits usually (but not exclusively) afflict men. An Ahab spirit is weak and easily lead or cowed by a partner with a Jezebel spirit. The afflicted person may seem quite strong and assertive to others, but not towards the Jezebel spirit.

- Victim spirits

Victim spirits usually – but not always – afflict women. A history of suffering repeated abuse or violence might indicate a victim spirit at work. Typically, someone oppressed by a victim spirit would either try to take the blame for what their abuser has done or make excuses for them. A victim spirit will attract abusive or violent spirits.

TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

Territorial spirits are quite often misunderstood. A territorial spirit is a demon of any kind which is attached to a location or a building, or sometimes an object. Examples of where territorial spirits might be found are:

- Hospitals, where spirits of infirmity and death are prevalent.
Patients in hospital are very often unable to resist the spirits of that place, and when accident, shock and trauma are involved, they are very open to the demonic.
- Places where false gods are worshipped (e.g. mosques, temples, masonic lodges)
If you enter a mosque, for example, and remove your shoes, that is an act of obeisance to the ruling spirit of that place and you are submitting to its authority. Removing head coverings when entering a Catholic church (where idolatry is practiced) is similar.
- Accident black spots
If a stretch of road is a known accident black spot, it might simply be bad road or junction design. But it's possible that a spiritual stronghold exists because of something that happened in the past, e.g. a civil war battle or something of that nature.
- Places where the land is defiled
Land can be defiled by sexual immorality (Leviticus 18), idol worship (Jeremiah 7 and 16), shedding of innocent blood (Numbers 35:33 "*So you shall not pollute and defile the Land in which you live; for [the shedding of innocent] blood pollutes and defiles the Land. No atonement (expiation) can be made for the Land for the [innocent] blood shed in it, except by the blood (execution) of him who shed it.*" AMP – also Wycliffe, Douay-Rheims, New Century)
It's possible to consider that places where abortions are carried out is defiled in this way. Also, a place where children were systematically abused could be defiled.

INTRODUCTION TO DELIVERANCE

WHAT IS DELIVERANCE?

A Simple Definition

A simple definition is “to release from hostile spiritual control; to cleanse a person of demons and evil spirits in order to address problems manifesting in their life as a result of the presence of said entities and to remove the root causes of their authority to oppress the person”

What is Deliverance NOT?

- Deliverance is not a noisy, violent affair requiring much shouting, stamping, etc.
- I have never witnessed someone vomiting green slime or heads spinning like tops. However, people often do have a sensation of vomiting ‘something’ and sometimes ‘see’ a shadow moving away from them, and there may be other manifestations.

Demons aren’t deaf; there’s no requirement for shouting and commotion – it can actually be counter-productive. If the person starts manifesting to the point where it becomes disruptive, then we have the authority over the demon(s) to silence them. We are asserting our God-given authority (the Name of Jesus) and the demons must obey. They may resist and they may argue, but we don’t need to get into conversation with them, just stand on the Name of Jesus and quietly insist they come out.

Does Prayer Ministry always entail deliverance?

No. Ministry very often does result in discovering a demonic oppression, but it isn’t invariably so. Ministry may reveal that a person is suffering from a wounded or crushed spirit or that repentance and forgiveness provide the necessary healing.

PRINCIPLES OF DELIVERANCE

Close the doors

A demon can only be there if it has a right to be there. The first action is to remove whatever it was that gave access to the demon in the first place:

- Repentance and forgiveness
- Repentance for blaming God
- Cut soul ties and generational lines
- Break any curses, pronouncements and inner vows

The person oppressed by the demon(s) may have sinned under the influence of the demon. However, they retain their free will and are able to choose whether to comply with the demonic influence or to resist it (James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to

God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"). Demonic oppression is not an excuse for sin, and there may be a need for repentance, and possibly forgiveness of self.

Clean the house

Evict the squatters!

This may need to be done in stages. Demons have a hierarchy and they have families:

- It may be necessary to cast out demons relating to a specific instance or incident before moving on to deal with others.
- It may be necessary to deal with the strong men (fear, rejection, Jezebel, etc) before casting out their less-strong fellows.
- May have to look for related demons – e.g. rejection often comes with fear of rejection, self-rejection and suicide. If suicide is an identified issue, then that's the primary demon and the others are likely to be present. If fear of rejection is present, other spirits of fear may also be evident.

Repair and redecorate

When deliverance is complete (and that doesn't necessarily mean that **all** required deliverance has been completed, just what the Holy Spirit has highlighted for that session), then prayer for inner healing can commence.

Open the windows to fresh air

Welcome the Holy Spirit to fill the vacant places!

Inner Healing

Once deliverance is complete, then prayer for inner healing is appropriate.

Healing and deliverance can be – often is – iterative. Sorting out one issue can clear the way for another to be brought to the Lord with a further round of deliverance and healing.

2 Corinthians 12:7

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me

καὶ τῇ ὑπερβολῇ τῶν ἀποκαλύψεων. [g]διὸ ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι, ἐδόθη μοι σκόλοψ τῇ σαρκὶ, ἄγγελος [h]Σατανᾶ, ἵνα με κολαφίζῃ, [i]ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι.

Matthew 1:20

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream

ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἴδοù ἄγγελος κυρίου κατ' ὅναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων·
Ἴωσήφ υἱὸς Δαυίδ, μὴ φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν [j]Μαρίαν τὴν γυναῖκά σου, τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ

From Ancient Greek ἄγγελος (ángelos, "messenger")

The Hellenistic sense angel was a semantic loan from the Hebrew מֶלֶךְ (mal'ach) ("angel" or "messenger of God")

2 Corinthians 12:7

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, **to torment me.**

Therefore, lest I should be too exalted especially by the excess of my chazonot, there was given to me a kotz (thorn, splinter) in my basar, a **malach** of Hasatan, for the purpose of **using his fists on me** [IYOV 2:6], lest I should be too exalted.

Contemporary English Version

One of Satan's angels was sent to make me suffer terribly, so that I would not feel too proud.

Ephesians 4:26-27

New International Version (UK)

²⁶ ‘In your anger do not sin’: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

SBL Greek New Testament

²⁶ ὄργιζεσθε καὶ μὴ ἀμαρτάνετε· ὁ ἥλιος μὴ ἐπιδυέτω ἐπὶ παροργισμῷ ὑμῶν,
Be angry and yet not sin The sun not let set upon anger of you

²⁷ μηδὲ δίδοτε τόπον τῷ διαβόλῳ.
neither give opportunity to the devil

